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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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September 25, 1987

Ms. Janice Iwanaga Yen  
2309 E. 3rd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Dear Ms. Iwanaga Yen:

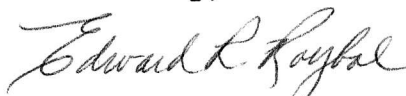
Knowing of your support for H.R. 442, I am pleased to let you know about recent Congressional action.

On September 17, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 442 by a vote of 243-141. As you know, this measure would offer \$125 billion in reparations and a national apology to the thousands of Japanese-Americans interned in relocation camps during World War II.

I was a cosponsor of H.R. 442, and strongly supported its passage. The loyal American citizens and residents who were interned without justification were falsely imprisoned, in clear violation of their Constitutional rights, and are thus entitled to compensation. Opponents of the bill argued that the payments would be only symbolic in nature since they would not reflect actual damages, and would set a dangerous precedent. Further, they contended that this generation should not be held accountable for actions taken forty years ago. On the contrary, I agree with the statement made by the Commission on Wartime Relocations and Internment of Civilians in its report to Congress: "Nations that forget or ignore injustices are more likely to repeat them." H.R. 442 will not only represent justice long overdue, it will also serve as an official sanction against similar actions by this country against any group of people in the future.

Similar legislation is awaiting action by the Senate, and is expected to be considered soon. However, the Administration has threatened to veto the measure should it clear Congress. I assure you that I will continue to work to enact H.R. 442 into law, and will keep you informed of further developments.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYBAL  
Member of Congress

ERR/csg