

# ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Karen Imbierowicz

April 24, 2009

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman  
Honorable Michael B. Enzi, Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## **Re: S. 757, "Charlie Wolf Nuclear Workers Compensation Act"**

Dear Chairman Kennedy and Ranking Member Enzi,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council, I am writing to voice our strong support for "The Charlie Wolf Nuclear Workers Compensation Act" (S. 757). We ask that you schedule a hearing on this important and time-sensitive legislation and we urge its swift passage.

Simply put, the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) is broken and needs to be fixed. The EEOICPA is critical to ensuring that workers who have suffered as a result of exposures to radioactive and hazardous materials while working at Department of Energy facilities be compensated for their illnesses. However, our constituents, former Rocky Flats workers, have faced numerous roadblocks as they have sought just compensation under the EEOICPA. Their experiences are shared by many thousand others throughout the DOE complex.

One of the most pressing problems concerns workers' records. At these defense facilities critical records are missing and data is unreliable. Yet, under the current rules governing implementation of the EEOICPA, workers need to prove a causal connection between their cancers and exposures suffered while working at these facilities – and to do so they are required to prove such a link using data that was and often still remains beyond their control. The costs of this flaw in the EEOICPA are being borne by the workers. The Charlie Wolf Act would fix this problem and other flaws in the EEOICPA.

As a bi-partisan group of Senators and Representatives have been keenly aware for some time, the EEOICPA needs to be amended. For workers who were on the front line of the Cold War and who have and still are instrumental in remediating these highly contaminated sites, it is due time they received compensation as Congress intended in passing the EEOICPA nine years ago.

We therefore respectfully request that the Committee provide a hearing on this legislation and we urge swift passage of S. 757.

Sincerely,



Jeannette Hillery  
Chairman

Cc: Senator Mark Udall  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Representative Jared Polis  
Representative Ed Perlmutter  
Representative Mike Coffman  
Representative Diana DeGette  
Representative John Salazar  
Representative Betsy Markey  
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