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STATE OF ALABAMA

May 23, 2023

Hon. Leigh Gwathney, Chair
Hon. Daryl Littleton, Associate Member
Hon. Kim Davidson, Associate Member
Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles
P.O. Box 302405
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Board Members:

Please do not grant parole to Judith Ann Neelley. Five years ago, I made that same request of this Board, and your predecessors unanimously denied parole after less than one minute of deliberation. Although each of you has joined the Board since Ms. Neelley's last parole hearing, nothing has changed since then that would support a different result today: Quite simply, Ms. Neelley should not be allowed to set foot outside of an Alabama prison.

The circumstances surrounding Ms. Neelley's murder of Lisa Ann Millican can only be described as pure evil. It was evil for Neelley and her husband to abduct the 13-year-old Lisa from a shopping mall. It was evil for the Neelleys to take her to a motel room and sexually torture her for three days before taking her to Little River Canyon. And there at the canyon, it was evil for Ms. Neelley to inject Lisa six times with drain cleaner, to shoot Lisa in the back, and to push Lisa into the canyon to her death.

Other crimes have been attributed to Ms. Neelley, and they, too, can only be described as evil. The shooting at Ken Dooley and firebombing of Linda Adair's home. The murder of Janice Chatman and the attempted murder of her fiancé, John Hancock. To be sure, Ms. Neelley was not convicted of each of these crimes. But you can and should still consider her involvement in them as further reason to keep Ms. Neelley behind bars.

It has been said that "mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent," and I wholeheartedly agree. To release Ms. Neelley would be cruel to the family of Lisa Ann Millican and the families of Ms. Neelley's other victims.

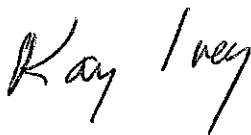
In fact, I believe it was a mistake for Governor James to commute Ms. Neelley's death sentence in the first place—and certainly to do so in a way that allows Ms. Neelley the possibility of parole. Now, every five years, the wounds of these families are reopened as they wait with bated breath for your decision.

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Unfortunately, we cannot wholly undo the mistake of Ms. Neelley's commutation. We tried to do this in 2003 when the Legislature passed (and Governor Riley signed) a law denying parole consideration to anyone whose death sentence has been commuted by the Governor. Although a federal court held that you may not retroactively apply this law to deny Ms. Neelley a parole hearing, the sentiment behind that act should be top of mind as you weigh your decision.

In sum, my message is simple. I categorically and unequivocally oppose parole for Ms. Neelley. As you consider Ms. Neelley's fate, do not forget Ms. Neelley's victims and the depravity of her crimes. Do not overlook the continuing threat to public safety Ms. Neelley would pose if she were ever let out of prison. And do not disregard the overwhelming consensus of our state government that someone convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death should never walk the streets of Alabama again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kay Ivey
Governor