



ONEONTA HIGH SCHOOL

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19, March, 2020

Mr. Bryson Stephens, Chairman, EBSCO Board of Directors
3800 Old Leeds Road
Birmingham, AL 35213

Dear Mr. Stephens,

I would like to express my full support for any and all efforts made to improve access to the Red Mountain Road Cut on the Red Mountain Expressway in Birmingham, AL. As a science teacher at Oneonta High School and President of the Alabama Paleontological Society, I am in a prime position to understand the importance of this underutilized local resource.

The Red Mountain Road Cut is registered as a National Site of Geologic Interest by the American Geological Institute and as a National Natural Landmark by the United States Department of Interior. Due to the scientific importance of the site, it has become a valuable educational resource as well. Even considering the derelict state of the walkway and current overgrowth of vegetation, the site is still in demand by many geoscience educators. As a former PAEMST Science awardee (Alabama, 2007), I rank this site near the top of my list for field experiences in geosciences.

Historical and cultural significance converge with the geoscience nature of the Red Mountain Road Cut as well. The hematite (iron ore) bulk of the mountain was a crucial factor in the establishment and growth of the city of Birmingham. With the World Games scheduled for July of 2021, this natural gem of a landmark can provide an excellent view of the Birmingham skyline and provide a point of pride

that the city can rally around. It's time to show the nation – to show the world – that we can manage and protect the treasures that have been given to us.

I am eagerly looking forward to seeing the Red Mountain Road Cut restored and available for all to use, appreciate, and study. I enthusiastically offer my full support for this project and make myself available in any way that I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Ashley Allen
Science Teacher
Oneonta High School