

1 A MEMORIAL

2 URGING CONGRESS TO IMPROVE COMPENSATION FOR NAVAJO AND OTHER  
3 PEOPLE IN NEW MEXICO ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE FEDERAL  
4 RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT.

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6 WHEREAS, congress adopted the Radiation Exposure  
7 Compensation Act to compensate people who suffered health  
8 consequences of the federal government's uranium mining  
9 operations in northwestern New Mexico between 1942 and 1971;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, uranium mines were left open through the year  
12 1990; and

13 WHEREAS, amendments made in 2000 expanded the numbers of  
14 people eligible to receive compensation; and

15 WHEREAS, the amendments of 2000 also expanded the number  
16 of compensable diseases covered by the act; and

17 WHEREAS, despite the intent of congress to increase  
18 support for victims of the government's uranium mining, a  
19 large number of Navajo and other claimants have not been  
20 awarded compensation; and

21 WHEREAS, only three caseworkers currently handle some  
22 four thousand compensation claims; and

23 WHEREAS, only five hundred fifty-eight of six thousand  
24 potentially eligible Navajo and other claimants have been  
25 compensated over a fourteen-year period; and

1           WHEREAS, currently only three thousand seven hundred  
2 fifty-five Navajo and other claimants are registered; and

3           WHEREAS, there are an estimated five thousand unfiled  
4 claims; and

5           WHEREAS, the need for compensation for financial losses  
6 due to illness, disability and death resulting from the  
7 uranium mining operations is established but unmet;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be requested to improve the  
10 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to address these  
11 concerns; and

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriation be made for  
13 adequate staffing to process Navajo and other claims under  
14 the act; and

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Radiation Exposure  
16 Compensation Act be amended to include claims made while the  
17 uranium mines were open, or through 1990; and

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation. \_\_\_\_\_

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