



February 2, 2022

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
1029 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Obernolte:

On behalf of the Arizona Preservation Foundation board of directors, I write to express our full support for H.R. 6434, the Japanese American World War II History Network Act.

According to Arizona State Library, Archives & Records, from 1942 to 1945, the U.S. Government forcibly removed over 46,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans from their homes who arrived in Arizona to wait out the war in relocation camps located in Gila River and Poston. Americans' response to the camps and the treatment of Japanese-Americans varied widely. Some supported the internment as a measure of national security, some rejected it out of fear from having so many of the enemy on Arizona land, and some campaigned on the part of their Japanese American neighbors and friends to end the internment. The presence of Japanese Americans in Arizona highlighted the nuanced ideas of race, ethnicity, and what it is to be American during a time of war and transition.

The Act will foster access to information and interpretation about the tragic and unfortunate incarceration of Japanese-American individuals and families during World War II, along with the daily experiences and hardships they endured during those trying times. Educational materials to be created thanks to this Act will help to communicate facts that are often not covered in regular history, social studies, or civics classes.

The Foundation fully support this important initiative and look forward to working with our State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service on its implementation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim W. McPherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim McPherson
President, Board of Directors
Arizona Preservation Foundation

cc: Board Members, Arizona Preservation Foundation
Kathryn Leonard, State Historic Preservation Office