

A MEMORIAL

**RECOGNIZING THE ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS
COMPENSATION PROGRAM AND ITS MANY BENEFITS FOR NEW MEXICANS.**

**WHEREAS, congress enacted the Energy Employees
Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to go
into effect July 31, 2001; and**

**WHEREAS, this program provides both a lump-sum
compensation as well as reimbursement for medical expenses
for workers who died or are seriously ill due to exposure to
beryllium, silica or radiation while working for the federal
department of energy or its contractors in the nuclear
weapons industry; and**

**WHEREAS, the program also provides benefits to uranium
miners employed prior to 1972, when the use of uranium was
shifted from weapons purposes to energy purposes; and**

**WHEREAS, diseases covered under the program include
cancer caused by radiation, chronic beryllium disease and
chronic silicosis; and**

**WHEREAS, in recognition of New Mexico's large
population of potentially eligible workers, the federal
government has established a southwest regional resources
center in Espanola, New Mexico, to serve all potential
claimants; and**

**WHEREAS, many deserving New Mexicans are or may benefit
substantially from this new federal program;**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the federal energy employees occupational illness compensation program be recognized as a long overdue and badly needed response to assist the thousands of New Mexicans who risked their lives and good health in the service of their country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be sent to the energy employees compensation resource center in Espanola, to all New Mexico county commissions and to all New Mexico pueblos and tribes for appropriate distribution to inform the citizenry of these benefits. _____

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