

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1999

Source
SJR 21

Legislative
Resolve No.
19



Relating to workers and family members of workers exposed to radiation during the Amchitka nuclear tests.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the largest underground nuclear bomb tests ever conducted by the government of the United States were conducted as part of the Amchitka nuclear bomb test program; and

WHEREAS many Alaska workers who worked at the Amchitka Island, Alaska, nuclear bomb test program have reported what appears to be an inordinately high rate of radiation-related diseases, including various kinds of cancer; and

WHEREAS the workers have been unable for years to obtain information on the tests in which they were involved in order to prove their entitlement to compensation for their medical needs because the United States Department of Energy has advised them that the information is classified; and

WHEREAS the Amchitka Technical Advisory Group has unanimously requested a medical surveillance program of Amchitka workers; and

WHEREAS some of the information necessary for workers to establish their entitlement to medical benefits and other compensation has been released, but more

information apparently remains classified;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Congress of the United States to fund a medical surveillance program to cover the health concerns of the Amchitka workers; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of Energy and the department's subcontractors are requested to expeditiously resolve the pending worker compensation claims and litigation filed by injured workers from Amchitka and the surviving family members of deceased workers at Amchitka; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 to include Amchitka Island, Alaska, within its coverage.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Bill Richardson, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.