



Sept, 14, 2022

Dear Scott and Topaz Museum Board,

The Wakasa Memorial Committee is a national group of Topaz survivors, descendants, allies and members of the Japanese American community. We bring to the table our Advisory Council's expertise and experience and we are committed to the protection and preservation of the Wakasa Monument, the Memorial Site and the Topaz National Historic Landmark.

We look forward to joining a cooperative conversation with the Topaz Museum Board through the generous invitation of the Utah SHPO.

At this time, however, the WMC cannot commit to joint planning of a 2023 ceremony until the urgent need to protect the Monument and the Memorial Site is addressed. We have long envisioned a joint effort to plan a commemorative ceremony which, as you recall, was one of the steps to collaborate that we proposed in our first letter to the Topaz Museum Board on Sept. 7, 2021.

We are greatly encouraged by the prospect of inclusive meetings convened by the SHPO and hope that a true partnership will be a result of these inclusive conversations.

Regarding the press release, however, we believe that it would be premature to use the term "partnership" between the TMB and the WMC. Speaking candidly, we are concerned about the Museum Board's plan to use the results of its Community Outreach Project to write a proposal for long-term treatment of the Monument and Memorial Site, which the Board has said it will release in October. The design and content of the survey and meetings did not include stakeholder perspectives and restricted public input.

We will submit our revisions for the press release to the working group later this morning.

Sincerely,

Wakasa Memorial Committee

cc

Mike Reynolds, Regional Director, Interior Regions 6, 7, 8, NPS

Lisa P. Davidson, Acting Program Manager, National Historic Landmarks Program, NPS

Justin Henderson, Heritage Partnerships Program, Intermountain Region, NPS

Robert Nieweg, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Michelle Magalong, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation

Jennifer Ortiz, Director, Utah Division of State History
Chris Merritt, Utah State Historic Preservation Office
Carol Kawase, District Governor NCWNP, JACL
David Inoue, Executive Director, JACL
Jani Iwamoto, Utah State Senator, 4th District