

REFERENCE TITLE: Mohave County radiation compensation act

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-second Legislature
First Regular Session
2015

HCM 2004

Introduced by
Representatives Cobb, Borrelli, Senator Ward: Representatives Barton,
Fann, Finchem

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION SIMILAR TO THE MOHAVE COUNTY RADIATION COMPENSATION ACT OF 2013.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the United States conducted nearly 200 atmospheric nuclear
4 weapons development tests from 1945 to 1962; and

5 Whereas, essential to the nation's nuclear weapons development was
6 uranium mining and processing, which was carried out by tens of thousands of
7 workers; and

8 Whereas, following cessation of the tests in 1962, many of these
9 workers filed class action lawsuits alleging exposure to known radiation
10 hazards; and

11 Whereas, these suits were dismissed by the appellate courts, but the
12 United States Congress responded with the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
13 (RECA), which devised a program allowing partial restitution to individuals
14 who developed serious illnesses after exposure to radiation released during
15 the atmospheric nuclear tests or after employment in the uranium industry;
16 and

17 Whereas, RECA presents an apology and monetary compensation to
18 individuals who contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases
19 following exposure to radiation released during the atmospheric nuclear
20 weapons tests or following occupational exposure to radiation while employed
21 in the uranium industry during the Cold War arsenal buildup; and

22 Whereas, RECA was designed to serve as an expeditious, low-cost
23 alternative to litigation; and

24 Whereas, Mohave County was not included as an affected area for
25 purposes of making claims under RECA based on exposure to atmospheric nuclear
26 testing; and

27 Whereas, in 2013, United States Representative Paul Gosar introduced
28 H.R. 424, known as the Mohave County Radiation Compensation Act of 2013,
29 which sought to include Mohave County as an affected area for purposes of
30 making claims under RECA; and

31 Whereas, H.R. 424 was not enacted.

32 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
33 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

34 1. That the Members of the United States Congress enact legislation
35 similar to United States Representative Paul Gosar's Mohave County Radiation
36 Compensation Act of 2013 that adds Mohave County as an affected area for
37 purposes of making claims under RECA.

38 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
39 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
40 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
41 the State of Arizona.