



CITY OF HOOD RIVER

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February 17, 2022

Template for SB 1509 Testimony

Members of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management:

Dear Chair Grayber and Committee Members:

Your personal connection: Linda Tamura and Gordon Sato

Thirty-three thousand Japanese American (Nisei) soldiers served our country honorably during World War II while 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 to dedicate Highway 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway. We can honor these heroes with permanent roadside markers to help our youth and next generations ask questions and learn how American citizens demonstrated pride over prejudice.

Respectfully,

Kate McBride, Mayor
City of Hood River