

July 25, 2023

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

Dear President Biden:

I celebrate that, through the designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument, the Biden-Harris Administration is pursuing equity on public lands. By declaring this National Monument as we mark Emmett Till's birthday, we honor the life he tragically gave, the persistence of his loving mother and the path towards justice that we must all undertake.

Black communities continue to endure racism, injustice and discrimination. We know the importance of telling the history of racism in the United States and highlighting its devastating impacts. The history of prolific lynching in the U.S. is a story that must be told, not just through written word, but through the land where the events actually took place.

Too often African American history is relegated to, at best side notes or footnotes. Or is deleted altogether in the hopes that it will be forgotten. Designating a national monument that highlights the tragedy and trauma that Emmett Till, his family and community endured is an important part of preserving history, reckoning with our past as a nation, and moving forward in healing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jerry Young
President
National Baptist Convention USA
Nashville, Tennessee