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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR TESTING RADIOACTIVITY  
LEVELS IN CERTAIN NEW MEXICO HOMES.

WHEREAS, major uranium mining sites were active in New Mexico's Indian country at Shiprock and Ambrosia Lake; and

WHEREAS, these sites are covered by the federal Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978, which established plans for remediation and site clean-up; and

WHEREAS, small "mom and pop" uranium-related businesses sprang up during the heyday of mining; and

WHEREAS, some of these small "mom and pop" ventures were not included in remediation and site clean-up; and

WHEREAS, notification to individuals of the remediation and site clean-up was minimal; and

WHEREAS, individuals may have used uranium tailings in

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1 home construction and for other purposes; and

2 WHEREAS, dangers to health posed by uranium tailings are  
3 significant; and

4 WHEREAS, homes and "mom and pop" businesses near the  
5 Shiprock and Ambrosia Lake sites may be contaminated; and

6 WHEREAS, there is currently no program in place for  
7 testing or monitoring of individual homes and small business  
8 sites in these areas;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the members of New Mexico's  
11 congressional delegation be encouraged to introduce and support  
12 legislation providing for testing and monitoring of individual  
13 homes and small business sites in a thirty-mile radius of the  
14 Shiprock and Ambrosia Lake uranium mines; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal legislation give  
16 meaningful notification to residents of the area of eligibility  
17 for testing and remediation; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the members of New Mexico's congressional  
20 delegation, to the United States nuclear regulatory commission  
21 and to the Navajo tribal utility authority.