

January 13, 2017

President-elect Donald J. Trump
Trump-Pence Transition Team
1717 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Donald Trump:

Congratulations on being elected the 45th President of the United States. We are 156 proud lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elected officials representing millions of constituents, and we urge you to join us in embodying the highest ideals of our great and diverse nation.

The long and divisive presidential campaign is over, and now more than 300 million Americans depend on you to bring our nation together. To do this, we ask you deescalate the hostility and intolerance expressed by a small but vocal minority throughout the election season. We ask you appoint individuals with inclusive policy solutions that aim to better the lives of all Americans. And we ask you declare full support for LGBT equality, and remain true to earlier statements promising to be a president supportive of our rights.

We believe in an America that values and accepts everyone, and a country that strives to improve quality of life for all people, regardless of their background or beliefs. These principles are what distinguish America in an often-troubled world – they are what make America great. And it is the elected leadership of our nation that determines whether our government embodies or undermines those ideals. It is elected leaders like ourselves – from the U.S. president to city councilmembers – that either appeal to the better angels of our fellow Americans, or use fear and rancor to spur unproductive discord.

While we hope you appeal to those better angels and support inclusive and fair-minded policies, we have grave concerns given the individuals appointed to your administration thus far. Nearly all hold anti-LGBT views aimed at denying our community acceptance and inclusion in American society. Many proudly tout legislative records opposing basic rights for LGBT Americans, and others express disdain for our lives and relationships. Intended or not, these appointments signal a Trump administration preparing to rollback recent advances for LGBT people, and an administration opposed to LGBT people living open and free.

Our concern is not unfounded, given our historic gains are recent and vulnerable. Openly LGBT men and women can now proudly serve in the Armed Forces; committed same-sex couples can legally marry nationwide; federal contractors can no longer discriminate against LGBT employees or job applicants; the U.S. State Department is leading the world in advancing global LGBT equality; and more than 300 openly LGBT individuals were appointed to positions in the federal government over the past eight years. These hard-fought advances transformed our place in American society, and we are disturbed that most of your appointees opposed these efforts.

Mr. President-elect, our nation will be weaker if LGBT military personnel are prevented from serving openly and equally. America will be worse off if discrimination protections for LGBT government employees or students are revoked. The entire country will suffer if there is a national attempt to implement “religious exemptions” that allow businesses to turn away LGBT customers. And the world will be a darker place without America speaking against anti-LGBT violence and

injustices abroad. We need you to vocally reject our country moving backward – to reject the anti-LGBT positions of your appointees and promise a pro-equality Trump administration.

We also must emphasize the LGBT community is as diverse as our nation. We are black, we are Latino, we are white, we are immigrants, we are Muslim, we are Jewish, we are women, and we are people with disabilities. LGBT elected officials know well the sting and consequences of discrimination, injustice and intolerance, and we carry that lived experience into our policy positions, legislation and decision-making. We hold central the American values of fairness, justice and liberty – and ensure these values are the foundation for our work as public servants. As the nation debates economic security, immigration, women’s rights, voting rights, policing, and mass incarceration, we ask you also apply the American values of fairness, justice and liberty, and ensure the best interests of all communities are incorporated into your policies and positions.

Americans of every political party, ideology, race, ethnicity and religion support LGBT equality – it does not need to be a partisan issue. As elected officials, we understand support for LGBT equality as both morally appropriate and politically shrewd. History looks fondly upon leaders who stand for social justice when those around them argue otherwise. History also views harshly those who fail to recognize and support morally righteous causes – and history will undoubtedly view LGBT equality as both moral and righteous.

We sincerely hope you aim to be a president for all Americans – including LGBT Americans of every race, ethnicity, gender and religion. As representatives of the LGBT community, we will hold your administration accountable for actions that infringe upon our rights and opportunities, and will oppose presidential appointees who denigrate or harm our community. But we much prefer to work with you to continue the incredible progress toward LGBT equality – to have you stand with us on the right side of history. We hope you voice your support for existing rights and protections for LGBT Americans, and commit to furthering LGBT equality during your presidency. We promise to be a strong and persistent voice for equality either way.

Sincerely,

Federal

Representative Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
New York, Congressional District 18

Representative Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
Wisconsin, Congressional District 2

Alabama

Representative Patricia Todd
Alabama House of Representatives, District 54

Arizona

Representative Daniel Hernandez
Arizona House of Representatives, District 2

Representative Otoniel "Tony" Navarrete
Arizona House of Representatives, District 30

Lawrence Robinson
Governing Board Member
Roosevelt School Board

Karin Uhlich
Councilmember, Ward 3
Tucson City Council

Arkansas

Kathy Webb
Vice Mayor
Little Rock City Board

California

Senator Toni Atkins
California State Senate, District 39

Jovanka Beckles
Councilmember
Richmond City Council

Kevin Beiser
Board Vice President
San Diego Unified School District

Sabrina Brennan
Commissioner
San Mateo County Harbor Commission

Mayor Christopher Cabaldon
West Sacramento

Adam Carranza
President
Mountain View Board of Education

Chris Clark
Councilmember
Mountain View City Council

John D'Amico
Councilmember
West Hollywood City Council

John Duran
Councilmember
West Hollywood City Council

Representative Susan Talamantes Eggman
California State Assembly, District 13

Joel Fajardo
Vice Mayor
San Fernando City Council

Ginny Foat
Councilmember
Palm Springs City Council

Larry Forester
Councilmember
Signal Hill City Council

Mayor Robert Garcia
Long Beach

Assemblymember Todd Gloria
California State Assembly, District 78

Georgette Gomez
Councilmember, District 9
San Diego City Council

Steve Hansen
Councilmember, District 4
Sacramento City Council

John Heilman
Mayor Pro Tem
West Hollywood City Council

Gabe Kearney
Councilmember
Petaluma City Council

Geoff Kors
Councilmember
Palm Springs City Council

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California State Senate, District 33

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Claremont Unified School District

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California State Assembly, District 28

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City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees

Jeff Sheehy
Supervisor, District 8
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Rene Spring
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Morgan Hill City Council

Tom Temprano
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City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees

Wanden Treanor
Trustee
Marin Community College District

Christopher Ward
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San Diego City Council

Scott Wiener
California State Senate, District 11

Ken Yeager
Supervisor, District 4
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Colorado

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Colorado House of Representatives, District 52

Representative Leslie Herod
Colorado House of Representatives, District 8

Debra Johnson
Clerk and Recorder
Denver

Representative Paul Rosenthal
Colorado House of Representatives, District 49B

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Denver City Council

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La Plata County Commission

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District of Columbia State Board of Education

Florida

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Monroe County Commission

Lesa Peerman
Commissioner
Margate City Commission

Representative David Richardson
Florida House of Representatives, District 113

Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith
Florida House of Representatives, District 49

Georgia

Representative Park Cannon
Georgia House of Representatives, District 58

Representative Karla Drenner
Georgia House of Representatives, District 85

Representative Sam Park
Georgia House of Representatives, District 101

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Idaho

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Idaho House of Representatives, District 16A

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Chicago City Council

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Illinois House of Representatives, District 14

Representative Gregory Harris
Illinois House of Representatives, District 13

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Oak Park Village Board

Deborah Mell
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Chicago City Council

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Chicago City Council

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Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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Evanston City Council

Thomas Tunney
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Chicago City Council

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Senator Matt McCoy
Iowa State Senate, District 21

Kansas

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Roeland Park City Council

Maine

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Maine State Senate, District 31

Representative Ryan Fecteau
Maine House of Representatives, District 11

Representative Lois Reckitt
Maine House of Representatives, District 31

Representative Andrew McLean
Maine House of Representatives, District 27

Maryland

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Democratic Caucus Chair
Maryland House of Delegates, District 46

Delegate Bonnie Cullison
Maryland House of Delegates, District 19

Delegate Anne Kaiser
Majority Leader
Maryland House of Delegates, District 14

Byron Macfarlane
Register of Wills
Howard County

Senator Richard Madaleno
Maryland State Senate, District 18

Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Maryland House of Delegates, District 43

Mayor Jeffrey Slavin
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Massachusetts Governor's Council

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Holyoke

Mayor E. Denise Simmons
Cambridge

Michigan

Mayor Jim Carruthers
Traverse City

Mayor David Coulter
Ferndale

Mayor Amanda Maria Edmonds
Ypsilanti

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Michigan House of Representatives, District 60

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Commissioner, District 10
Ingham County Board of Commissioners

Jason Morgan
Commissioner, District 8
Washtenaw County Commission

Representative Jeremy Moss
Michigan House of Representatives, District 35

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Township Supervisor
Pioneer Township

Mayor Kenson J. Siver
Southfield

Minnesota

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Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation

Representative Karen Clark
Minnesota House of Representatives, District 62A

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Minnesota State Senate, District 61

Representative Erin Maye Quade
Minnesota House of Representatives, District 57A

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St. Louis Board of Alderman

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Nebraska

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Member, District 3
Lincoln Board of Education

Nevada

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Somersworth

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Councilor, District 4
New Hampshire Executive Council

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Councilman, Ward 1
Hoboken City Council

Assemblyman Tim Eustace
New Jersey General Assembly, District 38

Assemblyman Reed Gusciora
New Jersey General Assembly, District 15

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Edward Zipprich

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Mayor Javier Gonzales
Santa Fe

Linda Siegle
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Santa Fe Community College Board of Trustees

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North Dakota House of Representatives, District 44

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Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County

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Councilmember and Town Recorder
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