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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

January 21, 2016

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN,
AGRICULTURE
VICE-CHAIRMAN,
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE
DEFENSE

The Honorable Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for the National Park Service's (NPS) decision to conduct a Reconnaissance Survey of the Anniston and Calhoun County area to preserve sites related to the 1960s Freedom Riders. I understand that this survey will be completed and available by September of 2016. I write to you today in support these ongoing efforts in NE Alabama to commemorate the Freedom Riders and preserve some of the locations that contribute to their story.

As you know, a diverse network of community leaders including Senator Richard Shelby, Representative Mike Rogers, Governor Robert Bentley, City and County officials, regional corporations, and Jacksonville State University (JSU) support the protection of these local sites, creation of education opportunities to learn about the Freedom Riders, and economic development that will happen in conjunction with these potential sites.

Alabama's place in America's struggle for civil rights would benefit from the establishment of a new unit of the National Park Service while complementing ongoing efforts at the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Tuskegee Institute and Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Sites.

Thank you for your support for and involvement in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Aderholt