

**JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
RECOGNITION OF TOPAZ AND ITS
HISTORY**

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Richard W. Wheeler

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature supports the Topaz Museum Board's efforts to build a conservation center and learning museum in Delta.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- supports the Topaz Museum Board's efforts to build a conservation center and learning museum in Delta to help protect the site, house artifacts and research material, and educate all citizens about Topaz and its history.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, authorizing the evacuation of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes in portions of Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona to ten remote internment camps in Arkansas, Colorado, Arizona, California, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah;

WHEREAS, one of those camps, Topaz, located near Delta, Utah, housed over 8,300 men, women, and children from September 11, 1942 until October 31, 1945, and was Utah's



fifth largest city;

WHEREAS, over 25,000 Japanese Americans, many from Topaz, served in the United States military during World War II and incurred tremendous casualties while their families were confined in the internment camps;

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and President George H.W. Bush issued a letter of apology and redress payments to the survivors of the internment;

WHEREAS, the Topaz camp site should be preserved and protected as part of the nation's commitment to equal justice for all;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum Board, a nonprofit agency that has raised money to purchase 614 of the 640 acres of the site, has sponsored pilgrimages, teachers' workshops, and Topaz Day for fourth graders in Millard County, has restored a recreation hall from the camp, and collected artifacts in order to raise awareness regarding the history of the internment;

WHEREAS, the Topaz site was declared a "Save America's Treasures" Project in 1999;

WHEREAS, in 2005 the United States House of Representatives passed HR 1492, which will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a program within the National Park Service to further protect and provide funding for the ten internment camp sites and other significant related areas;

WHEREAS, Congressmen Chris Cannon and Jim Matheson were co-sponsors of HR 1492 along with 114 other congressmen;

WHEREAS, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced S 1719 as a companion bill to HR 1492, along with five cosponsors, including Senators Bob Bennett and Orrin Hatch; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is currently accepting an application for the Topaz site to become a National Historic Landmark:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah expresses its support for the Topaz Museum Board's efforts to build a conservation center and learning museum in Delta to help protect the site, house artifacts and research material, and educate all citizens about Topaz and its history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Topaz Museum Board, the National Park Service, the United States Secretary of the Interior, and to the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

Legislative Review Note

as of 1-26-06 11:25 AM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note
Bill Number HJR019

Joint Resolution Supporting Recognition of Topaz and its History

30-Jan-06

11:41 AM

State Impact

Mailing requirements of this resolution can be handled within existing budgets.

Individual and Business Impact

No fiscal impact.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst