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Councilor Duncan Hwang, District 6

February 1, 2022

Chair Manning and members of the committee:

As the Metro Councilor for District 6, representing Portland's Jade District and thousands of Asian American constituents, I am asking for your support of SB 1509, which would dedicate Highway 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway. I write today in my professional capacity, and my letter today does not reflect an official view of the Metro Council.

During the Second World War, 33,000 Japanese American (Nisei) soldiers served our country honorably, even as many of their families were among 120,000 incarcerated in American concentration camps. They were heroic. One unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team is the most decorated unit in our country's military history for its size and length of service. Still, they faced discrimination when they returned home.

I strongly endorse Senate Bill 1509 as a way to honor these heroes with permanent roadside markers. We can help our youth and future generations ask questions and learn how American citizens demonstrated pride over prejudice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Duncan Hwang".

Duncan Hwang
Metro Councilor, District 3