Groups Calls on California to Commemorate the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act to Promote Harmony

Date: 2009-06-01 Source: Author: Xinhuane

By Xinhua May 31: According to the United State’s Sing Tao Daily reports that on May 29 California State Representative Mike Eng and civil rights organizations called for California to support Assembly Concurrent Resolution 76 that designates December 17 as Day of Inclusion to commemorate the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and promotes social harmony and pluralism.

He produced several anti-Chinese pictures and articles, including a newspaper article titled “No More Chinese” highlighting the scene and social environment of terror that described the immigration of Chinese as a dangerous situation.

However, he said, on December 17, 1943 Congress abolished the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and marked a major turning point towards the community of Chinese immigrants and the harsh attitude of the Chinese community. He said that the commemorating the repeal of Chinese Exclusion Act shows a commitment towards lifting cultural barriers, appreciation of ethnic and cultural differences, and is conducive to building a pluralistic society, the promotion of racial, religious and cultural tolerance.

From Sacramento’s Second Port Museum Deputy Director Deng Shi Rong, Steve Yee, pointed out pointed out that the California State Constitution was amended in 1879 delegated “all necessary power” to towns and cities “for the removal of Chinese.” The state constitution declared that the Chinese people were “dangerous to the well-being of the State.” Under this policy Congress passed in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Chinese American Citizen Alliance (Munson Kwok) pointed out that from November 1942 to June 1943, Ms. Jiang Jieshi Shek visited the United States to lecture and received a warm welcome, a few weeks later, and Congress repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act.