

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman

Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director, Acting



July 21, 2022

The Honorable Joseph Manchin III, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John A. Barrasso, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

Acting as chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) during that position's current vacancy, I am writing to express the ACHP's support for the Japanese American World War II History Network Act (H.R. 6434), which recently was passed by the House of Representatives with overwhelming support. Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the ACHP is the independent federal agency charged with advising the President and Congress on matters relating to historic preservation.

The bill would create a network of sites (federal and nonfederal) relevant to the Japanese American experience in World War II that could receive interpretive, promotional, and other technical assistance from the National Park Service. The bill mirrors laws that created the existing African American Civil Rights Network, Reconstruction Era National Historic Network, and National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

The experience of Japanese Americans in World War II was unique. Shortly after the United States entered the war, the federal government incarcerated approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans, most of them American citizens, due to unfounded fears of espionage and sabotage. As the war progressed, approximately 33,000 Japanese Americans would serve in the United States military services, many fighting in some of the most decorated military units of the conflict. Passage of the Japanese American World War II History Network Act will help to ensure that this history, both troubling and uplifting, is not forgotten, and that the historic places that embody this history are preserved and interpreted.

Please feel free to contact me if the ACHP can be of any assistance during further consideration of the Japanese American World War II History Network Act, or your staff may wish to follow up with acting ACHP Executive Director Reid Nelson at rmelson@achp.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman