OCCUPY THE PARK
BLOCK THE ARCH

There is no time to lose. It is time for a popular mobilization and direct action in Washington to stop Trump's arch from being built.

We have to do this in person because our representative institutions have let us down. Congress won't act. The bureaucracy is compromised. The Supreme Court is mesmerized by Trump's legal chicanery. Trump appears to be building his illegal ballroom. He is wreaking havoc with the Kennedy Center. Before he unilaterally bulls ahead and breaks ground for his triumphal arch, we must take action.

It's time to occupy the federal memorial park site. Put our bodies on the line to prevent excavation from beginning for Trump's garish, illegal, wasteful arch. The bulldozers could be there within weeks. The time to start blocking this offensive, vainglorious, costly project is now.

Set up an encampment on the people's land. Keep replenishing the numbers of "visitors" so that there is a continuous stream of people, walking onto the park, sitting in the park, occupying the park — day and night, 24/7 — preventing excavation in the park.

All you need to start is a group of 20 for more committed activists (there are thousands in Washington alone), willing to put their bodies on the line in this peaceful fashion. It won't take long for others to join them. I'll come down from Syracuse with my wife, who has Alzheimer's, and we'll do our stint occupying the park. Third Act retirees like us will stream in from all over with our folding chairs. Will we face arrest for loitering? Not if we keep moving. Will we be arrested for disorderly conduct, or interfering with police, or blocking traffic, or, or, or? Fine. The charges won't stick. Besides, as Walt Whitman would say, you can't arrest multitudes.

How long will we have to occupy the park? No telling. Until Trump backs down? Until the federal bureaucracy acts as it should? Until the Supreme Court starts affirming the decisions of lower court judges? Until Congress asserts its prerogatives? Until the midterms, when we throw the bums out? Until the snow flies?

Doesn't matter. There are enough of us to keep this going as long as necessary. As long as we the people are in the way, the president can't build his ugly arch in our park.

But we must act now.

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