

Sadly, many workers of the Cold War era were exposed to radiation on a regular basis. But claims for compensation are hampered by incomplete and inaccurate records.

Some records show only estimated levels of exposure for workers, and are imprecise. In other cases, if records were kept, they cannot be found today.

Many Santa Susana Field Laboratory workers were not aware of the hazards at their workplace. Remarkably, no protective equipment—like respirators, gloves, or body suits—was provided to workers.

More than 600 claims for compensation have been filed by Santa Susana Field Lab workers, but only a small fraction have been approved. A lack of documentation, or inability to prove exposure thresholds, has hindered hundreds of claims that may well be legitimate. And, for some lab workers and their families, it is impossible to reconstruct exposure scenarios due to records having been destroyed.

Santa Susana Field Lab workers and their families now face the burden of having to reconstruct exposure scenarios that existed more than 40 years ago, in most cases with little or no documentation.

The case of my constituent, Betty Reo, provides an example of why this legislation is necessary.

Ms. Reo's husband, Cosmo Reo, worked at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory as an instrumentation mechanic from April 18, 1957 until May 17, 1960.

Cosmo worked in the rocket testing pits and was exposed to hydrazine, trichloroethylene, and other cancer-causing chemicals which attack the lungs, bladder and kidneys.

Cosmo died of renal failure in 1980. Ms. Reo applied for benefits under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act. She has been trying to reconstruct the exposure scenarios under which her husband worked, but without adequate documentation she has been repeatedly denied benefits.

This bill would help people like Betty Reo, people who lack the documentation necessary to prove their cases, and those who worked in any of the four areas of the Santa Susana site.

I urge my colleagues to join me in correcting these injustices and cutting through the "red tape" that prevents Santa Susana Field Laboratory workers, and their families, from receiving fair compensation.

For many, such as Ms. Reo, time is running out. We can no longer afford to delay, and this bill provides a straightforward solution to fix a broken system.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 709

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Santa Susana Fair Compensation Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF MEMBER OF SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3621(14) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384l(14)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) The employee was so employed for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days before January 1, 2009, by the Department of Energy or a Department of Energy contractor or subcontractor at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in California."

(b) REAPPLICATION.—A claim that an individual qualifies, by reason of section 3621(14)(D) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (as added by subsection (a)), for compensation or benefits under such Act shall be considered for compensation or benefits notwithstanding any denial of any other claim for compensation with respect to such individual.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 85—CONGRATULATING THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE BATTLIN' BEARS FOR WINNING THE 2009 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 85

Whereas, on March 24, 2009, the Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears won the 2009 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Basketball National Championship title with a stunning 77-61 triumph over the Columbia College Cougars;

Whereas Rocky Mountain College, located in Billings, Montana, is one of the premier liberal arts schools in the State of Montana;

Whereas Rocky Mountain College forward Devin Uskoski was named the Most Valuable Player of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics men's basketball tournament;

Whereas Devin Uskoski averaged 17.4 points per game and 11 rebounds per game throughout his senior season;

Whereas the Battlin' Bears finished the 2009 season with a record of 30-8 and won 10 of their final 11 games;

Whereas Rocky Mountain College fans across Montana supported and encouraged the Battlin' Bears throughout the basketball season;

Whereas Rocky Mountain College President Michael R. Mace and Athletic Director Robert Beers have shown great leadership in bringing academic and athletic success to Rocky Mountain College; and

Whereas the people of the State of Montana celebrate the success and share the pride of Rocky Mountain College: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears for winning the 2009 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Basketball National Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose

hard work and dedication helped the Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears win the championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution for appropriate display to—

(A) the President of Rocky Mountain College, Michael R. Mace;

(B) the Athletic Director of Rocky Mountain College, Robert Beers; and

(C) the Head Coach of the Rocky Mountain College basketball team, Bill Dreikosen.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 701. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, to reauthorize and reform the national service laws; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 702. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 703. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 704. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 705. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 706. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 692 submitted by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 707. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 708. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 709. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 710. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 711. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 712. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GREGG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra.

SA 713. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 687 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1388, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.