DATE

The Honorable (First name) (Last name)

(Room Number) House Office Building

City, State (Zip Code)

RE: The Adams-McEachin African American Burial Grounds Network Act

Dear (Representative/Senator/Congressman or Congresswoman) (Last name):

My name is (your first and last name). I am an archaeologist, a voter, and a constituent that resides in your district. I support the Adams-McEachin African American Burial Grounds Network Act because it will provide a database of known African American burial grounds, which will help prevent their inadvertent destruction and will help the healing process for African American people who become outraged when their ancestral sites are wantonly disturbed.

Cemeteries and burial sites are places of tribute and memory, connecting communities with their past. Unfortunately, many African-American burial grounds from both before and after the Civil War are in a state of disrepair or inaccessibility due to overgrowth of vegetation, crumbling structures, and other challenges.

There is no official national record or database for African-American burial ground locations and the location of many sites is unknown. As a result, the family members and descendants of those interred there are unable to visit these sites to honor and remember their ancestors. Abandoned burial grounds and cemeteries are discovered when construction projects inadvertently disturb human remains, slowing or halting completion of those projects and causing considerable heartache within the local community.

The Adams-McEachin African American Burial Grounds Network Act is supported by a wide range of historic preservation and archaeology organizations. It is also supported by local communities across the country.

I would like you to support this act. Your support is not only ethical and pragmatic, it is a symbol of your personal support for preserving America’s heritage.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

Street address

City, State, Zip code