

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT  
3 AMENDMENTS TO EXPAND COMPENSATION UNDER THE FEDERAL RADIATION  
4 EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO  
5 RADIATION.

6  
7 WHEREAS, from 1945 to 1962, the United States government  
8 implemented a massive program of conducting hundreds of  
9 atmospheric nuclear weapons development tests; and

10 WHEREAS, to provide uranium for the atmospheric nuclear  
11 testing being carried out, the United States undertook  
12 uranium mining and processing in many areas, especially in  
13 New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada and Utah; and

14 WHEREAS, individuals in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado,  
15 Montana, Nevada, Utah and elsewhere were hired to work in the  
16 uranium mines and in uranium processing; and

17 WHEREAS, large uranium deposits were found on or near  
18 the Navajo Nation, and many Navajo people were employed to  
19 work in the mines; and

20 WHEREAS, many thousands of individuals have been exposed  
21 to radiation in large doses through atmospheric nuclear  
22 weapons testing or through employment in uranium mining and  
23 processing; and

24 WHEREAS, radiation exposure has been linked to a number  
25 of serious illnesses in exposed individuals, including

1 cancers; gastrointestinal, neurological and blood disorders;  
2 and other conditions leading to the debilitation or death of  
3 individuals exposed to radiation; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States congress passed the  
5 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act; and

6 WHEREAS, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act was  
7 designed to provide some compensation to those exposed to  
8 radiation through certain atmospheric nuclear weapons tests  
9 and uranium mining and processing operations; and

10 WHEREAS, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act  
11 designated certain areas of Arizona and Utah that were deemed  
12 to have been downwind of atmospheric nuclear weapons testing  
13 as official downwind areas for which compensation would be  
14 provided; and

15 WHEREAS, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act limited  
16 compensation for uranium miners, millers and haulers to those  
17 workers whom the uranium industry employed before January 1,  
18 1972; and

19 WHEREAS, the amount of Radiation Exposure Compensation  
20 Act monetary compensation widely differs according to whether  
21 an individual was exposed due to being in a downwind area or  
22 according to the type of uranium industry-related work the  
23 individual performed; and

24 WHEREAS, under the strict guidelines of the Radiation  
25 Exposure Compensation Act, many individuals who have lived

1 downwind from test sites outside of Arizona, Nevada and Utah  
2 or who worked in the uranium industry have been left with no  
3 remedy for their radiation exposure; and

4 WHEREAS, United States Representative Ben R. Lujan  
5 introduced House Bill 994 and United States Senators Tom  
6 Udall and Martin Heinrich have cosponsored Senate Bill 331,  
7 to extend compensation to uranium workers who were exposed  
8 from 1972 to 1990; and

9 WHEREAS, House Bill 994 and Senate Bill 331 also expand  
10 the list of eligible workers to include uranium core  
11 drillers, in addition to uranium miners, millers and ore  
12 transporters, as employees potentially eligible for Radiation  
13 Exposure Compensation Act compensation; and

14 WHEREAS, House Bill 994 and Senate Bill 331 would add to  
15 the list of downwind areas in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado,  
16 Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Utah, as well as in the United  
17 States territory of Guam; and

18 WHEREAS, House Bill 994 and Senate Bill 331 would make  
19 all qualifying claims eligible for one hundred fifty thousand  
20 dollars (\$150,000) of compensation, regardless of whether the  
21 claimants were exposed as miners, millers, ore transporters,  
22 on-site employees or individuals living in a downwind area;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, House Bill 994 and Senate Bill 331 would expand  
25 the types of medical conditions rendering claimants eligible

1 for Radiation Exposure Compensation Act compensation;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional  
4 delegation be requested to support the provisions of United  
5 States House Bill 994 and United States Senate Bill 331; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United States Representative  
7 Ben R. Lujan and United States Senators Tom Udall and Martin  
8 Heinrich be congratulated for their vision in introducing  
9 legislation to expand, under the Radiation Exposure  
10 Compensation Act, the rights of individuals exposed to  
11 radiation; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional  
14 delegation. \_\_\_\_\_

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