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**NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 30, 2017**

## Portland JACL Condemns Executive Order Banning Muslims and Refugees

On January 27, 2017, President Donald Trump issued an executive order, *Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States*, where citizens of seven different Muslim-majority nations are banned from entering the United States for a period of 90 days. Refugees are banned from entering the United States for four months. Earlier he had also issued two other orders targeting border security and public safety.

For Japanese Americans this is reminiscent of the dark days of World War II when we looked like the enemy and President Franklin Roosevelt issued EO 9066. All persons of Japanese ancestry were ordered to be removed from the west coast because of “military necessity.” That decision, almost 75 years ago, has been condemned. A bi-partisan federal commission found that the incarceration of 120,000 ethnic Japanese, 70% who were American citizens “was caused by race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership.” This new executive order perpetuates mistakes of the past: religious prejudice, the fear of terrorism and a failure of political leadership. We cannot stand by and let this happen.

These executive orders do not represent our values as Americans.

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

Emma Lazarus