



RECA Included in Senate's Recission Bill Draft

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thursday, June 12th, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary released its draft section of the reconciliation passage, which included many provisions of Senator Hawley's S. 243, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act.

Often the legislative focus at the beginning of any new presidency, the recission package is a massive bill that will enact many of President Trump's domestic policies. Congress has been heavily focused on this package since they first convened in January.

The language in the bill reauthorizes the RECA program through December 31, 2028, giving it a three-year extension, and is estimated to cost roughly \$5 billion. The draft includes many of Navajo's longstanding RECA priorities, including coverage for Post-71 miners through December 31, 1990, the use of combined work histories for miners who worked in multiple roles or at multiple mines, and increases compensation to \$100,000 to adjust for inflation. The bill also expands eligibility for "downwinders", those exposed to atmospheric fallout, to all of New Mexico. Additionally, Congressman Paul Gosar's (R-AZ-09) Downwinders Parity Act was included, which expands coverage to Mohave County, Arizona and Clark County, Nevada.

It is imperative that this reauthorization pass as soon as possible. With only approximately 75 claims left to review and adjudicate, the RECA office at the Department of Justice is coming dangerously close to shutting down. Once the office shuts down and staff are reassigned, it would become notably more complex and expensive to reauthorize the program, as all new staff would have to be assigned or hired.

President Trump has asked Congress to pass this legislation by July 4, 2025. Once the Senate votes on the bill, it is expected to return to the House for their approval of the Senate's amendments.

The inclusion of this language is a major victory for the *Diné* and other indigenous neighbors who have advocated for many years on these amendments to the program. Urging leadership on both sides of the aisle to leave RECA untouched in the bill is one way to demonstrate support for RECA. Those who wish to show their commitment can call the following numbers:

Senate Judiciary Democrats
(202) 224-7703

House Majority Leader
(202) 225-3015

House Minority Leader
(202) 225-5936

The Nation is grateful to Senator Lujan (D-NM) and Senator Hawley (R-MO) for championing RECA, and for our many congressional allies who have continued to support RECA in recent years. NNWO remains committed to seeing the government held accountable for its willing and reckless poisoning of Americans and will continue to fight for RECA to include *all* those affected.