

**Congressman Sanford Bishop**  
**Opening Remarks (Approximately 2-3 minutes)**  
**Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Hearing**  
**Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands**  
**1324 Longworth House Office Building**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2009 – 10 a.m.**

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a brief statement with respect to today's hearing on H.R. 1471, the bill to expand and revitalize the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, which is located in Plains, Georgia.

As you know, my Congressional District in Southwest Georgia includes Plains. Therefore I was pleased to sponsor this bipartisan legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives which, if passed, will bolster the local economy, enhance tourism, and provide people from around the world with a new insight into the life and career of the 39th President of the United States.

A few years ago, I took my whole staff on a visit to the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, including his boyhood home and school, so they could get a better feel and understanding of the values that shaped this great Georgian. After listening to the messages recorded by the former President that tell visitors of his experiences as a child and young man and how they

influenced his views and values, and after touring the Depression-era farm, home and school where he grew into manhood, every one of my staff members, including a number from Georgia and several who are not, tell me they were inspired by what they learned about the life of Jimmy Carter, just as I have been.

The eventual passage of this bill will ensure that the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site has the resources it needs to continue to inspire generation after generation of visitors.

Additionally, the investments made in this property will positively impact the economic development of Plains and the surrounding Sumter County areas by providing increased opportunities for tourism.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce Representative Mike Cheokas, who is presently serving his third term as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives for District 134, which includes the city of Plains.

I am grateful that Representative Cheokas has agreed to join us for today's hearing and to testify to the needs and concerns of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site. I am looking forward to his testimony.

I also want to recognize Gary Ingram, Superintendent of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, who is with us today. In just under two years in this position, Superintendent Ingram has been a tremendous leader for the park, and I appreciate his support here today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.