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May 14, 2015

The Honorable Jon Jarvis  
Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

I write to request that the National Park Service (NPS) consider conducting a Reconnaissance Survey of the proposed Freedom Riders Park in Alabama. Calhoun County acquired four acres of land for the future development of the park, and has requested the survey to begin the initial step of creating a new National Park site.

It is my understanding that a Reconnaissance Survey will allow the NPS to better determine whether the Highway 202 and Anniston, Alabama sites are of national significance, suitable and feasible for NPS management, as well as other important factors to be taken into consideration. Building on the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides in 2011, I have been informed that numerous local partners have been diligently working to preserve the Greyhound bus site along the highway, as well as other areas associated with the May 1961 Freedom Rides.

Designating the Freedom Riders Park as a National Park would provide a valuable educational resource for years to come and will help continue the narrative of the Freedom Riders and the Civil Rights movement. A new National Park would promote tourism and complement the Tuskegee Institute and Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Sites, the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, as well as other National Park Service units in the state.

Therefore, I ask that, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, the NPS give every consideration to conducting a Reconnaissance Survey for the proposed Freedom Riders Park. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Richard Shelby  
U.S. Senator