

July 25, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I commend your actions in designating three sites connected to the Till Mobley story as a National Monument. Our shared history, culture, and natural treasures should be protected through conservation protections such as National Monuments.

In the face of adversity, Emmett Till's mother demonstrated Black resiliency and agency in her efforts to ensure that Emmett Till's plight and tragedy was not forgotten. Her efforts helped compel the Civil Rights Movement and rightfully her son's life should not only be honored, but never forgotten.

As we honor this important story, as told by protecting the very land where the story unfolded, we know that it is essential to shed light on the full story of America. I am grateful for your leadership in recognizing that Black history is American history.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Mark A. McConnell  
President  
Baptist General State Convention of Illinois