

Dear Honorable Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan,

My name is Laura Greenwood, my husband John Greenwood lived in Otero County, New Mexico, between the years of 1947-1983. Members of his family were alive during the time that the US government tested the first atomic bomb at the Trinity site and while other above ground tests took place at the Nevada Test Site. As a result of living there, he was exposed to radiation and other forms of radioactive waste and/or hazardous chemicals. This has negatively affected his health. He suffered from:

Colon Cancer -12 inches of his colon removed

Kidney Cancer – his right kidney removed

Liver Cancer – Stage 4 and terminal

My family has also suffered from:

Beth Greenwood -Uterine Cancer - passed away (my mother-in-law)

Ed Greenwood – Colon Cancer, Lung Cancer – passed away (my father- in -law)

Marybeth Turbeville – Colon Cancer – living (my sister-in-law)

10 other members of my husband’s family died of cancer, his aunts, uncles and cousins

2 of my stepchildren have had cancer by the age of 40, both survived

This has affected my family financially and emotionally in the following ways:

Without access to RECA benefits, John and I had nowhere to turn as our medical bills grew. Weekly chemotherapy alone cost up to \$100,000 per treatment. John had two major surgeries in addition to regular scans, medication and blood transfusions. Even with health insurance the bills added up quickly, leaving us in enormous debt. Then there were the travel expenses. At one point, we couldn’t even afford to stay overnight in Houston for John’s treatment. We would get up at 2:00am, pack a peanut butter sandwich and a bottle of water to drive 6 hours to MD Anderson Cancer Hospital. After John’s lab work and chemotherapy, we would get back in the car and drive 6 hours home arriving about midnight with a quarter-tank of gas and .87 cents in our pocket. It literally broke us. Our phone was cut off five times, our electricity was cut off four times and our vehicle was repossessed. I pawned and sold family jewelry and heirlooms just to pay our bills. My husband and the love of my life lost his battle with cancer on June 20, 2012. If we’d had access to RECA benefits, it would have made a very difficult time a little less stressful and we could have just focused on what time we had left together.

The US spends approximately \$50 Billion every year for the upkeep of our nuclear arsenal. Since 1990 the current Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) legislation has only paid out \$2.5 billion to Downwinders and Uranium Miners/Workers a pittance in comparison. This is a Social Justice issue of urgent concern to us because the current RECA bill will sunset in July, 2022. We ask you to take action immediately. **Please bring House Bill #H.R. 5338 to a vote in the House Judiciary Committee to expand and extend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA).**

Sincerely,

Print Name: Laura Greenwood

Sign Name: Laura Greenwood

Address: [REDACTED]