

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 18

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

W. Ken Martinez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO REFORM THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT IN ORDER TO ENSURE FAIR AND JUST COMPENSATION TO ALL URANIUM WORKERS HARMED FROM WORK FOR THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, uranium mining and milling activities undertaken from the 1940s through the early 1980s for the benefit of the United States government exposed uranium miners and millers in New Mexico to large doses of radiation and other environmental hazards that have since resulted in an unusually high incidence of lung cancers and other health problems among these uranium workers; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act in order to ensure, among other things, partial restitution to uranium miners suffering

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 from radiation-related diseases presumed to have been caused
2 by their work in uranium mines that provided uranium for the
3 benefit of the United States government; and

4 WHEREAS, since the passage of the Radiation Exposure
5 Compensation Act in 1990, new and additional scientific
6 information has become available to support the view that the
7 criteria imposed upon qualifications for compensation for
8 uranium miners under that act are too restrictive and
9 burdensome, resulting in the unjust denial of compensation to
10 individuals who have suffered injury as a result of their work
11 in the mines; and

12 WHEREAS, further additional evidence supports the view
13 that miners working in above-ground uranium mines and uranium
14 millers should be provided compensation similar to that for
15 underground uranium miners where such individuals have
16 suffered injury and death as a result of their work in such
17 mines and uranium mills; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1995, the president's advisory committee on
19 human radiation experiments concluded that the federal
20 government wronged the uranium miners by allowing them to be
21 exposed to radiation hazards without having provided the men
22 with then-available safety protections, and then by
23 subsequently studying the effects of their exposure under
24 false pretenses, without obtaining the informed consent of the
25 miners and without disclosure of the true nature of the

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 studies; and

2 WHEREAS, the compensation program under the Radiation
3 Exposure Compensation Act has proven inadequate, unfair and
4 unjust and is therefore in need of major reform in order to
5 afford fair and just compensation for all uranium workers; and

6 WHEREAS, the Navajo nation council, the New Mexico
7 uranium workers council and others have called for major
8 reform of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act in order to
9 ensure fair and just compensation for all uranium workers;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United
12 States congress be requested to recognize that the individuals
13 who worked in the uranium mines and mills of New Mexico and
14 the southwest served the national security interests of our
15 nation during a most critical time and that, as a result of
16 their patriotic service, their lives and their health were
17 sacrificed; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States government
19 recognize and assume responsibility for the harm done to the
20 uranium workers; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congress pass needed
22 legislative reform of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
23 in order to ensure fair and just compensation to all uranium
24 workers who have been harmed as a result of working in uranium
25 mines and uranium mills for the purpose and benefit of the

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = del ete

1 United States government; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

4 - 4 -

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999
3
4
5

6 February 26, 1999
7

8 Mr. Speaker:
9

10 Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred
11

12 HOUSE MEMORIAL 18
13

14 has had it under consideration and reports same with
15 recommendation that it DO PASS.
16

17 Respectfully submitted,
18

19
20 _____
21 R. David Pederson, Chairman
22
23
24
25

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

3 HJC/HB 18

Page 6

4 Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

6 (Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

8 Date _____

10 The roll call vote was 11 For 0 Against

11 Yes: 11

12 Excused: Luna

13 Absent: None

15 J: \99BillsWP\HMD18

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete