

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Office of the Governor

January 12, 2016

Josh Onishi, Chairman  
Hyogo-Kenjinkai, North East USA  
1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 725  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Onishi:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest regards to you and all of the members of Hyogo-Kenjinkai North East and to join with the citizens of Kobe and Hyogo Prefecture in commemorating the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and Tsunami.

For 59 years, the cities of Seattle and Kobe have served as sister cities, building a deep-seated bond rooted in cultural, economic and educational ties. Furthermore, as a city within Hyogo Prefecture – Washington's sister state – Kobe is a valued friend to all Washington communities.

In the wake of the 1995 earthquake, the city of Seattle, and Washingtonians throughout our state, mourned alongside Kobe, and citizens have gathered at the Kobe Bell in Seattle each year to remember the victims of the quake and show their continued support for the region. This year, on the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the quake and after 59 years of partnership, I am proud to say that Seattle and Kobe continue to share a friendship that has only strengthened over time.

Washington State values its longstanding relationship with Kobe and Hyogo Prefecture, and we extend our best wishes for a meaningful time of reflection and remembrance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jay Inslee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jay Inslee  
Governor

