

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 6, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Minority Whip
United States House of Representatives
2049 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Whip Scalise:

We write to urge you to bring S. 4119, the RECA Extension Act of 2022 to the House Floor as expeditiously as possible. This legislation would extend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) program until two years after enactment. It passed the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent last week. S. 4119's quick consideration in the House is necessary given RECA's impending sunset on July 10, 2022.

As you know, in 1945, the United States exploded the first atomic bomb at the Trinity Site in New Mexico. Over the next 48 years, the U.S. conducted more than 200 above-ground nuclear tests. These tests released harmful radioactive material into the air in many parts of the United States, including New Mexico, Idaho, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, and Guam, and exposed nearby downwinder communities to radiation. Testing also harmed those working in the uranium industry. As a result of the exposure, tens of thousands contracted cancers and other serious diseases.

In 1990, Congress passed RECA on a bipartisan basis to provide a one-time payment to many of those harmed. The program provides benefits to qualified persons who participated in onsite tests of an atomic weapon; downwinders in specified areas near the Nevada Test Site only; and uranium miners, millers, and ore transporters who worked in the industry between 1942 and 1971.

Many Americans are still falling sick and dying due to radiation exposure. The United States should not walk away from its commitment to compensate these people. We must quickly pass S. 4119 to extend RECA so that the program does not expire in July. It is also important to

note that we continue to work on a bipartisan basis to expand and improve RECA through the bipartisan H.R. 5338, the RECA Amendments of 2021. Our bill will make sure that uranium miners and downwinders who were previously left out can receive the compensation and support they deserve. We look forward to engaging with you on that legislation as well.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress



Michael F. Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress



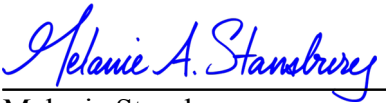
Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



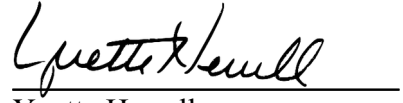
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



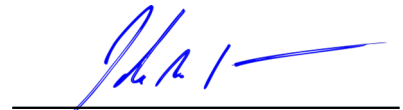
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



John R. Curtis
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable Jerry Nadler, Chair, Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chair, Education and Labor Committee

The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, Education and Labor Committee