July 25, 2023

President Joseph Biden
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, an alliance of 5 major national Christian and Jewish faith institutions united in our commitment to protecting God’s creation and doing so through the lens of justice, I applaud the designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie-Till National Monument. On this day of his birth, it is particularly poignant that we honor his life and mark his tragic, untimely death.

In addition to documenting Emmett Till’s abduction, torture and killing, the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument proclaims the resiliency of Mamie Till-Mobley, who bravely proclaimed the horrific events of her son’s death and insisted that the nation and the world bear witness. Her persistence challenges us to address racial injustice.

The importance of telling stories of Black tragedy on public lands, as highlighted in NRPE’s report, Stories on the Land: Showcasing Black History on Public Lands, cannot be overstated. This designation comes at a critical time in our country; a time where some would have us ignore the tragedy of lynching and racism. Yet, the full telling Black history can inform future thoughts and actions and provide healing.

Our country’s history tragically includes an untold number of lynching and mass racial violence. The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument paves the wave for additional National Monuments and parks to provide a fuller narrative of racially motivated violence.

Local, state and national parks are places where we play, pray and learn. The National Religious Partnership for the Environment, with its connections to 156,000 congregations and parishes around the country including Black churches,
looks forward to partnering with the National Park Service to ensure that Black history and the history of other communities of color is fully told in our nation’s parks.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Carmichael
Executive Director
National Religious Partnership for the Environment