

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

As Members of Congress representing communities eligible for compensation under the newly expanded Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), we appreciate that the Department of Justice (DOJ) quickly released updated application forms for the program. We urge you to immediately release updated regulations as well. We also request to meet with you to discuss how to make sure DOJ understands the specific needs of our constituents and implements the program effectively.

For years we introduced legislation to expand RECA to cover all the communities harmed by our government's nuclear testing program. We are glad that eight decades after the United States detonated the first atomic bomb in New Mexico and began to process uranium that poisoned many in St. Louis and elsewhere, the many diverse communities harmed by the nuclear testing program can finally apply for the compensation they deserve.

We understand that DOJ is updating its regulations and that such changes could take several months to complete. As you know, many survivors are already very ill, and with each passing week, more may die or be diagnosed. For this reason, we request DOJ to move as quickly as possible to release the guidance. We urge you to work closely with the Office of Management and Budget so that it can similarly approve the regulations expeditiously. Further, DOJ must make sure that the agency will make payments based on the interim final rule rather than waiting until the final rule is published.

To make sure the program works effectively and is easy for individuals to access, we ask that you take several actions:

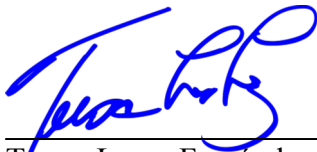
1. **Hire navigators to work directly with claimants.** Navigators should help individuals apply for benefits, compile documents, and answer questions about the program. With navigators it should not be necessary for claimants to hire an attorney if they do not wish to.
2. **Make information easily available to all claimants.** Many eligible individuals are elderly or live in areas without access to broadband and may have difficulty accessing information electronically. Claimants should be able to find information and apply both electronically and by phone, mail, or in person. Additionally, information should be available in the languages that are spoken in an impacted community. For example, many of the survivors speak Navajo.
3. **Hold informational sessions.** DOJ should host informational sessions online and in person so that claimants can learn about the program and ask questions directly to the Department.
4. **Remain flexible.** While also acting to prevent any fraudulent claims, DOJ should work with claimants to find acceptable documentation, including but not only through the use of affidavits, when traditional

documents are unavailable. DOJ must also observe the laws, traditions, and customs of tribal nations. For example, many Native Americans do not have traditional mailing addresses. DOJ should make sure that does not impact their ability to meet physical presence documentation requirements.

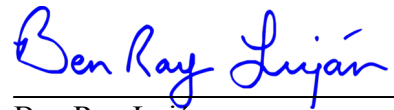
5. **Alert claimants to scams.** Potential claimants have already been targeted by companies or individuals to pay for medical screenings and records or assist with filing for a fee. DOJ should release information so that individuals are aware of limits on attorney fees and not taken advantage of by bad actors.

Our constituents have waited far too long for justice. We look forward to working to make sure that RECA best serves our communities. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

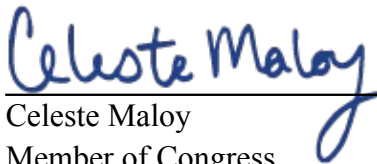
Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



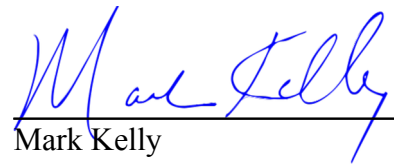
Celeste Maloy
Member of Congress




Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



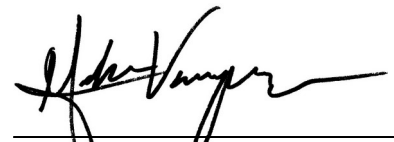
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator




Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



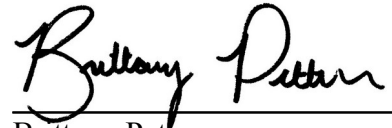
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress