

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 24, 2014

Dear Colleague:

We would like to invite you to be an original co-sponsor of the "Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2014," which will strengthen the current Ocmulgee National Monument and provide economic and cultural benefits to the State of Georgia and beyond.

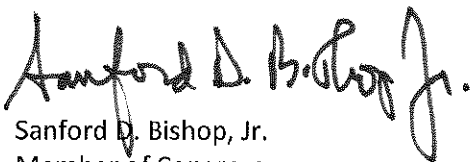
This legislation consists of three parts: (1) expanding the boundaries from approximately 700 acres to over 2,000 acres; (2) changing the name from "Ocmulgee National Monument" to "Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park" which would increase name recognition and draw additional visitors; and (3) authorizing a resources study to expand the park even further and include additional opportunities for hunting, camping, fishing, and other recreational activities.

Ocmulgee National Monument was originally authorized by Congress in 1934 to protect "lands commonly known as the 'Old Ocmulgee Fields,' upon which certain Indian mounds of great historical importance are located." The role of the Ocmulgee National Monument is to "present a story of many stages of prehistoric cultural development, emphasizing the influences of agriculture, the Mound Builder period, and the relationship of these various cultures to each other and to life today." If the bill is enacted, the monument would be expanded to protect additional cultural and natural resources in the Ocmulgee Old Fields. Property also would be acquired only from willing donors or sellers, subject to the availability of funding.

Due to its rich history and archaeological importance, the future Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park deserves to be preserved as a lasting memorial to how individuals relate to the land and other natural resources. Its expansion and improvement would be a fitting tribute to the Native Americans who first came to this historical site during the Paleo-Indian period to hunt Ice Age mammals. The expanded park also will generate much needed tourist revenue for Macon, Georgia and the surrounding areas while educating visitors on the little known fact that different cultures have occupied this land for thousands of years. The mounds and earthlodges that the Mississippians built to serve as formal council chambers when they arrived in Macon around 900 A.D. remain intact for all to see and appreciate.

If you would like to be an original co-sponsor of this measure, please contact either Jonathan Halpern in Representative Bishop's office at Jonathan.Halpern@mail.house.gov or Matt Hodge in Representative Scott's office at Matt.Hodge@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Austin Scott
Member of Congress