

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

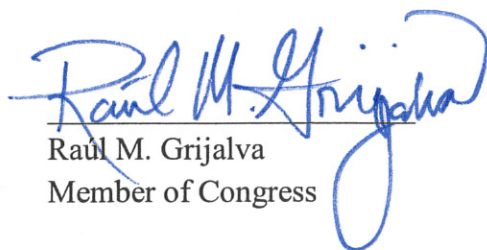
Dear Secretary Jewell,

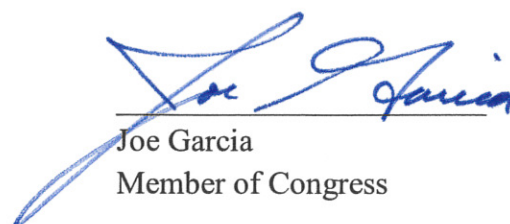
We would first like to thank you for your commitment to public service and the work of the Department of Interior to honor the rich and diverse cultural heritage of our great country. Through the National Park Service Heritage Initiative the Department promotes communities around the country that have made powerful contributions to the history of the United States within the National Historic Landmarks program. As your recent and ongoing theme studies have told the stories of African American, Latino and Latina, and Asian-Pacific Islanders, the country has gained a greater understanding of how diverse communities have made important contributions integral to our rich history.

To add to this complex story we respectfully request that the Department conduct a theme study on the many contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans. While the 1969 Stonewall Inn riots in New York City are widely regarded as the beginning of the modern LGBT civil rights movement and they continue to be an important milestone, LGBT individuals have contributed to American history and culture well before and well after Stonewall. It is important that all their stories be documented and shared. The Department of Interior, through the National Park Service Heritage Initiative, has an important role to play in telling that story.

As the 2016 centennial anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service approaches, we believe an LGBT theme study would help to tell an important story as Americans of all backgrounds prepare to celebrate the many wonders, from nature and our citizens, of the United States. We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating together the contributions of LGBT Americans throughout our country's history.

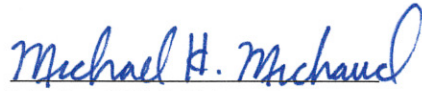
Sincerely,


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



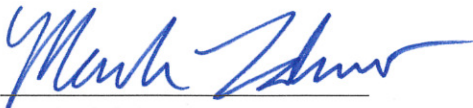
Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



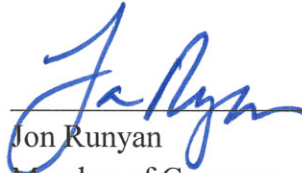
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



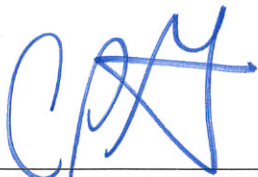
Jon Runyan
Member of Congress



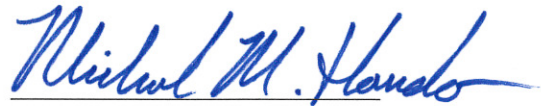
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



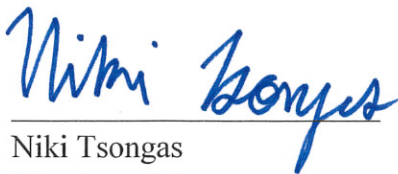
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



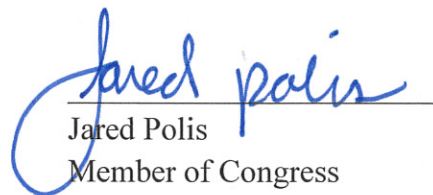
Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



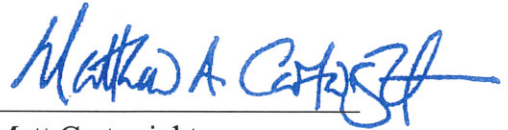
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



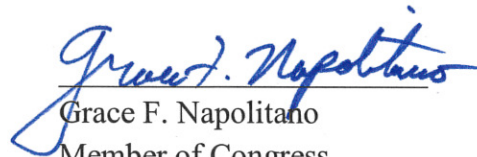
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress




Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Steven A. Horsford
Member of Congress