October 5, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to share our support and endorsement for the Amache National Historic Site Act (S. 1284, H.R. 2497). The National Trust enthusiastically endorses this legislation.

**Interests of the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded charitable, educational, and nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949 to “facilitate public participation in historic preservation” and to further the purposes of federal historic preservation laws. The intent of Congress was for the National Trust “to mobilize and coordinate public interest, participation, and resources in the preservation and interpretation of sites and buildings.” With headquarters in Washington, D.C., 28 historic sites, more than one million members and supporters, and a national network of partners in states, territories, and the District of Columbia, the National Trust works to save America’s historic places and advocates for historic preservation as a fundamental value in programs and policies at all levels of government.

**Amache National Historic Site Act (S. 1284, H.R. 2497)**

We appreciate the leadership of Senators Bennet (D-CO) and Hickenlooper (D-CO), along with Representatives Neguse (D-CO) and Buck (R-CO) on legislation that would designate the Amache National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System. The legislative effort to preserve and protect this historic place has bipartisan and bicameral support and passed the House with a vote of 416-2.

The Amache National Historic Site Act would create a National Historic Site in Colorado to honor over 7000 individuals of Japanese descent unjustly and forcibly incarcerated at this location during World War II, as well the military service of its incarcerees. The camp, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, opened in August of 1942 and during its several-year long operations saw almost 10,000 persons pass through the facility. According to the Amache Preservation Society, the site had the highest rate of military volunteerism of persons incarcerated at the ten imprisonment camps with over 900 men and women at the Amache site volunteering or being drafted into military service during World War II.

The unique history and powerful stories of those incarcerated at the site remain an important part of our nation’s history that should be preserved, protected, and interpreted for the benefit of current and future generations. The National Trust was involved in early efforts to support the designation of the Amache Site as a National Historic Landmark in 2005. National Historic Landmarks have been determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be nationally significant to American history and are of exceptional value, which further supports its designation as a National Historic Site.

The National Trust strongly endorses this legislation and looks forward to enactment during this Congress.

Sincerely,

Pam Bowman
Senior Director of Public Lands Policy
National Trust for Historic Preservation