

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2633

To provide for preservation by the Department of Defense of historical
radiation records.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2005

Mr. MATHESON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide for preservation by the Department of Defense
of historical radiation records.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Defense
5 Historical Radiation Records Preservation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Atmospheric testing of nuclear devices was
9 a dark period in the history of the nation for many
10 Americans, particularly “downwinders”.

1 (2) The National Academy of Sciences urged
2 Congress to “declare a government-wide morato-
3 rium” on the destruction of documents that are po-
4 tentially relevant to measuring fallout in the United
5 States from nuclear weapons testing and assessing
6 health risks.

7 (3) The National Academies of Science, in re-
8 viewing the feasibility of determining doses and
9 health effects to the American population, noted that
10 government data must be secured.

11 (4) The Department of Energy has ordered a
12 moratorium on the destruction of records, but the
13 Department of Defense has no such prohibition and
14 relevant records could potentially be lost.

15 (5) The preservation of important historical
16 records should be a priority.

17 **SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF INFORMATION AND RECORDS**
18 **PERTAINING TO RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT.**

19 (a) PROHIBITION OF DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN
20 DOCUMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense may not destroy
21 any document in the custody or control of the Department
22 of Defense that is a historical record (or part of a histor-
23 ical record) relating to radioactive fallout from the testing
24 of any nuclear device.

1 (b) PRESERVATION AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMA-
2 TION.—The Secretary of Defense shall identify, preserve,
3 and publish information contained in documents referred
4 to in subsection (a).

5 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—All government agencies
6 should institute a moratorium on the destruction of histor-
7 ical fallout-related records and the Department of Defense
8 should declassify those records for the benefit of scientific
9 research and public health.

○