

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

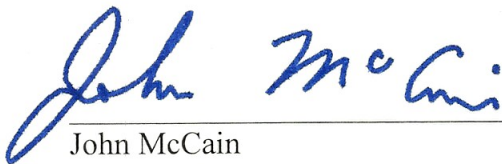
Dear President Obama,

We write once again to bring your attention to the ongoing injustice of John Arthur “Jack” Johnson’s racially-motivated conviction, now over a hundred years old. As you know, Jack Johnson, a boxing legend and the first African-American Heavyweight Boxing Champion, had his character and achievements marred when he was unjustly convicted under the Mann Act in 1913 for transporting his white girlfriend across state lines.

Congress, taking notice of this improper and unfair conviction, has passed multiple resolutions over the years calling for the posthumous pardon of Jack Johnson. Most recently, the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, which you signed into law on December 10, 2015, included a provision expressing the sense of Congress that this boxing great should receive a posthumous pardon. And, just last week, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights unanimously voted to request that you “right this century-old wrong” and pardon Jack Johnson.

This month marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jack Johnson’s death. While it is unfortunate that this unjust conviction was not corrected during the boxer’s lifetime, a posthumous pardon today represents the opportunity to reaffirm Jack Johnson’s substantial contributions to our society and right this historical wrong. We urge you to grant this posthumous pardon.

Sincerely,



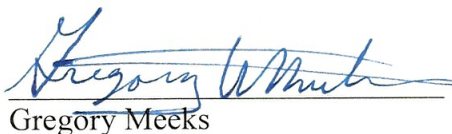
John McCain  
United States Senator



Harry Reid  
United States Senator



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress