

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Burgum,

We write today to express profound concern regarding recent reports indicating that the National Park Service (NPS) is systematically removing or altering interpretive signage and exhibits related to the history of slavery and the ongoing impacts of climate change.

It is deeply troubling that at sites dedicated to preserving our shared heritage, NPS appears to be actively revising both modern scientific reality and historical truth. A recent report in *The Washington Post* details the removal of long-standing exhibits at several National Park units that contextualized the role of enslaved people in the development of our nation's landmarks.¹ This follows closely on the heels of reporting by *The New York Times* highlighting the "erasure" of climate facts at Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park.²

Our national parks serve as living laboratories and public classrooms; when the NPS sanitizes historical narratives or scientific data, it denies the American public a full understanding of the forces that have shaped and continue to threaten these landmarks. Whether the subject is the historical reality of slavery or the current threat of sea level rise, NPS has a mandate to present the facts without political interference.

This letter serves as a formal follow-up to [our correspondence dated August 6, 2025](#), which raised similar concerns regarding transparency and efforts to whitewash historical interpretation in our national parks. To date, your office has failed to provide a response to that inquiry. The lack of responsiveness to our August letter, combined with these disturbing new reports of "rewriting history," suggests a systemic issue regarding the agency's commitment to transparency.

Pursuant to the Committee on Natural Resources' jurisdiction under House Rules X.1(m) to conduct oversight and investigations of all matters relating to national parks, and as part of

¹ Maxine Joselow, *National Park Service Removes Exhibit on History of Slavery*, Washington Post (Jan. 22, 2026), Available online: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2026/01/22/slavery-exhibit-removed/>.

² Christopher Flavelle, *Park Service Erases Climate Facts at Fort Sumter, Where the Civil War Began*, The New York Times (Jan. 22, 2026), Available online: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/22/climate/park-service-erases-climate-facts-at-fort-sumter-where-the-civil-war-began.html>.

ongoing efforts to understand the administration's approach to history and interpretation within the National Park Service, please provide the following documentation by February 6, 2026:

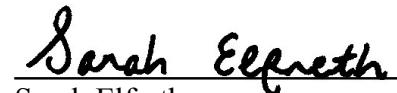
1. A detailed explanation of the decision-making process and the specific internal directives that led to the removal of exhibits regarding the history of slavery and climate-related signage at NPS sites.
2. A list of all National Park units that have updated, removed, or significantly altered interpretive materials related to either the history of slavery or human-caused climate change since January 2025.
3. Confirmation of whether any new directives, "style guides," or administrative memos have been issued to park superintendents regarding the terminology used to describe the history of enslaved persons or environmental changes.
4. A timeline for when our office can expect a full response to the specific questions posed in our August 2025 letter.

NPS serves as steward of our history and our environment. We expect the agency to uphold the highest standards of integrity and to remain transparent with the American people and their representatives in Congress.

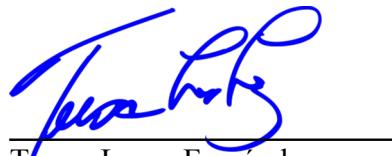
Sincerely,



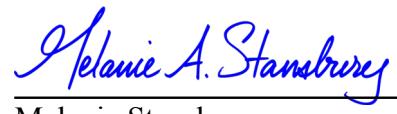
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Natural Resources



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



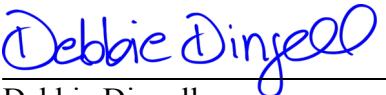
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress