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SENATE MEMORIAL 28

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Manny M. Aragon

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

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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

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

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

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

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