



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Feb. 1, 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:

The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation fully supports the World War II History Network Act. The Act will increase access to information and interpretation about the tragic and unfair incarceration of Japanese Americans, as well as their other experiences endured during World War II. The educational materials proposed under this Act are critical to disseminating information that is often omitted or glossed over in regular history classes.

On March 30th, 1942 two hundred and twenty-seven men, women and children of Japanese descent were taken from their homes on Bainbridge Island as a result of Executive Order 9066. This unfair and discriminatory practice, which continued to other areas of the country, caused loss of life, businesses and homes. It also resulted in significant, irreversible emotional and intergenerational trauma. Washington State was the first to feel the brunt of this unnecessary and catastrophic action.

The proposed Network will not only increase awareness about this difficult history, but will also identify the important places that communicate this history on the landscape. We must endeavor to prevent history from repeating itself, and this initiative is a critical step in letting this difficult history be etched in our collective memory.

We fully support this important initiative and look forward to working with the National Park Service on its implementation here in Washington State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Allyson Brooks'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allyson Brooks Ph.D
State Historic Preservation Officer
Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

