

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 2, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

William McKinley served our nation in the Army, as a member of the House of Representatives, as the 39th Governor of Ohio, and as the 25th President of the United States. He is a well-respected American hero who deserves to be honored for serving our country on the front lines in the Army during the Civil War, as well as leading the U.S. to victory in the Spanish-American War until his assassination in 1901.

In 1917, Congress acted to recognize his selfless dedication to the U.S. by naming the Mount McKinley National Park in honor of his legacy. This memorial is not only important for Ohioans, but also pays respect to a fallen President and his leadership of our nation. Past legislation was introduced by bipartisan members in the House to preserve the name as “Mount McKinley” to honor our 25th President. Currently, H.R. 437, introduced by Rep. Bob Gibbs, continues that tradition.

On Friday, August 28, 2015, your Interior Secretary acted against the will of Congress and unilaterally ordered a change to the name of Mount McKinley.

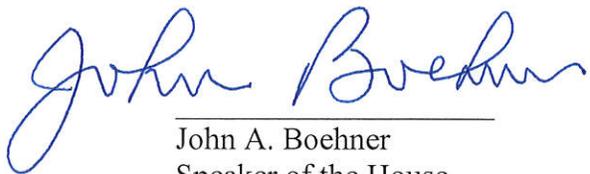
This unilateral action is troubling to many Americans as this honor speaks volumes of respecting our nation’s heroes and their patriotic work to better our nation. It is also upsetting that William McKinley’s legacy has been tarnished by a political stunt to promote a partisan agenda.

It is our understanding that the 1947 law, 43 U.S.C. §§ 364-364f, gave the Secretary of the Interior the ability to take action if the Board on Geographic Names does not act within a reasonable time. Can you please elaborate how the Secretary interpreted the need to make this change and what, if any, requests to change the name of Mount McKinley were pending before the Board? Also, what is considered reasonable time under this act? What other monuments, memorials, post offices, and federal highways has the administration acted unilaterally to change without Congressional approval or input from the Board on Geographic Names?

Unfortunately, renaming the highest peak is just one of many examples of the administration ignoring Congressional jurisdiction and established law. Your administration has shown a troubling lack of respect for the rule of law and the separation of powers between the branches of our federal government. If the American people cannot trust the executive to faithfully execute the law, how can they place trust in the written law?

We request an immediate stay of action on the August 28 order and respect for Congress's previous actions to name Mount McKinley National Park, as well as a full reply to this letter, no later than September 11, 2015. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House



Rob Portman
United States Senator

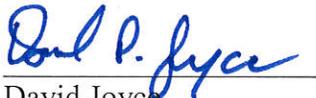
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



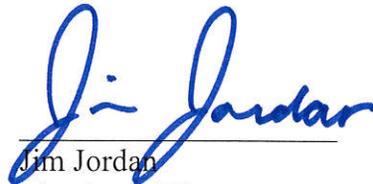
David Joyce
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress

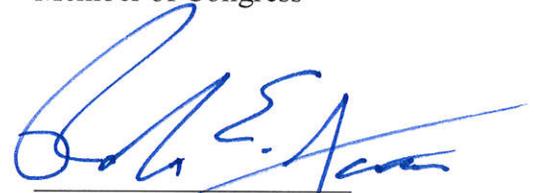


Jim Jordan
Member of Congress


Bill Johnson
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Steve Chabot
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Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress


Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress