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September 18, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

I am writing to express my outrage over recent reports that the National Park Service is removing interpretive signs related to climate change and sea level rise in order to implement Executive Order 14253 (EO) and Secretarial Order 3431.

The Secretarial Order issued on May 20, 2025 requires each land management Bureau to conduct a content review to identify anything that "inappropriately disparages Americans past or living (including persons living in colonial times), or, with respect to content describing natural features, that emphasizes matters unrelated to the beauty, abundance, or grandeur of said natural feature." Bureaus, including the National Park Service, must remove any content meeting these criteria by September 17, 2025.

Since the release of this EO in March, I am increasingly alarmed by news reports with accounts of vital historical and cultural signage being pulled from our National Parks. Many of these signs provide vital educational information to the 330 million annual visitors at our NPS units. The attempt to whitewash history is something that should not be tolerated in any form—including at many NPS historical sites that call attention to and educate about the full scope of our nation's story.

This order is also a blatant attempt to limit the exchange and expression of factual information about climate science. The ongoing implementation of the EO not only runs afoul of the indispensable work being done at the local level to produce valuable science-based signage; it is also a chilling example of the Administration's hardline climate denial – and its mounting attack on science and scientists.

It is deeply inappropriate and dangerous to censor evidence-based scientific information because it does not fit into a subjective narrative of beauty, abundance, or grandeur. In Maine, six climate-focused interpretive tripods on Cadillac Mountain, along with four in the Great Meadow, have been removed. These signs were created and co-branded with local organizations and partners and were meant to

underscore the impacts of climate change—which are well-documented, increasingly visible, and not in dispute within the scientific community.

There are similar concerns being raised about signage related to sea-level rise at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, where factual information has also been removed. Providing Americans with information to draw their own conclusions is part of the National Park experience. Censorship—and the silencing of facts and science—is deeply irresponsible and anathema to our national values.

Our national parks are not billboards for propaganda. They are places where millions of people come each year to learn, reflect, and confront both the beauty and the difficult truths of our shared history. Stripping away this context erodes the very mission of the Park Service and insults the public's right to know.

Your department's actions neglect and betray the stewardship responsibilities entrusted to it. Removing factual, science-based, and historically accurate information in order to comply with this political edict is reckless, dishonest, and deeply harmful to the communities who depend on these parks for education, cultural preservation, and economic vitality.

I ask that you immediately rescind implementation of this order and provide a full accounting of the damage already done. Specifically:

1. Which science and/or climate related signs, exhibits, or interpretive materials have been altered or removed across the National Park System, and on what basis?
2. What criteria are being used to target content for removal of science related signage?
3. What steps will NPS take to restore censored materials and repair the trust of the American public?

The National Park System does not belong to any administration. It belongs to the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Camm", written in a cursive style.

Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies