

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

April 6, 2026

The Honorable Jessica Bowron  
Comptroller  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Comptroller Bowron,

I write to urge you to approve the pending Special Use Permit request for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Right to Run 5K/19K Weekend Celebration scheduled for May 8-9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York. Despite months of coordination, organizers have been informed by the Women's Rights National Historical Park's Superintendent now at the last minute that the permit cannot be approved at this time due to President Trump's Executive Order 14253 and Secretarial Order 3432. Put plainly, this event and its weekend-long women's rights celebration and activities that draw hundreds of athletes, tourists, and spectators to downtown Seneca Falls directly supporting Seneca County's tourism, local economy, and tax revenue while injecting tourism dollars into local Main Street businesses, restaurants, and shops, is all now being jeopardized due to this senseless bureaucratic Executive Order.

The Right to Run is a decade-old tradition, led and organized by local Seneca Falls-based residents and community members, rooted in the history of the women's rights movement and intentionally centered at the birthplace of that movement to elevate Seneca Falls as a national tourism destination rooted in history, culture, and community. It brings together the athletic, arts, and literary communities for the race and also for a weekend of programming that celebrates women's rights while driving meaningful economic activity for the region. It was to feature a kickoff Friday evening Block Party in the heart of the Town of Seneca Falls at the Nation Park's Declaration Park amphitheater and adjoining Myndeerse Street with local food and Finger Lakes wine and craft beer vendors, local musicians, along with wellness workshops, nationally recognized artist exhibits, and the keynote address and opening ceremony in the National Park's historic Wesleyan Chapel where the 1848 Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention was held and where the Declaration of Sentiments was signed by the 300 participants who, as is [stated on the National Park website](#), "met at the Wesleyan Chapel to protest the laws and customs that discriminated against women."

Organizers have worked diligently with National Park Service staff throughout the planning process, engaging in good faith and maintaining consistent communication as they developed their plans. At this late stage, however, thanks to a new Executive Order from President Trump, they are now being forced to navigate last-minute uncertainty tied to a new federal review requirement mere weeks before the event.

As the Women's Rights National Historical Park Superintendent Ahna Wilson stated in correspondence to the organizers, their permit request would not likely be considered by the time of the Right to Run Weekend Celebration, due to the Executive Order and the delay it is causing the National Park Service to review exhibits throughout the National Park Service including

reviewing America 250<sup>th</sup> content, explaining: “In accordance with [Executive Order 14253](#) and [Secretarial Order 3431](#): Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History, all National Park units must submit new interpretive media projects and/or content for review to ensure that all public facing content focuses on ‘the greatness of the achievements and progress of the American people or, with respect to natural features, the beauty, abundance, and grandeur of the American Landscape’. This includes new permanent (long term) and temporary (short term) ‘public monuments, memorials, statues, markers, or similar properties.’ This includes displays as part of Special Park Use Permits.”

The Annual Right to Run weekend is not a quick set-up and tear down event. It is a multi-day celebration taking place on Mother’s Day weekend, drawing hundreds of participants and visitors into Seneca Falls. The event supports food vendors, local businesses, and tourism, while also activating the broader network of women’s history organizations and heritage sites that define the community, like the National Women’s Hall of Fame, and the Women’s Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York. Tourism has become a major industry in Seneca Falls, and events like this are not incidental – they are essential to sustaining that growth and reinforcing the community’s identity as the birthplace of the women’s rights movement.

This kind of uncertainty is particularly damaging for an event of this scale. Unlike smaller or single-day gatherings, a multi-day event requires coordination across multiple partners, schedules, and physical spaces. Vendors must be secured, programming must be finalized, and visitors must make travel plans. Moreover, this weekend brings visitors from across New York and beyond directly into Seneca Falls, supporting local businesses, increasing tourism activity, and contributing to the local economy and tax base. Disruption at this stage threatens that economic activity, and places unnecessary strain on the businesses and community that depend on it. A delayed determination at this stage is tantamount to a denial, bringing real, cascading consequences for organizers, participants, and the surrounding community.

I urge the National Park Service to swiftly grant the permit necessary for the Seneca Falls community to proceed with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Right to Run 5K/19K Weekend Celebration. After ten years of successful programming and continued coordination with federal staff, it should not be this difficult for organizers to receive clarity on whether they can proceed. Avoidable uncertainty at this stage serves no one – not the organizers, not the community, and not the mission of the National Park Service.

My office stands ready to assist in facilitating a resolution to this issue. I respectfully request an update on the status of this permit, including where it currently sits within the review process, and the specific steps required to ensure that this event can proceed as planned no later than April 10, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator