

January 30, 2022

Dear Wakasa Memorial Committee Advisory Council:

Thank you for your collective letter dated January 25, 2022. There seems to be a misunderstanding regarding emails we sent January 12. On that date we sent emails to individuals, who are influential leaders with extensive networks in the community, including many not involved with the WMC.

Many of us serving on the Topaz Museum Board have individual relationships with you and have the utmost respect for the work you have contributed professionally. We did not realize that your specific role as a member of the WMC Advisory Council precludes you from responding to our reach-out asking you how we might expand the number of people involved in planning the future of the Wakasa Monument and an April 2023 ceremony. We assumed that your support of the WMC would extend to a collective planning process that would help unite the community.

Your letter stated: “Regarding the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there is planning underway by the community, the Wakasa Memorial Committee, and the advisors. It is important to remember that ceremonies of remembrance belong to the survivors and descendants of incarceration.”

We are wondering why the Topaz Museum Board—which includes survivors and descendants—was not notified or invited to this planning process now underway.

We have received suggestions from other community leaders who responded to our January 12 email and who want to support our efforts to increase the number of people who want to participate in the planning process.

We continue to invite your individual input, but should you choose not to respond, we nevertheless appreciate your continued interest in the activities at the Topaz Museum and the incarceration site.

Sincerely,

**Topaz Museum Board of Directors**

Jane Beckwith, President

Lance Atkinson, Scott Bassett, Kiley Chase, Lorelei Draper, Sherrie Hayashi, Ned Isokawa, Mark Nelson, Rick Okabe, Hisashi Bill Sugaya, Teresa Thompson, Patricia Wakida

cc:

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