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API Legislative Caucus Chair Calls for TV Host's Immediate Resignation

(Sacramento, CA) - On behalf of the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus, Assemblymember Paul Fong (D – San Jose) called for the resignation of Fox TV host Bob Beckel after the host made xenophobic and racist comments on air.

During a broadcast of *The Five* on July 10, 2014, Beckel stated that, “Chinese are the single biggest threat to the national security of the U.S.....As usual, we bring them over here and teach a bunch of Chinamen – err, Chinese people – how to do computers and then they go back to China and hack into us.”

Statement by API Legislative Caucus Chair Assemblymember Fong:

“As a Chinese American myself, I was shocked and saddened to hear the archaic racial slur ‘Chinamen’ used by a TV host on air. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans know too well the sting when these xenophobic terms are used against them. One only has to look at modern U.S. history to know how terms like this were used to unconstitutionally discriminate against the API community, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and others.

“The cavalier attitude and obscene gesture made by Mr. Beckel at the end of his ignorant rant show that Mr. Beckel just does not get it. You can see from the reaction of his co-hosts that his comment was out of line and out of touch. This kind of behavior cannot be tolerated, and Mr. Beckel should not be allowed a platform to continue to spew his uneducated hate. I am deeply offended and call for his immediate resignation.”

This year, Assemblymember Fong co-authored SCR 122, which apologized for the past discriminatory laws enacted against the Chinese community in California.

The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the diverse interests of California's API community. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase API participation and representation in all levels of government.

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