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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 36

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

ROMAN M. MEAS III

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER FUNDING A URANIUM WORKERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM LOCATED IN SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to provide financial compensation to uranium miners and their families, and compensation to those individuals who lived downwind of the above-ground nuclear tests in Nevada in the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act is to compensate those individuals who were used as human experiments by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act also provides compensation to individuals or their families who worked in uranium mines, many of which were located on the lands

Underscored material = new
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1 of the Navajo Nation; and

2 WHEREAS, the uranium miners and their families who seek
3 compensation from the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act worked
4 in very poor conditions that were seriously damaging to their
5 health; and

6 WHEREAS, advocates for the uranium miners and their
7 families have been working with the department of justice, the
8 agency that administers the compensation program, and the
9 Clinton administration to amend the Radiation Exposure
10 Compensation Act to ensure that deserving uranium miners and
11 their families receive compensation and to lessen cumbersome and
12 unreasonable restrictions on people trying to prove their
13 eligibility under that act; and

14 WHEREAS, a huge injustice has been committed upon many
15 uranium miners and their families, fair and just compensation
16 from the federal government is duly deserved; and

17 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of state and federal
18 government to assist uranium miners and their families in
19 receiving their due and just compensation under the Radiation
20 Exposure Compensation Act in a timely and efficient manner;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it consider funding a uranium workers
23 assistance program located in Shiprock, New Mexico to help
24 deserving uranium miners and their families seek just and fair
25 compensation under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate.

- 3 -

1 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1997
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5 March 10, 1997
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7 Mr. President:
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9 Your CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred
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11 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 36
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13 has had it under consideration and reports same with
14 recommendation that it DO PASS.
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16 Respectfully submitted,
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21 Michael S. Sanchez, Chairman
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25 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

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Date _____

The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against

Yes: 7

No: None

Excused: Davis, Kysar, Payne

Absent: None

SJ036C01