

Dear Honorable Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan,

My name is Paul Archuleta, I grew up in Taos and live in Albuquerque NM. I know people who were alive in New Mexico 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 through 1962. As a result, innocent people, men, women and children were exposed to radiation and other forms of radioactive waste and/or other hazardous chemicals. This has negatively affected their health and many of them have suffered for years with cancer or have lost their lives.

Many people in New Mexico have also been affected by the vast uranium mining that took place. There were over 32 million tons of uranium extracted from New Mexico from over 500 uranium mines that have all been abandoned. Anyone who worked in that industry after 1971, are the forgotten workers. They were exploited as they worked to extract the uranium, transport it or worked at the mills that processed it. They are now sick and dying as a result.

There has been a fund set up since 1990 called the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) that has compensated Downwinders from other places but it has never taken care of the people in my community. It also does not cover the post 71 uranium workers. I am very concerned for my community and the people who live here. The people of New Mexico who've been affected by above ground testing of nuclear devices should be included in RECA and taken care of just like other people from other states. There is no time to waste, and I'm asking you to please assist us in our urgent need.

My wife has survived skin cancer which she got at a young age, my daughter, and nieces have Hashimotos disease. Her grandmother, uncle and great aunts have suffered and died of cancer. Her aunt has thyroid cancer, another aunt has brain tumors, I fear for the health of my children. This is emotionally and economically devastating.

The US Government 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 that has bipartisan support to a vote in the House Judiciary Committee to expand and extend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA).**

Sincerely,

Print Name: Paul Archuleta

Sign Name: *Paul Archuleta*

Address: [REDACTED]

Please return this letter to:

[REDACTED]

TBDC

C/O Tina Cordova

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