



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

*Northern California – Western Nevada – Pacific [NCWNP] District*

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September 24, 2008

Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren

Subcommittee on the Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, & International Law

635 North 1st Street, Suite B

San Jose, CA 95112

**Subject: Hearing for H.R. 662: Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act**

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren:

As Americans whose families and community suffered the backlash and internment of World War II, we request that a hearing on H.R. 662, Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act, be scheduled this year. Our Northern California - Western Nevada – Pacific Japanese American Citizens League District (NCWNP JACL) composed of 32 local chapters has regularly discussed this continuing injustice and recognized that time is of the essence as many of the survivors and witnesses to this tragic episode pass away each year.

Like the more than 110,000 Japanese Americans, the 2,300 Japanese Latin Americans lost their homes, businesses, and farms, in addition to their cherished freedom and opportunities. Unlike Japanese Americans, the Japanese Latin Americans were actually kidnapped from their communities in South America and transported to share the same U.S. internment camps.

The poignant story of these Japanese Latin American families is still largely untold and unknown to Americans. The suffering of these individuals is still un-redressed by the history-making 1988 Civil Liberties Act that benefited Japanese Americans. As ones who attended the 1982 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) hearing in the San Francisco Bay Area, we know the Japanese Latin American chronicles will enlighten and move countless fair-minded Americans across our country.

Originally introduced by Representatives Becerra, Lungren, Honda, and Cannon, H.R. 662 would form a commission to rightly investigate the World War II-era internment of Japanese Latin Americans and recommend appropriate action. As Chairwoman of the Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law Subcommittee, you now have the great opportunity and power to move this bill forward and to help make history.

We urgently request that you hold a hearing on H.R. 662 this session. Over the years, we have met many of the Japanese Latin American survivors and their family members. Over the same years, we have seen many of them pass away without the chance to share their stories with our country. Won't you help make this possible?

Thank you for your past support in so many important social issues and needs. Please continue this support at this critical time by scheduling this hearing.

Thank you for your leadership.

Alan Nishi, Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Noguchi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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