



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

July 25, 2011

J. Paul Loether
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Loether:

It is a great honor to write in support of Lime Rock Park's application to be designated a National Historic Landmark. Tucked into the Litchfield hills in Lakeville, Connecticut, Lime Rock Park is a scenic treasure with an extraordinarily rich racing and engineering history. Designed as a scenic park, Lime Rock is notable for its innovative design, influence on American road racing and unique spectator experience. The pristine 1.5 mile circuit built in 1956, and opened in 1957, remains precisely as it was originally envisioned. There is no doubt that Lime Rock Park provides exceptional quality and value to the racing community as well as our state and nation. Lime Rock's stewards' passion for the park and racing entertainment is spreading fast to new fans and families.

The rise of American road racing and Lime Rock Park was largely due to three notable American innovators. Bill Millikin of Cornell Aeronautical Lab (now Calspan), highway safety engineer John Fitch, and industrial designer Raymond Loewy collaborated to design the first track using scientific principles and landscaped to accentuate the natural setting. Over the last half century, Lime Rock Park has retained its true character and its original pioneering design. Its safety engineering and construction continue to be emulated. The protected park is a model for the racing and engineering communities and a place for public enjoyment in perpetuity.

Lime Rock Park has hosted nearly every national and international racing driver of significant historical note including Mario and Michael Andretti, Roger Penske, Steve McQueen, Paul Newman and Willy T. Ribbs. However, it was Lime Rock Park's once-in-a-lifetime International Formula Libre race in July, 1959 that pitted oval track professional drivers against amateur road course drivers, and forever changed the face of American motorsports. This one unique race at Lime Rock Park ushered in the Golden Age of American road racing.

Lime Rock Park is integral to road racing history and worthy of the National Historic Landmark designation. The location, design, workmanship and community of Lime Rock Park are unparalleled. This cutting edge, innovative recreational facility offers a distinctive, unadulterated spectator experience; free of grandstands and bleachers. No other major road racing track gives spectators free reign of the park property, let alone access to one of such beauty. The free-spiritedness and fun of summer is exemplified by the all-American Lime Rock Park.

An engineering design feat, Lime Rock Park clearly meets the criteria for this honorable designation, and is illustrative of our innovation heritage. I urge full and fair consideration of Lime Rock Park by the National Park Service Advisory Board of Landmarks Committee, and recommended to Secretary Salazar that it be designated a National Historic Landmark. If my office can be of further assistance in this process, please do not hesitate to contact Liz Donohue, Director of Policy, at 860.524.7344. I look forward to hearing your decision. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dannel P. Malloy

Cc:

Senator Joseph Lieberman
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Representative Christopher S. Murphy