



President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

October 9, 2016

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of Co-Chairman and Freedom Rider Bill Harbour as well as our Freedom Riders Park Committee, we write this letter in support of your use of the Antiquities Act to proclaim and establish Freedom Riders National Monument in Northeast Alabama.

For over a decade, our continuing efforts have engaged both our local and global communities with the hope of a Freedom Riders National Monument. Already, our two locations “from the bus station to the gas station” have become symbols of the region’s commitment to redemption, healing, and a better understanding of the Freedom Rides.

Unprecedented support and commitment to this effort has not only led to a donation of the actual Greyhound Bus Station where the violence began in Anniston, but also a donation of the very site where the bus was burned with Freedom Riders trapped inside. According to former National Park Service planner David Guiney, *“Very seldom do park development teams see so many resources in place that enable excellent interpretation and visitor experience. The Freedom Riders sites in and around Anniston are remarkable in their potential power—authentic structures, preserved landscapes, an array of candid and dramatic photographs, live recordings, living participants, living eyewitnesses, strong potential for artifact recovery and authentic props, and experience zones that elicit a powerful sense of place.”*

Freedom Riders National Monument will provide inspiration and education for countless people if provided your designation. Thank you for consideration of this internationally significant community effort.

Sincerely,

W. Peter Conroy, Co-Chair Freedom
Riders Park Committee
Jacksonville State University

CC: FRP Co-Chair Bill Harbour
Sally Jewell, Secretary of Interior
Jon Jarvis, Director NPS
Christy Goldfuss, CEQ
Richard Shelby, US Senator