

**Congressman Greg Stanton (AZ-09)**  
**House Judiciary Committee**

December 8, 2021

Views on H.R. 5338 – *Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021*

I support the bipartisan Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021.

As my colleagues well know, it has been one of my top priorities to ensure justice for Downwinder communities in Arizona and across our country. For far too long, too many families harmed by the federal government’s nuclear weapons testing program have suffered from their illnesses but have not had the ability to access the federal government’s program designed to offer them assistance and relief from medical costs.

When the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act was signed into law in 1990—and then when it was amended in 2000—the boundary lines for the eligible affected area were drawn arbitrarily, and RECA inexplicably left out some of the hardest hit Downwinder communities.

That’s why, last month, I was so proud that this Committee took the first steps toward reforming RECA by favorably reporting my bill, the Downwinders Parity Act of 2021, to the full House. Our action signals progress that has long been promised and is finally being delivered to these families who deserve justice from their federal government.

I applaud Chairman Nadler for his continued commitment to prioritizing Downwinders—and I thank my colleagues Congresswoman Leger Fernandez and Congressman Owens for

introducing this legislation in the House. And I thank Senator Lujan and Senator Crapo for leading this charge in the Senate.

I am pleased that this bill reauthorizes the RECA trust fund for an additional 19 years; extends the uranium worker eligibility date to December 31, 1990; and extends the Downwinder eligibility area to include more of our neighbors in Native communities—including the Navajo Nation in New Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.