



Japanese American Citizens League

National Youth/Student Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACL NY/SC CALLS FOR HALT OF POWER LINE THROUGH MINIDOKA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The National Youth/Student Council of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL NY/SC), the youth arm of the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil and human rights organization in the United States, calls upon Secretary Ken Salazar of the United States Department of Interior and members of Congress to revise plans for a power line which would run through the Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho.

While a power line can bring much-needed energy to the citizens of Idaho and Nevada, the JACL NY/SC believes that the power line has the capability to permanently and negatively impact a piece of America's collective history. As descendants of nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly interned in ten internment camps and United States Department of Justice camps during World War II, the JACL NY/SC feels strongly about preserving and protecting the integrity of those sites.

The Minidoka National Historic Site serves as a crucial reminder to all Americans of how fragile our Constitution can be in times of crises, and that we must be vigilant and true to the principles of our nation so that this episode is never repeated.

Our grandparents and great-grandparents suffered racism and prejudice in those dark days. Their pain and the injustice they endured and overcame have been felt over the generations. The JACL NY/SC, as a body, is both the beneficiary and the caretaker of the Japanese American legacy. As such, the JACL NY/SC is committed to remembering their story to ensure that the rights of Japanese American and all others who face prejudice and injustice are upheld. The JACL NY/SC believes that allowing the massive towers and transmission lines to bisect the site is to desecrate the memory of those who were held against their will in those camps.

We strongly recommend that the issue be revisited and that alternatives be considered. The JACL NY/SC calls upon our governmental representatives to protect and preserve the symbolic value that the Minidoka National Historic Site holds for all Americans by rerouting the power line at a suitable distance from the Historic Site so as not to destroy its historic nature.

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For more information on how to get involved with the JACL National Youth/Student Council and a proactive Asian Pacific American youth movement, please contact JACL NY/SC Chair, Kimberly Shintaku, at youthchair@jacl.org.