

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

\_\_\_\_\_ JOINT MEMORIAL

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

FOR THE RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1           WHEREAS, large uranium deposits were found on or near the  
2 Navajo Nation, and many Navajo people were employed to work in  
3 the mines; and

4           WHEREAS, many thousands of individuals have been exposed  
5 to radiation in large doses through atmospheric nuclear weapons  
6 testing or through employment in uranium mining and processing;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, radiation exposure has been linked to a number of  
9 serious illnesses in exposed individuals, including cancers;  
10 gastrointestinal, neurological and blood disorders; and other  
11 conditions leading to the debilitation or death of individuals  
12 exposed to radiation; and

13           WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States congress passed the  
14 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act; and

15           WHEREAS, the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act  
16 was designed to provide some compensation to those exposed to  
17 radiation through certain atmospheric nuclear weapons tests and  
18 uranium mining and processing operations; and

19           WHEREAS, the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act  
20 designated certain areas of Arizona, Nevada and Utah that were  
21 deemed to have been downwind of atmospheric nuclear weapons  
22 testing as official downwind areas for which compensation would  
23 be provided; and

24           WHEREAS, the federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act  
25 limited compensation for uranium miners, millers and haulers to

.211749.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 those workers whom the uranium industry employed before January  
2 1, 1972; and

3 WHEREAS, under the strict guidelines of the federal  
4 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, many individuals who have  
5 lived downwind from test sites in New Mexico or who worked in  
6 the uranium industry have been left with no remedy for their  
7 radiation exposure; and

8 WHEREAS, members of New Mexico's congressional delegation  
9 have sponsored bills to expand and improve compensation for  
10 individuals in New Mexico exposed to radiation;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional  
13 delegation be requested to continue to support federal  
14 legislation to expand and improve compensation under the  
15 federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional  
18 delegation.