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September 17, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As State Senators who represent New York, we urge you to designate a new national monument recognizing the significance of the Stonewall Rebellion to our nation's history. Such a monument would help alter the national discourse on LGBT rights by enshrining the movement's birthplace as a protected site of American progress.

The Stonewall Inn in New York's West Village served as the location of the 1969 rebellion that signified a major turning point in LGBT history. A diverse group of brave individuals stood up and demanded an end to police harassment, arrests and raids on LGBT establishments. Their actions raised awareness of the unequal treatment of the LGBT community; just as importantly, those six days galvanized LGBT people around the world to stand up for themselves and insist on dignity and equality. The rebellion has come to symbolize the start of the modern LGBT civil rights movement.

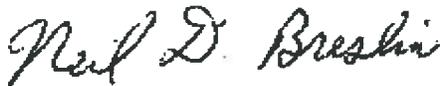
America's national parks teach us about some of the most important stories from our shared culture and history. These special places provide the opportunity to celebrate and learn about our shared past, preserve our historic spaces, and bring renewed commitment to the communities that helped to shape our country. We applaud and thank the National Park Service (NPS) for undertaking the LGBT Heritage Initiative, an important review of ways to incorporate LGBT stories into the narratives presented by the agency. A Stonewall National Monument would be the first unit in the National Parks system dedicated to this community.

Manhattan Community Board 2, which represents the most local form of government for the area, has expressed its unanimous support for partnering with the NPS to recognize these significant events. We request that you designate a Stonewall National Monument to celebrate, preserve and protect this important history.

Respectfully,



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27th Senate District



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44th Senate District



Michael Gianaris
12th Senate District



Liz Kreuger
28th Senate District



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