



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

October 13, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration of Jacksonville State University, I offer our enthusiastic support toward the establishment of a National Monument at Anniston's former Greyhound Bus Station and the Calhoun County site of the 1961 bus burning. My staff has been working on this effort for over a decade with unprecedented regional support from Congress, business and people from our region.

Mr. President, there is no substitute for authenticity. The opportunity to preserve the original sites of an historic moment during the American Civil Rights Movement will not present itself again; therefore, we further support your use of the Antiquities Act of 1906.

The exploration of the American Civil Rights Movement offers unique challenges for higher education. Public perception is much changed since the 1960s. How do we convey to our students the emotional forces in play at that time? How do we express the courage of those who challenged the status quo?

Each year, thousands of students from nearby communities such as Fort Payne and Heflin, from cities such as Atlanta and Minneapolis, and from international destinations such as Brazil and China arrive at Jacksonville State University to seek their futures and their degrees. A National Monument only minutes from the University would introduce these students to a uniquely American experience—one that reflects our fortitude and resolve.

Thank you for considering this request. We are excited to imagine what this opportunity will bring to our vibrant community of learners, visionaries and leaders.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Beehler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John M. Beehler, Ph.D., CPA  
President  
Jacksonville State University

Cc: Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service  
Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior  
Christie Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Richard Shelby, United States Senator

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