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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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AND THE ENVIRONMENT
OCEANOGRAPHY
PANAMA CANAL

November 28, 1979

Frank Abe

Dear Mr. Abe:

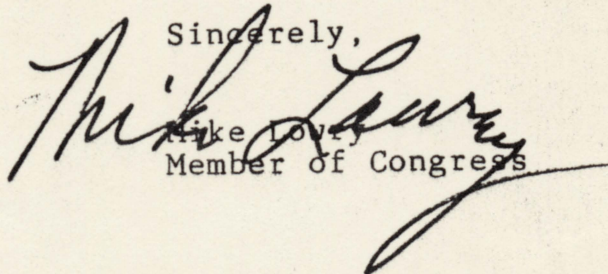
Today, November 28, 1979, I introduced HR 5977, the Japanese American Human Rights Violation Redress Act, a bill to make reparations to Japanese Americans who were relocated and ordered into internment camps during World War II by the United States government. My intention in introducing this legislation is to give high visibility to the terrible injustice of internment so as to prevent any future reoccurrence of abuse of government power in this nation, and to make direct monetary payments to those who were interned or certain of their heirs.

As you know, in addition to being the prime sponsor of the Japanese American Human Rights Violation Redress Act, I am also a co-sponsor of HR 5499, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act. I believe that the momentum gained by discussions and debate of the Commission bill, and the final study resulting from it, will be extremely helpful in convincing the Congress and the general public of the need for direct redress payments.

When the United States President, Congress and the Supreme Court acted in concert to deny the Constitutional rights of Japanese Americans, the foundation, the structure, the very spirit of America was assaulted in a way that must never be allowed again. There is tremendous feeling in Congress about what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II. However, a great deal of educating and hard work is necessary before the climate is right for the successful passage of this legislation. With your continued support and commitment, and that of others who endorse direct redress payments, the bill has a reasonable chance of eventual passage.

I appreciate your interest, your enthusiasm and the thoughts you have shared with me in developing this important legislation. I look forward to working with you in the future. Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lowry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mike Lowry
Member of Congress

Enclosure