

**SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 03**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ITS OBLIGATION TO URANIUM WORKERS INCLUDING MANY NAVAJOS, EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR SENATOR MIKE LEE'S LEADERSHIP AND INTRODUCTION OF S. 2825, AND CALLING UPON THE ENTIRE CONGRESS TO MOVE LEGISLATION, INCLUDING S. 2798/H.R. 5338 TO COMPREHENSIVELY ADDRESS SHORTCOMINGS IN THE CURRENT RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, San Juan County appreciates Senator Mike Lee's leadership and support for extension of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) before that act's expiration in July 2022.

**WHEREAS**, On September 2021, Senator Lee introduced S.2825 to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, also known as the "Downwinders Act".

**WHEREAS**, On September 2021, Senator Mike Crapo also introduced S.2798 to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, also known as the "Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021" a companion bill to H.R. 5338 Introduced by Representative Leger Fernandez in the House, which would comprehensively extend benefits and coverage to many individuals harmed by uranium activities and atomic testing who are not covered by the current program.

**WHEREAS**, S.2798 currently has 17 bipartisan Senate Co-sponsors and continues to receive the support of other Senators in Congress, but urgent action is needed to move it forward.

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the Cold War impacts of the nuclear testing, uranium extraction and exposures to our San Juan County citizens in efforts to help protect our National Security and the ongoing impacts of uranium industry in support of our Nation.

**WHEREAS**, residents of San Juan County including those Native Americans throughout the Navajo Nation have long called for protections and compensation for those who worked in the uranium industry or were down wind from atomic tests undertaken by the U.S. Government, which now has the deep moral obligation to care for our citizens who were unjustly and unknowingly harmed from those activities.

**WHEREAS**, residents of San Juan County continue to be devastated from these past actions which have continued to cause cancer and physical wellness problems even to this very day.

**WHEREAS**, San Juan County supports the addition of all western states affected by these exposures including Colorado, Idaho, Montana and New Mexico.

**WHEREAS**, S. 2798/H.R. 5338 would expand eligibility for certain individuals working in uranium mines, mills or transporting uranium ore, and increase the amount of compensation in certain categories, while also extending the program for

another 19 years following enactment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**San Juan County thanks Senator Lee for his support for compensation for the victims of radiation exposure and urges his leadership for a broader more comprehensive program as set out in S. 2798.**

**San Juan County urges the entire Utah Congressional Delegation to support both H.R. 5338 and S. 2798 to provide justice for our citizens and families who have and continue to suffer and to act immediately to address the need to extend the existing RECA program, which expires in July 2022**

**PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED** by the Board of San Juan County Commissioners this 15 day of March 2022.

Those voting aye: Grayeyes, Adams, Maryboy

Those voting nay:

Those abstaining:

Absent:

**Board of San Juan County**

**Commissioners**



Willie Grayeyes, Chairman

**ATTEST:**



Lyman Duncan, County Clerk/Auditor