

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 24, 2026

Hon. Doug Burgum
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

We write to express deep concern over the recent actions by the National Park Service (NPS) in removing an exhibit that provided valuable information about the enslaved people who lived and worked at the President's House, now a part of the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.

The Department of the Interior's decision to remove the exhibit deprives park visitors of a full and accurate understanding of American history. Removing or sanitizing exhibits that depict the realities of our past sets a dangerous precedent by signaling that history can simply be erased or altered when those in power do not like the truth presented—opening the door for future administrations to do the same. A core responsibility of the NPS is to preserve and interpret history based on facts and not political preferences.

The removal of exhibits by NPS has become a troubling trend sadly. Not only has this Administration ordered the removal of exhibits related to slavery, it has ordered national parks around the country to remove exhibits or signage related to Native American history, climate change, and environmental impacts. According to an article by *The Washington Post*, "Trump officials instructed staff to remove or edit signs and other informational materials in at least 17 additional parks in Arizona, Texas, Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming."¹ National parks provide visitors with an opportunity to appreciate our nation's natural beauty and rich history while also serving as educational spaces that inform visitors across this country and the world.

Accordingly, we request that your Department provide responses to the following questions by March 10, 2026:

¹ Jake Spring, *National park signs related to Native Americans, climate change to be removed*, Washington Post (Jan. 27, 2026), Available online: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2026/01/27/national-parks-signs-censorship/>

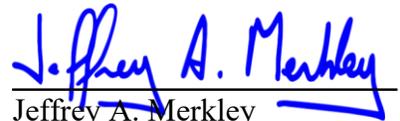
1. Since the issuance of President Trump's Executive Order, "*Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History*", how many exhibits has the Department removed or otherwise altered?
2. What specific information in the exhibit at the President's House in Philadelphia does the Department consider inaccurate? If the information is accurate, what is DOI's rationale for its removal?
3. Does the Department intend to remove or alter additional exhibits within National Park System units across the United States? If so, please provide the timeline and a comprehensive list of all exhibits under consideration, and the rationale for removal.
4. Does the Department plan to replace all removed exhibits from national parks? If so, when will this occur, and what sources or historical documentation will inform the revised content?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

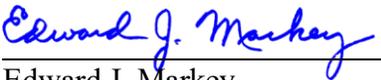
Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Energy and Natural
Resources



Jeffrey A. Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related
Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



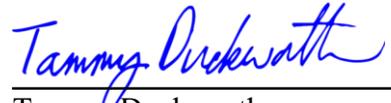
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



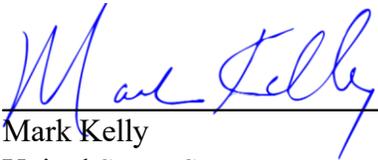
Tina Smith
United States Senator



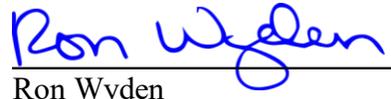
Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator