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Black Church Leaders Applaud President Obama's Designation of Pullman National Monument

Faith Leaders Encourage Continued Use of Antiquities Act for Conservation

Washington, D.C. – More than 300 national and state African-American church leaders today voiced support for President Obama's recent designation of the Pullman National Monument in a letter sent to the White House. The signers celebrated the President's use of the Antiquities Act to protect the Pullman historic site, which commemorates the launch of the nation's first African-American labor union and helped to advance the Black middle class in America, and urged him to continue conserving America's history, culture and natural resources.

"Few sites preserve the history of the African-American labor movement as well as Pullman," the letter says. "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 President's designation of the Pullman National Monument in Chicago, Illinois, enjoys overwhelming and active support from individuals, organizations, and businesses, including labor unions, African American leaders, economic development organizations, tourism groups, and historic preservation groups. The Pullman site tells unique stories of American history and its legacy is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and Civil Rights.

Signatories on the letter include Dr. Jerry Young, President, National Baptist Convention USA; Rev. Carroll Baltimore, former President of the Progressive National Baptist Church; Rev. Michael Livingston, Executive Minister of Riverside Church, New York, and former

President National Council of Churches USA; Bishop Carliss Moody, International President of the Home and Foreign Missions Department for the Church of God in Christ; Bishop Teresa E. Snorton, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; and Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ.

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Creation Justice Ministries is an ecumenical organization representing 38 Christian denominations, including many historically African American churches, and their policies related to the environment.