

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 737

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the efforts of the Federal Government to address the public health and environmental crisis on the Navajo Nation caused by abandoned uranium mines.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. STANTON, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the efforts of the Federal Government to address the public health and environmental crisis on the Navajo Nation caused by abandoned uranium mines.

Whereas Federal directives from World War II and the Cold War era led to the extensive mining of uranium ore on the Navajo Nation;

Whereas 524 abandoned uranium mines remain scattered across the Navajo Nation and pose a significant radiation health hazard to the public and environment;

Whereas cancer from radiation exposure is the second-leading cause of sickness and death on the Navajo Nation;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency, upon the insistence of the Navajo Nation, has secured settlement agreements with responsible parties to fund the cleanup of 219 of the abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation;

Whereas there are 305 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation for which Federal funds or settlement agreements are not available to fund their cleanup; and

Whereas it is the express duty of the United States, through the Environmental Protection Agency, to address and ensure the timely remediation of the environmental contamination resulting from abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that the Environmental Protection Agency, in  
3       full coordination and partnership with the Navajo Nation  
4       Environmental Protection Agency and other affected  
5       Tribes, should take all necessary steps to ensure that  
6       cleanup actions for all abandoned uranium mines and re-  
7       lated environmental pollution on the Navajo Nation and  
8       other Tribal lands are implemented expeditiously.

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