

February 17, 2016

Senator Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman,

Last February, during Black History month, we celebrated the protection of the Pullman historic site as a national monument. This designation, which preserves the history of the African American labor movement, was possible under the Antiquities Act. Almost two years ago, Colonel Charles Young's home in Xenia, Ohio, was dedicated as a national monument, honoring his important leadership of a Buffalo Soldier regiment, and as the first African American Superintendent of a national Park. We are thus dismayed by your failure to support this important Act.

Stewardship of our public land and preservation of our historic and cultural heritage is an important part of our role as caretakers. We view the Antiquities Act as an important tool in protecting the special places of God's Creation where we play, pray, and learn. The Act authorizes the President to proclaim "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" as national monuments.

Our responsibility to care for Creation is coupled with our duty to preserve and honor the story of all Americans, and ensure all of our children have equitable access to healthy recreation and the opportunity to find their own story in our park system.

To our community, Pullman, Charles Young and other national monuments, including the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad and Fort Monroe, are indeed of historic interest and more importantly, these places are part of our heritage.

As leaders in the Black church community in Ohio, we call on you to support the Antiquities Act and oppose legislation or amendments that would undermine its use or blanket it in red tape.

Sincerely,

Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Dr. Carl P. Adkins, Pastor / President
Golden Leaf Baptist Church
Ohio State Missionary Baptist Convention of Ohio

Rev. Jerome Caly, Pastor
Morning Start Baptist Church

Rev. Johnnie Shannon, Pastor
Faith Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Mark Toney, Pastor
New Unity Baptist Church

Rev. Frank Sylvester, Pastor
First Baptist Church of Delhi

Rev. Sherrill Smith, Pastor
St. Luke Baptist Church

Rev. Dock Foster, Sr. Pastor
Unity Baptist Church

Rev. James Chisley, Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church

Rev. Larry Holley
Progressive Baptist Church

Rev. Johnathan Brown, Pastor
Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Charles Williams, Pastor
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

Rev. W. D. Billups, Pastor
New Life Baptist Church

Rev. Robert Baines, Jr., Pastor
Southern Baptist Church

Rev. Shawn Greenlea, Pastor
St. Elizabeth Baptist Church

Rev. LaVon Mann, Pastor
Rock Hill Baptist Church

Rev. Tyrone Patrick, Pastor
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Elliott Cuff, Pastor
Lincoln Heights Missionary Baptist Church

Elder Carl Whittaker
Bibleway Church of God in Christ

Rev Calvin J. Hicks, Pastor
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rev. John Ivey, Pastor
Beulah Baptist Church

Bishop Michael Dantley
Christ Emmanuel Christian Fellowship

Rev. James Harris, Pastor
Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rev. Henry Wilson, Pastor
Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Sherman R. Buttram, Pastor
First Baptist of West College Hill

Rev. K. Z. Smith, Pastor
Corinthian Baptist Church

Rev. E. G. Smith, Jr., Pastor
First Antioch Baptist Church

Rev. Allen Middleton, Pastor
Galilee Baptist Church

Rev. Jim Vickers, Pastor
Mountaintop Power Center

Rev. Walter A. Dobbins, Sr., Pastor
First Baptist – Mt. Auburn

Rev. Michael K. Cash, Pastor
First New Shiloh

Rev. Paul Bowers, Pastor
Greater Emmanuel Apostolic Temple

Rev. Oliver Williams, Pastor
Friendship Baptist Church

Rev. Iva J. Durand, Jr., Pastor
Jerriel Baptist Church

Rev. Donald Newberry, Sr., Pastor
Lee Chapel African Methodist Church

Rev. Donald E. Jones, Pastor
Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Harry White, Pastor
Mount Moriah Baptist Church

Rev. R.N. Mitchell, Pastor
Mount Sinai Baptist Church

Rev. Gregory Chandler, Sr., Pastor
Peace Baptist Church

Rev. Eugene Sebastain, Pastor
Mount Zion Baptist

Rev. Cecil Ferrell, Pastor
St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Russo O'Neal, Pastor
Rockdale Baptist Church

Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr., Pastor
New Jerusalem Baptist Church

Rev. Jerry Culbreath, Pastor
Tried Stone New Beginning Church

Rev. Calvin Harper, Pastor
Morningstar Baptist Church

Rev. Floyd Brown, Pastor
St. Stephens Community Church

Rev. Timothy Swan, Pastor
Mount Zion Baptist

Rev. Orlando Yates, Pastor
Union Baptist Church

Rev. Donald Harvey, Pastor
Mount Zion Baptist

Bishop Bobby Hilton
Word of Deliverance Ministries

Rev. Damon Lynch, III, Pastor
New Prospect Baptist

Rev. Clayton Walker, Pastor
Tabernacle Baptist Church

Rev. Bennie Fluellen, Pastor
Overflow Ministries Covenant

Rev. James H. Cantrell, Pastor
Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Taylor Thompson, Pastor
Quinn Chapel African Methodist Church

Cleveland, OH

Rev. Yvonne B. Carter, Executive Minister
Cleveland Baptist Association

Rev. Ronald E. Maxwell, Pastor
Affinity Baptist Church

Rev. John S. Little, Pastor
Resurrection Baptist Church

Rev. Joel King, Assistant Pastor
Resurrection Baptist Church