



December 7, 2023

**JOINT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT DR. BUU NYGREN OF THE NAVAJO NATION
& SPEAKER CRYSTALYNE CURLEY OF THE 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we express our profound disappointment in the removal of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments from the National Defense Authorization Act. This decision is disheartening to the Navajo Nation — a people whose significant contributions helped build America's nuclear arsenal, secured a victory in World War II, and boosted energy development.

The Navajo people endured inordinate suffering due to radiation exposure, resulting from relentless uranium mining during the mid-20th century. The grave consequences of this exposure have echoed through generations, causing serious health issues including various forms of cancer, kidney disease, and birth defects in our people. The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments were meant to provide some relief for these horrific consequences. Now, by stripping these amendments from the National Defense Authorization Act, the government sends a deplorable message: that the sacrifices of the Navajo Nation do not matter. This is unacceptable.

We call on all Americans to join us in urging Congress to rectify the wrongs that have resulted from uranium mining on the Navajo Nation – and indeed other locations as well. The health impacts of radiation exposure on our people are not issues of the past. They persist in the present and will continue into the future unless they are adequately addressed.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Congressman Eli Crane for his unwavering support and to Congresswoman Teresa Leger-Fernandez for her leadership in championing this bill in the House. We are also immensely thankful to Senators Lujan, Hawley, and Crapo for their advocacy and leadership in the Senate.

The Navajo Nation has given much in the interest of national defense. The United States must rectify the ongoing impact of these contributions on our people. We ask for the support of all who hear our call to help us in our fight for justice, for healing, and for the future health of our Nation. Thank you. *Ahéhee'*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Nygren".

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crystalyne Curley".

Crystalyne Curley, *Speaker*
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL