



A Message from the Governor of the state of Washington

I am pleased to express my enthusiastic support for the 28th Annual Japan-America Grassroots Summit and extend a warm hand of welcome to all of the Japanese guests visiting our great state.

Japan and Washington State share a long history of friendship and exchange which has deepened over the years thanks in large part to the work of groups like the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington. JASSW's unique Japan in the Schools program reaches nearly 150 classrooms annually and continues to educate the next generation on the Japanese language and culture, while its newly established America in the Schools program does the same abroad.

Washington State now boasts an incredible 35 sister city relationships. We are excited to have the Grassroots Summit correspond with the 55th anniversary of our treasured Sister State relationship with Hyogo Prefecture. Many consider Washington State to be a gateway between our two countries, and I could not agree more.

As the Evergreen State, we are known for our beautiful natural environment, including pristine lakes, impressive snow-covered mountains, and lush green forests. Many people from around the world are drawn to our thriving tech industry and rich culture, which are well represented among the membership of JASSW. There is something for everyone to enjoy here, and I believe the Grassroots Summit will be a wonderful opportunity for each of you to experience it for yourselves.

Again, welcome to Washington. I hope you will all make many unforgettable memories here.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor