



TULAROSA BASIN DOWNWINDERS CONSORTIUM

(TBDC) FACT SHEET:

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE

RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT

(RECA) AMENDMENTS

The current congressional bills to extend and expand RECA are **H.R. 5338** and **S. 2798** both with bipartisan support. If bills are passed as currently written they will essentially add for the first time the Downwinders of New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Guam and the parts of Nevada, Utah and Arizona previously excluded. It would also add for the first time the Post '71 uranium Miners/Workers.

RECA IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON JULY 10, 2022

There are many benefits to the proposed RECA amendments as outlined here:

- 1) The one-time compassionate payment to Downwinders would be increased from \$50,000 to \$150,000. A family member can apply for the restitution on behalf of a deceased loved one who meets the qualifications.
Example: If only 100 people in any given county/town are approved for RECA approximately \$15 million would be available for circulation in their local communities. This amount of money would be transformative for families, communities and state economies.
- 2) For the first time, health care coverage would be extended to those Downwinders diagnosed with a compensable cancer and meeting all the other criteria. This coverage would mean the difference between life and death for some especially those living in rural areas and those who depend on Indian Health Service (IHS) to access health care. People would have the opportunity to seek care at any facility they choose. There would be no more waiting for a referral and no copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, etc. This kind of comprehensive health care coverage develops its own economy. Health care businesses would spring up focused on providing all the services necessary creating jobs in rural areas and the associated financial benefits.
- 3) RECA passage would also expand the **Radiation Exposure and Screening Education Program (RESEP)** clinics in RECA states to provide all residents access to annual no cost cancer screening increasing the opportunity for early detection and a better prognosis. This translates into potential savings on the cost of screenings and the cost of treatment.
- 4) Attorney fees for helping individuals and/or their families to process RECA applications are capped at 3% of the award. For example: restitution amounting to \$150,000 would mean a payment of \$4,500 to the law firm. This protects applicants from being over charged while generating many more clients for local law firms.
- 5) There are some in Congress who claim that adding additional Downwinders and Uranium Miners/Workers will cost too much. However, Congress has approved a budget of **\$50 billion per year to maintain its current nuclear arsenal**: Essentially, 50 billion per year to put our nuclear arsenal to bed each night! In comparison: over the past 32 years, RECA has paid out **\$2.5 billion**. Of that amount, \$1.2 billion in compensation was paid to Downwinders. An extended and expanded RECA would add less than 1% to that budget.

<https://www.justice.gov/civil/awards-date-03042022>

For more information visit www.trinitydownwinders.com or call Tina Cordova @ 505-897-6787