

# JACL

*Midwest Office*

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August 8, 2008

Congressman Joe Knollenberg  
Farmington Hills Office  
30833 Northwestern Hwy  
Suite 100  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Dear Congressman Knollenberg:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States, recently learned about your blog entry titled "Protecting Our Families From Asian Invaders."

The title is sadly reminiscent of racist sentiment that has targeted Asian Americans throughout our history in the United States. It evokes the Asian exclusion movements in the 1800s and early 1900s when blatant racism led to policies that prevented Asians from immigrating to America. The use of the term "Asian Invaders" plays dangerously with xenophobic sentiment that has potential repercussions for Asian Americans today. Hate crimes and hate incidents are often sparked by this type of rhetoric, especially when kindled by a climate of threat and fear.

Even though the title was changed, for a time it was posted for all to see despite a review by your staff for its appropriateness. Your actions have offended Asian Americans and others. You need to issue an apology for the terminology in the original title and its harmful impact on the Asian American community. In the future, you and your staff must exercise extreme caution and diligence to eliminate the use of anti-Asian references. We look forward to your apology.

Sincerely,

William Yoshino  
Midwest Director  
Japanese American Citizens League