

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 11, 2014

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

Dear Mr. President:

As members of Congress, we respectfully request that you use your executive authority to designate the Pullman community in Chicago as a National Historic Park.

As a Chicagoan, you understand the cultural and historical significance of Pullman, and know that the story of this “perfect town” mirrors the path of the progress of our great nation. Today, as we seek to revitalize American manufacturing, we must remember that Pullman – a town created and named for industrialist George Pullman – was initially a manufacturing town that produced luxurious passenger railcars. Similarly, as we renew the push for a livable wage, we must also remember that Pullman was home to the first nationwide labor strike driven by unfair wages – a fight so intense that it escalated into a bloody confrontation between laborers and the U.S. Army and left 30 people dead.

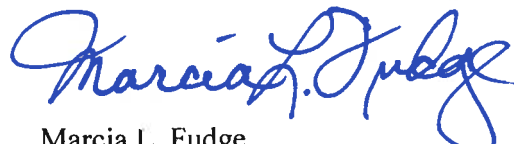
It is a particular point of pride to note that Pullman is the birthplace of our nation’s first African-American union to secure collective bargaining rights, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. It was from the ranks of this Brotherhood that renowned Civil Rights and labor movement leader A. Philip Randolph rose. It was his organizational savvy and determination in the face of injustice that a young Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. relied on when organizing The March on Washington.

The National Park Service (NPS) has deemed Pullman “conclusively nationally significant” and worthy of national park status. It also recognizes that decades of hard work by many dedicated community residents to preserve the 140-year-old landmark on a shoestring budget is not sustainable. To keep Pullman’s story alive, the NPS wants to make preserving Pullman a national priority. Creating the Chicago area’s first national park would be a boon to the economy of this great American city. A recent study by the city and state concluded that the park would create 300 jobs and attract 300,000 visitors a year while pumping \$40 million annually into the state’s economy.

Pullman’s place in Americana is undeniably unique – as impressive as its clock tower, as colorful as its Greenstone Church and as diverse as its row houses. Preserving this history would honor the contributions past, present and future of America’s exceptional labor force and citizens.

Sincerely,


Robin Kelly
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Jenni Sewell

Member of Congress

Corrine Brown

Member of Congress

Shirley Jackson

Member of Congress

Dan Claitor

Member of Congress

Keith Ellison

Member of Congress

Harold Johnson

Member of Congress

Melanie Waters

Member of Congress

Al Green

Member of Congress

Robert C. Byrd

Member of Congress

Ernest Brown

Member of Congress

Alan L. Hastings

Member of Congress

Hvette D. Clarke

Member of Congress

Donna T. Edwards

Member of Congress

Bonnie H. Thompson

Member of Congress

Aregan W. Meek

Member of Congress

Steven H. Kaufman

Member of Congress

Fred E. Cummings

Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay

Member of Congress

Don R. Young

Member of Congress

Robert D. Byrd

Member of Congress