



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, February 8, 2022

CONTACT: Madison Donzis | madison@unbendablemedia.com

Praise for Senator Bennet's Continued Fight to Protect Amache Historic Site in Colorado as Part of the National Park System *Senator Lee's Decision to Block Legislation is Unconscionable*

COLORADO - Statement from **Anna Peterson, Executive Director of [The Mountain Pact](#)**, an organization that works with local elected officials across the West on federal climate and public lands policies, said:

"Amache Historic Site is a reminder to all Coloradans and Americans of our nation's shameful incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II. The historic site is a marking point of where we have been, where we are going, and what we can learn from our shared past together. Its legacy should be protected and preserved, and the best way to do that would be to add it into the National Park System.

"We are grateful to Sen. Bennet for [championing](#) this legislation and for his actions to protect the legacy of Amache."

"We are deeply disappointed that Utah Sen. Mike Lee has decided to use his power in the Senate to block what all Coloradans - Republicans, Democrats, and Independents - want. Senator Lee's decision is unacceptably offensive and downright wrong. "

In April 2021, Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper re-introduced legislation to establish the Amache National Historic Site, a former Japanese American incarceration facility outside of Granada, Colorado, as part of the National Park System. Colorado Representatives Buck and Neguse introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives as well. Last week, Senator Bennet asked the Senate to use unanimous consent to pass the legislation with only one senator out of ninety-nine objecting.

Amache was one of ten Japanese American incarceration facilities across the country during World War II. Nearly 10,000 Japanese Americans passed through Amache and over 7,000 lived there between 1942 and 1945. According to the National Park Service, today "the cemetery, a reservoir, a water well and tank, the road network, concrete foundations, watch towers, the military police compound, and trees planted by the internees still remain." Amache is currently a National Historic Landmark maintained by the Amache Preservation Society, established by John Hopper, a social studies teacher who is currently the principal of Granada High School, and powered by student volunteers from the high school.

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Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 80 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.