



March 29, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the mayors of California's largest cities, we write in support of designating the area around the Stonewall Inn as a National Monument within the National Park Service through the Antiquities Act.

The National Park Service preserves the nation's most important historic, scientific, commemorative, and cultural sites. The Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, Manzanar, Little Rock Central High School, and most recently the César E. Chavez National Monument are just a few examples of the protected landmarks that capture our hearts, teach us important and sometimes difficult lessons, and preserve America's history.

You have made preserving America's historic sites a priority by establishing 16 National Monuments. We hope you will act again to protect an important place that tells the story of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Americans. Preserving the story of Stonewall in New York City would honor the American LGBT experience. The Stonewall Inn and Christopher Park in New York's West Village served as the site of the 1969 uprising that was an historic turning point in LGBT history and have come to symbolize the modern gay rights movement worldwide.

Throughout California's rich history, citizens have fought for equality and sometimes have paid with their lives to create a more just society. Two years prior to Stonewall, an incident at the Black Cat Tavern in Los Angeles ignited one of the first gay rights demonstrations in the nation where hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets demanding that the police department change its policy towards gay people. The impact of Stonewall and the Black Cat Tavern is a source of inspiration to those who stand for equality. Designating Stonewall as a national monument would pay tribute to all their sacrifices.

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In your second inaugural address, you spoke of three significant sites where Americans began to demand civil rights for all: Selma, Seneca Falls, and Stonewall. Two of these places are managed by the National Parks Service as a National Historic Trail and a National Historic Park. We hope you will support the efforts to include the third site by making Stonewall a National Monument.

Sincerely,



ERIC GARCETTI

Mayor, City of Los Angeles, California



ROBERT GARCIA

Mayor, City of Long Beach, California



LIBBY SCHAAF

Mayor, City of Oakland, California



KEVIN JOHNSON

Mayor, City of Sacramento, California



KEVIN FAULCONER

Mayor, City of San Diego, California



SAM LICCARDO

Mayor, City of San Jose, California



ED LEE

Mayor, City and County of San Francisco, California