



(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Recognizing the 1885 Rock Springs Chinese Massacre.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHU submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 1885 Rock Springs Chinese Massacre.

Whereas, in the late 19th century, Chinese immigrants were brought to the United States to perform dangerous, low-wage labor in industries such as mining and railroad construction: exploitative labor conditions, including the coal mines operated by the Union Pacific Coal Company, where they performed dangerous and grueling work for significantly lower wages than their White counterparts;

Whereas, in Rock Springs, Wyoming, Chinese miners employed by the Union Pacific Coal Company worked under harsh and exploitative conditions, were paid less than their White counterparts for the same labor, and were systematically excluded from labor unions, fueling racial hostility and economic resentment;

Whereas anti-Chinese racism and xenophobia were widespread during this period and reinforced by discriminatory Federal and State policies, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882;

Whereas, on September 2, 1885, escalating anti-Chinese sentiment in Rock Springs culminated in a coordinated attack by a mob of over 200 White miners and townspeople against the town's Chinese community;

Whereas the mob murdered at least 28 Chinese miners, brutally beating and shooting, and many as they fled, looting what was left behind during the attack, and burning down nearly all of Chinatown, including homes, businesses, and forcibly displacing an entire community;

Whereas a mob also formed at the Almy coal mines immediately following the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre, driving out the Chinese coal miners and robbing them of what they left behind;

Whereas survivors took refuge at the Evanston Chinatown, but local law enforcement failed to intervene or protect Chinese residents, no perpetrator was ever indicted or held accountable, and surviving Chinese workers were later forcibly taken to Rock Springs Chinatown under threat of job loss;

Whereas, although the United States Government reimbursed the Chinese Government for property losses, no compensation was provided directly to the victims or their families;

Whereas the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre was one of the deadliest acts of anti-Chinese violence in United States history and part of a broader pattern of racial violence

and exclusion targeting Chinese immigrants in the 19th century;

Whereas, for decades, the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre was minimized, distorted, or erased from historical narratives, often falsely reframed as a misunderstanding, a labor dispute, or even blamed on the Chinese victims themselves;

Whereas descendants of the victims, archaeologists, community historians, and scholars have worked to uncover and preserve the truth of the massacre, despite a long history of suppressed or altered narratives;

Whereas Asian-American communities continue to experience racism, xenophobia, and violence, illustrating the enduring legacy of the prejudice that led to events such as the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre; and

Whereas remembering the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre is essential to understanding the national history of anti-Asian hate, labor exploitation, and the experiences of immigrant workers in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the Rock Springs Chinese Mas-
3 sacre of 1885 and honors the memory of the Chinese
4 immigrant workers who were murdered;

5 (2) acknowledges the massacre as one of the
6 deadliest acts of anti-Chinese and anti-immigrant vi-
7 olence in United States history;

8 (3) honors the contributions of Chinese immi-
9 grant laborers whose work helped build critical

1 American infrastructure despite exploitation, dis-
2 crimination, and violence;

3 (4) condemns the racist mob violence per-
4 petrated against the Chinese community of Rock
5 Springs and the failure of authorities to protect Chi-
6 nese residents or hold perpetrators accountable;

7 (5) condemns historical efforts to erase, distort,
8 or deny the reality of the Rock Springs Chinese
9 Massacre and other acts of anti-Asian violence;

10 (6) recognizes the importance of education
11 about the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre and the
12 broader history of anti-Asian discrimination in the
13 United States;

14 (7) encourages the documentation, interpreta-
15 tion, and commemoration of the Rock Springs Chi-
16 nese Massacre site in Wyoming, including through
17 survey, historical research, archaeological exca-
18 vations, and consideration of eligibility for recogni-
19 tion under federal historic preservation programs, as
20 part of a broader effort to identify and preserve
21 places significant to the history of Chinese Ameri-
22 cans and Asian and Pacific Islander American com-
23 munities in the United States and as recommended
24 in the Transcontinental Railroad Study approved by
25 Congress in 2019;

- 1 (8) encourages education about the Rock
2 Springs Chinese Massacre, including its causes, the
3 racial ideology that fueled it, and the subsequent at-
4 tempts to deny or rewrite its history, in schools and
5 institutions of higher education; and
- 6 (9) recognizes the responsibility of Congress to
7 acknowledge and learn from the history of anti-
8 Asian violence, discrimination, and exclusion in the
9 United States, including the Rock Springs Chinese
10 Massacre, and to work toward racial justice.