

1 HJR328
2 177369-1
3 By Representative Boyd
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 20-APR-16

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 ENDORSING THE NOMINATION OF MAJOR CIVIL RIGHTS SITES
9 IN ALABAMA AS WORLD HERITAGE SITES AND URGING THEIR
10 INSCRIPTION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST.
11

12 WHEREAS, Americans established the UNESCO World
13 Heritage Site program more than four decades ago to identify
14 and designate the most important natural and cultural sites in
15 the world; and

16 WHEREAS, African American activists followed the
17 practice of nonviolent confrontation during the period between
18 World War II and 1968 and achieved increased levels of freedom
19 in the fields of public accommodations, educational
20 opportunities, voting rights, and other human endeavors; and

21 WHEREAS, the locations where demonstrations,
22 marches, and other direct action happened became identified as
23 landmarks in the advancement of human rights through peaceful
24 means and have been recognized as having international
25 importance; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2008, the United States Secretary of the
2 Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, invited major civil rights
3 landmarks to be nominated for inscription by the World
4 Heritage Convention; and

5 WHEREAS, the civil rights landmarks would join the
6 list of the 1,000 most important cultural and natural sites
7 worldwide, including the Statue of Liberty, Independence Hall,
8 the Alamo, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Grand
9 Canyon Park, with most locations benefitting from dramatic
10 increases in domestic and international tourism spending upon
11 being added to the World Heritage List; and

12 WHEREAS, inclusion as a World Heritage Site imposes
13 no legal restrictions on owners or neighbors of sites, nor
14 does it give the United Nations any management authority or
15 ownership rights in United States World Heritage Sites, which
16 continue to be subject to United States law; and

17 WHEREAS, the owner of each site voluntarily provides
18 to the United States Department of the Interior a written
19 agreement to be nominated; and

20 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama could benefit
21 significantly from increased tourism spending in and around
22 these destinations; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we endorse the nomination of
25 major civil rights sites in Alabama and urge their inscription
26 on the World Heritage List.

