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Hatch Statement on 75th Anniversary of Trinity Nuclear Test

Washington, DC—Today marks the 75th anniversary of the Trinity nuclear test, in which the US military detonated the world's first atomic bomb in the New Mexico desert. On this solemn occasion, Senator Orrin G. Hatch—the Chairman Emeritus of the Orrin G. Hatch Foundation—issued a statement calling attention to the hundreds of Americans who have suffered serious illness and even death as a result of radiation exposure caused by nuclear weapons testing.

"On the 75th anniversary of Trinity, we are reminded of the enormous consequences of atmospheric nuclear testing, including the heavy human toll exacted on some of our most vulnerable communities," **said Hatch**. "Since 1945, thousands of downwinders—the men and women who lived nearby the military's nuclear testing facility—have developed severe forms of cancer and respiratory illness as a result of radiation exposure. Many of them are still suffering to this day. That's why now more than ever, Congress must reauthorize RECA, a bill I passed many years ago to help families who were victim to the federal government's neglect. If we let RECA expire, we leave hundreds of downwinders unable to pay their medical bills for issues directly related to radiation poisoning. Updating this legislation is a moral imperative."

Senator Orrin G. Hatch was the original Senate sponsor of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) and recently called on Congress to reauthorize this bill in an <u>op-ed</u> published by *The Hill*.



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