



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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Press Release

JACL ANNOUNCES SUCCESS IN CAMP PRESERVATION FUNDING

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November 3, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is proud to announce that the fiscal 2010 Department of Interior appropriations bill included funding for several World War II Concentration Camp preservation projects. Preservation of these historic camps in which Japanese Americans were incarcerated without due process has been a top priority of the JACL. The JACL Washington D.C. Office has worked closely with Senators Inouye and Feinstein as well as Congressman Honda in assuring the inclusion of camp preservation elements in the 2010 Fiscal Budget. President Obama signed the bill into law on October 30, 2009.

Floyd Mori, JACL National Executive Director said, "The camp preservation funding included in next year's budget will enable the nation to enhance its understanding of this unfortunate time in American history when civil rights were ignored with resulting suffering and sacrifice thrust upon the Japanese American community. Much more, in terms of educational programs, will be made available to students and citizens alike as facilities are developed and artifacts preserved."

The bill includes \$3 million for the camp preservation program, \$900,000 for barracks reconstruction at Manzanar, California, and \$350,000 for park boundary expansion of Minidoka National Historic Site, Idaho. The bill reports a timely issue threatening Minidoka which involves a 190-foot tall power line that is planned to run through the footprint of the camp. The text calls upon the Secretary of Interior to resolve the issue within 90 days of its enactment stating, "The conferees remain supportive of the Secretary's renewable energy initiative and also recognize that the Federal government has an obligation to preserve lands for the Minidoka National Historic Site and other relocation centers and to provide for their preservation and interpretation."

Also reported in the bill's text are land expansions for Heart Mountain in Wyoming and a special research study to determine Honouliuli Gulch's feasibility to become a new addition to the National Park System in Hawaii.

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