

Cibola County

700 E. Roosevelt Ave., Suite 50

Grants, New Mexico 87020
Phone (505) 287-9431 – Fax (505) 285-5434

Cibola County Commission

Daniel J. Torrez, Chairman
Martha García, 1st Vice-Chair
Christine Lowery, 2nd Vice-Chair
Ralph Lucero, Commissioner
Robert Windhorst, Commissioner



Kate Fletcher
County Manager

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION 22-26

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PASSAGE OF THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT (RECA) AMENDMENTS 2021 (H.R. 5338, S. 2798)

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Cibola County Administration Building, 700 Roosevelt, Grants, New Mexico 87020;

WHEREAS, the Grants Mineral Belt extends along the southern margin of the San Juan Basin within Cibola, McKinley, Sandoval, and Bernalillo counties as well as on Navajo and Laguna tribal lands; and was the primary area for uranium extraction and production in New Mexico from the 1950s into the late 20th century (EPA Background Information);

WHEREAS, the Grants Post-71 Uranium Workers Committee is a group of former uranium miners, millers, ore haulers, and drillers who aim to document health conditions among people who worked in the uranium industry after 1971 and to secure compensation for post-1971 uranium workers under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) as amended.

WHEREAS, the Southwest Uranium Miners' Coalition Post '71 was organized to gain support for the RECA amendments in behalf of uranium miners on the Laguna and Acoma Pueblo Lands, and Cubero and Seboyeta Land Grants.

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, Sen. Lujan (D-NM) and Sen. Crapo (R-ID) and Rep. Leger Fernández (NM-03) introduced new legislation to extend and expand the 1990 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA);

WHEREAS, the **Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021**, expands two programs that compensate individuals who were exposed to radiation during certain nuclear testing or uranium mining and subsequently developed medical conditions, including cancers;

WHEREAS, this bill expands the designated areas to include Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Guam and additional areas in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah;

WHEREAS, this bill makes more individuals who worked in uranium mining eligible for the program;



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WHEREAS, this bill increases the amount of compensation awarded to and provides medical benefits for eligible claimants; and

WHEREAS, this bill extends for 19 years following the bill's enactment the fund that supports this program and the statute of limitations for filing claims (**the program terminates on July 10, 2022**);

WHEREAS, the bill makes certain individuals employed in uranium mines or mills eligible for a program that compensates workers, including Department of Energy employees and contractors, for illnesses caused by occupational exposure to radiation and hazardous substances during development and testing of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile;

WHEREAS, the bill also establishes a grant program in the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for institutions of higher education to study the epidemiological impacts of uranium mining and milling among individuals without occupational exposure;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Cibola County hereby supports the efforts of local organizations and the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, and votes to support of the passage of **RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT (RECA) AMENDMENTS 2021 (H.R. 5338, S. 2798)**.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 28th day of April, 2022.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Daniel Torrez, Chairman

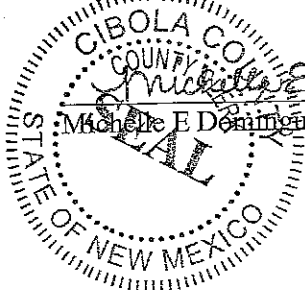
Martha Garcia, 1st Vice-Chair

Dr. Christina Lowery, 2nd Vice-Chair

Robert Windhorst, Commissioner

Ralph Lucero, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Michelle E. Dominguez, County Clerk

