



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SAPPORO, JAPAN

December 9, 2019

Mayor Toichi Ueda
City of Hanamaki
9-30 Kajomachi, Hanamaki
Iwate, Japan 025-8601

Dear Mayor Ueda,

Thank you so much for sharing with us the news about the Hanamaki Higashi High School Baseball Club's visit to Hot Springs, Arkansas. I certainly hope the students enjoyed their trip to Babe Ruth's old training town – I'm sure the citizens of Hot Springs appreciated having members of one of Japan's most famous high school baseball teams visiting their sister city!

From serving as an "Arigatou Host Town" to speaking about your sister-city relationship at the Japan House in Los Angeles this past September, it's certainly clear that you are committed to strengthening the relationship between our two countries. I'm sorry that we were unable to meet during my recent visit to Hanamaki, but our Consulate's Public Affairs Officer, Ryan Ingrassia, will visit next week and has an appointment with you to discuss future cooperation. I certainly look forward to working with you on future cross-cultural events, and I look forward to hearing what exciting ideas come out of your meeting with Ryan!

I hope to meet you in person before long, but in the meantime, thank you so much for furthering U.S.-Japan relations through "baseball diplomacy." I also hope that I'll have the opportunity to meet with the Hanamaki Higashi baseball team in the future, to hear about their memorable experiences serving as grassroots baseball ambassadors in Hot Springs!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Lee".

Andrew Lee
Consul General