

1 A MEMORIAL

2 ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPACT OF RADIATION EXPOSURE ON NEW MEXICO  
3 RESIDENTS; RECOGNIZING THE EXPANSION OF THE FEDERAL RADIATION  
4 EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT; URGING STATEWIDE OUTREACH AND  
5 ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE PERSONS APPLYING FOR  
6 COMPENSATION PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER 31, 2027 DEADLINE.

7  
8 WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to many communities that  
9 were exposed to radiation as a result of the trinity nuclear  
10 test and decades of uranium mining, milling and transport  
11 activities that supported national defense and energy security  
12 interests; and

13 WHEREAS, for generations, New Mexico downwinders,  
14 uranium workers and their families have experienced elevated  
15 rates of cancer and other serious health impacts without  
16 formal recognition or compensation; and

17 WHEREAS, congress expanded the federal Radiation  
18 Exposure Compensation Act to include New Mexico downwinders  
19 and post-1971 uranium workers, providing a one-time payment of  
20 one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to eligible persons or  
21 their survivors; and

22 WHEREAS, the expanded eligibility under the federal  
23 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act requires all claims to be  
24 filed no later than December 31, 2027; and

25 WHEREAS, many eligible New Mexico residents,

1 particularly elders, rural residents, tribal members and  
2 families of deceased persons, may be unaware of their  
3 eligibility, uncertain of how to document presence or illness  
4 or unable to navigate the federal application process without  
5 assistance; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico maintains critical public health and  
7 community resources, including the New Mexico tumor registry  
8 and local health, aging, veterans and tribal service  
9 organizations, that can assist eligible persons in  
10 understanding eligibility and the application process; and

11 WHEREAS, ensuring that eligible New Mexico residents  
12 receive compensation under the federal Radiation Exposure  
13 Compensation Act is a matter of justice, dignity and  
14 responsibility to communities that bore disproportionate risk  
15 in service to the nation;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it acknowledge the harm experienced  
18 by New Mexico downwinders, uranium workers and their families  
19 and recognize the importance of the expanded federal  
20 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act as an act of federal  
21 accountability and recognition; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health,  
23 the aging and long-term services department, the veterans'  
24 services department and the Indian affairs department be  
25 requested to collaborate with community-based organizations,

1 tribal governments and local governments to conduct outreach  
2 and education and to provide technical assistance to ensure  
3 that eligible persons are informed of and supported in  
4 applying for compensation under the federal Radiation  
5 Exposure Compensation Act before the December 31, 2027  
6 deadline; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate encourage the  
8 dissemination of clear, culturally appropriate and accessible  
9 information regarding eligibility, documentation options and  
10 survivor claims under the federal Radiation Exposure  
11 Compensation Act, particularly in rural and historically  
12 impacted communities; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the  
15 secretary of aging and long-term services, the secretary of  
16 veterans' services, the secretary of Indian affairs and the  
17 New Mexico congressional delegation. \_\_\_\_\_