March 14, 2018

The Japanese American Citizens League and Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation and 112 additional undersigned organizations urge you to continue FY 2019 funding of the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program and the Underrepresented Communities Competitive Grants under the Historic Preservation Fund.

Since first appropriations were made in 2009, the JACS program has supported 186 projects with over $23 million in matched funding. The program has enjoyed broad bipartisan support for its important role in re-telling and preserving the Japanese American experience through the various confinement sites and related institutions.

It has been over 75 years since Japanese Americans were first incarcerated without due process, and yet there remain Americans who are unaware of this chapter in our nation’s history. The JACS program is instrumental to expanding the knowledge of this chapter in our history and the eventual redemption of our nation in offering a formal apology and redress. Further recognizing this year as the thirtieth anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, it is especially important to affirm the importance of funding the continued preservation and telling of this story.

Continued funding of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Program will ensure this important piece of American history is preserved.

Since 2014, the NPS has awarded over $1 million in grants to diversify the nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The Underrepresented Communities Grant Program support projects that include surveys and inventories of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register as well as the development of nominations to the National Register for specific sites. The Underrepresented Communities Grants Programs has been integral in supporting state and local governments as well as community organizations prepare nominations of properties representing Latino Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, women and LGBTQ Americans.
Continued funding of the Underrepresented Communities Competitive Grant Program will support the preservation of what are often are most forgotten pieces of history.

As you consider FY2019 funding levels, we hope that you will continue the broad bi-partisan support for these two programs that are vitally important to preserving our great American history.

Sincerely,

Japanese American Citizens League
Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation

National Organizations
Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus
Amache Club - Denver Central Optimists Club
American Civil Liberties Union
Anti-Defamation League
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian American Psychological Association
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS)
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)
Berkeley JACL
Center for Asian American Media
Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism-California State University, San Bernardino
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Defending Rights & Dissent
Densho
Friends of Minidoka
Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation
Historypin.org
Jakara Movement
Japanese American Confinement Site Consortium
Japanese American National Museum
Laotian American National Alliance
Muslim Advocates
NAACP
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
National Council of Jewish Women
National Immigration Law Center
National Japanese American Historical Society
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Organization for Women
National Veterans Network
OCA-Asian Americans
People For the American Way
Poston Community Alliance
Progressive Congress Action Fund
Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide
The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
The Sikh Coalition
Tule Lake Committee, Inc.

Local Organizations
071 Wasatch Front North JACL Chapter
Alaska Chapter, JACL
Amache Historical Society II
Asian American Bar Association of New York
Asian American Criminal Trial Lawyers Association
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley (APABA Silicon Valley)
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida
Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento (ABAS)
Berkeley JACL
Boise Valley JACL
Bridging Communities
C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge
CAIR San Francisco Bay Area
CAIR-Iowa
California Asian Pacific American Bar Association
California Preservation Foundation
Chicago Japanese American Historical Society
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-LA)
Council On American-Islamic Relations Minnesota chapter
Eden Township JACL
Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago
Florin JACL - Sacramento Valley
Florin JACL-SV Next Generation
Full Spectrum Features
Guam Preservation Trust
Hoosier Chapter - JACL
Idaho Falls Japanese American Citizens League
JACL Chicago Chapter
JACL Philadelphia
JACL San Jose Chapter
Japanese American Association of Colorado
Japanese American Citizens League, Arizona Chapter
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center
Japanese American Service Committee
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
KALAGNY
Korean American Bar Association of Northern California
Little Manila Foundation
Little Tokyo Historical Society
LULAC Utah
Mt. Olympus JACL
NAPABA Hawaii Chapter
National Tongan American Society
Olympia Chapter, JACL
Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego
Portland JACL
Sacramento Chapter, JACL
Salt Lake Chapter - Japanese American Citizens League
San Benito County JACL
San Diego Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League
San Francisco Heritage
San Francisco Heritage / Haas-Lilienthal House
San Mateo Chapter, JACL
Seattle JACL
Sequoia JACL
South Asian Bar Association of Northern California
The ABAS Law Foundation
Tulare County JACL
Twin Cities JACL
University of Denver Amache Project
Utah API Democratic Caucus
Utah Multicultural Civic Council
Vigilant Love
Visual Communications Media
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL