



November 2, 2022

Mr. Bryson Stephens  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
EBSCO Industries, Inc.  
5724 Highway 280 East  
Birmingham, AL 35242

Dr. Mr. Stephens:

On behalf of McWane Science Center, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the proposed Red Mountain Cut project in Birmingham, AL. McWane Science Center has a long standing history with the Red Mountain Cut that dates back to the opening of our parent institution, the Red Mountain Museum, in 1971. As McWane Science Center currently oversees the conservation, preservation, research, and interpretation of the extensive Red Mountain Museum collections, it is great to learn that similar plans are being formulated for the Red Mountain Cut.

This iconic Birmingham landmark is of immense scientific importance as it exposes approximately 190-million-years of geological time – more than any other single road cut in the U.S. Preserved in the rocks at the Red Mountain Cut are countless fossils of some of earliest life forms in the state, as well as some of the oldest in the country. In fact, the scientific importance of these fossils, as well as the exposed geological units, was recognized by the National Park Service who designated the Red Mountain Cut as a National Natural Landmark in 1984. The Red Mountain Cut is one of only 600 sites in the world to hold this prestigious designation.

In addition to the scientific importance of the Red Mountain Cut, the proposed renovation of the former walking path provides an opportunity to interpret both historical and cultural aspects of Birmingham's past. In 1845 British geologist Charles Lyell noted the immense iron seams and limestone and coal deposits in Birmingham and prominently stated that these resources would "be a source of great mineral wealth" for the state. Lyell was correct in these statements, as Birmingham later became the second largest producer of pig iron in the U.S. The Red Mountain Cut provides a unique opportunity to look back and appreciate our iron producing past, and also highlights the economic shift the region during Reconstruction, from one that was slave-based and agricultural to one based on the production of iron.

We at McWane Science Center are excited to see the proposal for the renovation and long-term preservation of this historical landmark. We look forward to participating as an active partner in the interpretation of the science and regional history surrounding the Red Mountain Cut, and to help ensure the preservation of this National treasure for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Templeton".

Amy Templeton  
President and CEO

**MCWANE SCIENCE CENTER**

200 19TH STREET NORTH, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203 • (205) 714-8300 • [WWW.MCWANE.ORG](http://WWW.MCWANE.ORG)