

# HMMFM

Historical Museum at Fort Missoula

January 21, 2022

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

RE: Japanese American World War II History Network Act

Dear Congressman Obernolte,

On behalf of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, I would like to express our support for the Japanese American World War II Network Act, which will support the effective production and dissemination of educational materials about Japanese American experiences during World War II, including stories related to confinement sites and Department of Justice Camps.

At the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula we work to preserve and interpret the most intact internment or incarceration camp in the United States. This is reflected in our strategic plan and educational programs. During WWII, over 1000 Issei men were wrongfully imprisoned at Fort Missoula, stripped of their civil liberties, and subjected to "loyalty" hearings, in which they were forced to try and prove their loyalty to the United States. We believe that the Japanese American World War II Network Act will be a powerful tool in helping to educate the public about these men and the wrongs committed against them.

This project will bring the History of Japanese Issei and Japanese Americans to the forefront and allow internment and incarceration sites to better interpret this tragic period of our history. The Japanese American World War II Network Act will provide opportunities for teachers and visitors to Japanese American confinement sites administered by the National Park Service to access stories and educational materials that reflect the real-life experiences of Japanese Americans during WWII.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important program.

Sincerely,



Matt Lautzenheiser  
Executive Director, The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula