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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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October 14, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing today to express my support to preserve Freedom Rider sites in and around Anniston, Alabama as additions to the National Park System.

By creating a new National Park unit to commemorate an important milestone in America's struggle for civil rights, the Department of the Interior can honor the men and women who used non-violent methods in May 1961 to help end segregation of interstate bus travel.

I commend the National Park Service (NPS) decision to conduct a Reconnaissance Survey of Freedom Rider sites. Given the advancing age of the surviving Freedom Riders, I encourage NPS to expedite the completion of the survey this year to provide decision makers sufficient time to consider adding the site to the National Park System to commemorate the NPS Centennial next year.

Community leaders, the City of Anniston, Calhoun County, statewide, and local elected officials and diverse partners strongly support adding Freedom Rider sites to the National Park System. Preserving these sites will complement NPS's outstanding work to tell the stories of America's struggle for civil rights at Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Tuskegee Institute and Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Sites and other sites across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Rogers".

Mike D. Rogers