

Submitter: Michael Oates

On Behalf Of: Chair

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Measure: SB1509

Dear Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, I strongly support Senate Bill 1509. Many Nisei lived in Hood River County at the start of World War II. Most were sent to encampments. However, several young men served in the armed service, providing technical assistance with their knowledge of the Japanese culture and language.

Their participation in the War effort was a critical component in resolving the war. I remember sitting in the living room of Koe Nishimoto about 40 years ago, congratulating him on a national honor he had just received for his important contribution during WWII. At the time, Koe was suffering with terminal cancer. He stated that it didn't seem so important as he was going through his cancer treatments. But it was important, and it is still important to this day. Koe's contribution to the war effort along with his fellow Nisei neighbors who served in the war, made a commitment to the War effort for our country. For their country. They were and are heroes. Please pass this important recognition that would be provided in Senate Bill 1509.

Mike Oates