

COLT

COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations / Oglala Sioux Tribe / Navajo Nation / Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe / Blackfeet Tribe of Montana / Rosebud Sioux Tribe / Spokane Tribe / Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe / Ute Indian Tribe / Shoshone-Bannock Eastern Shoshone / Fort Belknap

Title: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S. 197 and H.R. 2049 TO AMEND THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT (RECA) WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 10, 2022 AND TO IMPROVE COMPENSATION FOR WORKERS INVOLVED IN THE URANIUM MINING INDUSTRY, AND OTHER RELATED PURPOSES.

Resolution: **ABQ – 07 – 4/26/2018**

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Crow Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Northern Ute, Shoshone Bannock, Colville Confederated Tribes and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. COLT is chaired by Chairman Russell Begay, President of the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting Tribes that govern large trust land bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for tribes and individual Indian landowners; and

WHEREAS, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) originally passed in 1990 provides monetary compensation to individuals who have contracted cancer and other diseases as a result of exposure to atmospheric nuclear testing during the Cold War or exposure to radon gas and other radioactive isotopes while working in the uranium mining industry; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of uranium mining has had a detrimental effect on Indian country and those who worked in the uranium mining industry, as well as their family members and those who were exposed from such facilities; and

WHEREAS, due to exposure of radiation & many other cancerous illnesses, many of these tribal members died of cancer, such lung cancer, fibrosis of the lungs, pulmonary fibrosis, and other related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), 6,447 members of 22 Indian tribes applied for RECA compensation and 4,253 were approved and received compensation pursuant to RECA as of February 2018; and

WHEREAS, according to the USDOJ report, the number of members per Indian tribe that were approved to receive compensation under RECA are as follows: Navajo (3,469), Laguna (259), Apache (221), Hopi (177), Acoma (59), Shoshone (20), Spokane (16), Cherokee (10), Paiute (6), Sioux (3), Comanche (3), Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo (2), Cheyenne (1), Chippewa (1), Coeur d'Alene (1), Cree (1), Goshute (1), Nez Perce (1), Quapaw (1), Yavapai (1), Osage (1 pending), and Crow (1 denial); and

WHEREAS, S. 197 and H.R. 2049 has been introduced in this 115th Congress and these bills will basically (1) increase the amount of compensation that an individual may receive, (2) expand the affected area to include Colorado, Idaho, Montana and New Mexico, (3) expanding eligibility requirements to include additional individuals, such as certain employees of uranium mining-industry, and (4) extend until 19 years after the bill's enactment the statute of limitations for filing of claims; and

WHEREAS, because RECA is set to expire on July 10, 2022, S. 197 and H.R. 2049 needs to be passed by Congress; and

WHEREAS, COLT supports the expression of tribal sovereignty and tribal jurisdiction, federal treaty and trust responsibilities and the protection and restoration of natural resources, the environment, and the people impacted by the uranium mining industry.

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) Executive Director Legislative Affairs, will deliver said resolution to the COLT Congressional Delegations and proper Committees and work with them on said resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that COLT supports and encourages Congress to pass S. 197 and H.R. 2049, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) of 2017.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that COLT supports a congressional hearing on these bills and to provide support for passage of S. 197 and H.R. 2049.

CERTIFICATION

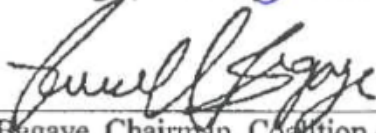
This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 26th, 2018, at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this 26th day of April 2018.

Attest:



David Browneagle, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes



Russell Begaye, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes