

**ACTION ALERT, January, 2016**

**FROM THE TULAROSA BASIN DOWNWINDERS CONSORTIUM (TBDC)  
REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN NEW MEXICO  
WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY EXPOSURE TO RADIATION  
AS A RESULT OF THE TEST CONDUCTED AT THE TRINITY SITE  
IN SOUTH CENTRAL NEW MEXICO ON JULY 16, 1945**

<http://www.trinitydownwinders.com>

Background: In 1990 the US Government set up a fund called the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to compensate people who were made sick living downwind of the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. The fund has been available for people since 1990 in parts of Nevada, Utah, Idaho and Colorado who have been affected by the radiation exposure. **New Mexico has never been included in this fund although the people of New Mexico were the first downwinders.** The fund has paid out over 2 billion dollars in claims thus far to the downwinders of the Nevada test site and more importantly has provided lifetime health care coverage with no co-payments or deductibles to those affected.

The TBDC has been working for over eleven years to bring attention to the health effects resultant of the Trinity Test. The people of New Mexico were the first victims of an atomic bomb and were unknowing, unwilling, uncompensated, innocent, taxpaying participants in the world's largest science experiment. For 6 years Amendments to RECA have been introduced by Senator Udall, Senator Heinrich, Representative Ben Ray Lujan and others to include New Mexicans in the compensation. The Amendments have not made their way through Congress and have yet to receive a Congressional hearing.

**You can help by contacting the Congressional delegation from New Mexico or from the State you live in and express to them how important these Amendments are to you, your family, your friends and your community. We must get the Amendments entered and passed in 2016. Please ask that all our representatives in the House and Senate work vigorously this year to get them passed.**

- Call or email every week and ask for an update or simply express your support of the Amendments. You can specifically ask to speak to whoever handles the legislation on behalf of the Senator/Representative and talk to them directly.
- Tell them your story and the story of your family and friends and how the exposure and the health effects have affected your lives.
- Tell them how difficult it has been financially for you to get treatment and that you're worried about your future and the future of your children.
- Express to them that we can wait no longer and there is no justice in the US government having left us alone for 71 years to deal with this issue.
- Tell them they should insist that joint Judiciary Committee hearings of both houses of Congress be held in New Mexico so we can testify on the record as to how hard this has been on the people of New Mexico.

The information about the RECA Amendments is as follows:

**Senate Bill or S.B. 331** RECA Amendments of 2015

Sponsored by: Senator Mike Crapo, D-ID, ph. # in DC 202-224-6142

Co-Sponsored by: **Senator Tom Udall**, D-NM, ph. # in DC 202-224-6621

Ph. # in Albuquerque 505-346-6791

Website <http://www.tomudall.senate.gov/>

**Senator Martin Heinrich**, D-NM, ph. # in DC 202-224-5521  
Ph. # in Albuquerque 505-346-6601  
Website <http://www.heinrich.senate.gov/>

Senator Michael Bennet D-CO, ph. # in DC 202-224-5852  
Senator James Risch R-ID, ph. # in DC 202-224-2752

**House Bill or H.R. 994** RECA Amendments of 2015

Sponsored by: **Representative Ben Ray Lujan**, D-NM, ph. # in DC 202-225-6190  
Ph. # in Santa Fe 505-984-8950  
Website <http://lujan.house.gov/contact/>

Co-Sponsored by: **Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham**, D-NM, ph. # in DC 202-225-6316  
Ph. # in Albuquerque 505-346-6781  
Website <https://lujangrisham.house.gov/>  
**Rep. Steve Pearce**, R-NM, ph. # in DC 202-225-2365  
Ph. # in New Mexico 855-473-2723  
Website <http://pearce.house.gov/>

Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-AZ, in DC 202-225-2435      Rep. Derek Kilmer D-W, in DC 202-225-5916  
Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick D-AZ, in DC 202-225-3361      Rep. Jared Polis, D-CO, in DC 202-225-2161  
Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D-CO, in DC 202-225-2645      Rep. Dina Titus, D-NV, in DC 202-225-5965  
Rep. Tony Cardenas, D-CA, in DC 202-225-6131      Rep. Diana DeGette, D-CO, in DC 202-225-4431  
Rep. James McGovern, D-MA, in DC 202-225-6101      Rep. Charles Rangel, D-NY, in DC 202-225-4365  
Rep. Brian Higgins, D-NY, in DC 202-225-3306      Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-FL, in DC 202-225-1313  
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX, in DC 202-225-3816      Rep. Ruben Gallegos, D-AZ, in DC 202-225-4065  
Rep. Suzan K. DelBene, D-WA, in DC 202-225-6311  
Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, D-Guam-At large, in DC 202-225-1188

**A link to more information about the history of RECA:**

<http://www.wise-uranium.org/ureca.html#ISS>

A link to follow the bills is:

For House Bill <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/994>

For Senate Bill <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/331/all-info>

To see press releases on both bills go to:

<http://lujan.house.gov/press-releases/lujan-introduces-reca-legislation-to-expand-compensation-for-those-exposed-to-radiation/>

[http://www.tomudall.senate.gov/?p=press\\_release&id=1859](http://www.tomudall.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=1859)

<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov/press-releases/udall-heinrich-lead-bipartisan-coalition-to-expand-relief-for-americans-sickened-by-radiation-exposure>

The link to a video produced by Natalie Guillen and Lois Lipman who are trying to produce a full length documentary about the New Mexico downwinders is <https://vimeo.com/147281257>