

March 24, 2021

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

In 1997 the National Cancer Institute released its Iodine 131 dose reconstruction report. It listed all the Counties in the US and their exposure to Iodine 131. The hardest hit County was Meager County, Montana. Number three is Gem County, Idaho where I was born and raised and have lived for 60 years. The rest of the top five are in Idaho. Why wasn't this report used to fix RECA? I have traced 38 family members that have lived in Gem County that have had cancer. 14 of them have died. I have also collected names that total 1069 people that have had cancer in this County. I stopped counting two years ago, it was too depressing. Those are just the people I know and we only have 17,000 people in the whole County.

Our Government did this to us, it makes me sad for the loss of love and life. The fact that other Counties are compensated for our Government's negligence and our County is not, it makes me mad! It is discrimination, the citizens of those other Counties are valued higher than us, just like when the tests took place. The Atomic Energy Commission waited for the wind to blow north before they detonated the 100 aboveground nuclear bombs, to protect Las Vegas and California. They called those downwind the "low use segment of the population!" There were another 828 underground nuclear tests, and more than half of them leaked into our atmosphere.

We did not sign up to be guinea pigs in these Cold War experiments, but we are dying just the same.

Please respect the victims of testing and compensate them. They deserve justice!

It would have been nice to have presented this in the Zoom meeting March 24th, but apparently there wasn't enough time to let me and other Downwinders speak.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Amendments to RECA,

Tona Vahlberg-Henderson
1324 Vista Drive
Emmett, Idaho 83617
tonahenderson@hotmail.com
208-365-2669