



February 3, 2022

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 1509

My name is Anna Goodwin and I represent The History Museum of Hood River County. I am submitting this testimony to express the Museum's strong support for Oregon Senate Bill 1509.

Bill 1509, designating Oregon Route 35 as Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Historic Highway, is important because it honors the courageous veterans who served their country during World War II. Thousands of Oregon visitors and residents travel Oregon Route 35 every year, and will be reminded of the significance of the Nisei veterans to the history of Oregon. With The History Museum and Hood River Visitors' Center situated immediately adjacent to the highway, visitors can learn more about these stories as they travel through the area on Route 35.

At The History Museum, we have an exhibit which shares the story of Japanese Americans in Hood River, and the discrimination the Nisei veterans faced when they returned from the war. Most schoolchildren who visit the museum are not familiar with this part of our community's history, and they are surprised to learn of this dark time. Increasing awareness of the sacrifices and contributions of the Nisei WWII veterans in this community and throughout Oregon creates opportunities for conversation and collaboration, in order to better understand our past as we look to the future.

I respectfully urge the members of this committee to support this very important legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anna Goodwin
Executive Director
The History Museum of Hood River County