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Forgotten People is a 501(C)(3) registered in the State of Arizona and Navajo Nation. Our members advocate protecting their Sovereignty for Social, Environmental and Economic Justice.

RE: RESOLUTION 009-12, END 7 DECADES OF URANIUM CONTAMINATION AND SICKNESS ON NAVAJO NATION, HALT ALL MINING UNTIL CLEAN UP OF ALL PAST CONTAMINATION IS COMPLETED, CREATE FIRST EVER OPEN ATOMIC RADIATION DETECTION NETWORK FOR NAVAJO NATION, RECOGNIZE THAT PEOPLE HAVE AN INALIENABLE RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, AND PRESERVATION OF SACRED LANDS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 24, 2012**

WE THE DINE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE THROUGH THIS RESOLUTION DEMAND THE NAVAJO NATION AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO FUND THE REMEDIATION OF RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION IN OUR AIR, WATER AND HOMELANDS TO ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL, SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S URANIUM RADIATION ACTIVITY DATA COLLECTION NETWORK, RESPECT AND HONOR THE MORATORIUM AGAINST MINING URANIUM UNTIL WHICH TIME ALL CONTAMINATION HAS BEEN REMEDIATED, AND FINALLY TO RESOLVE THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE AN INALIENABLE RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, AND PRESERVATION OF SACRED LANDS.

We the People's grassroots representatives hereby submit Forgotten People Resolution 009-2012 to Navajo Nation and United States Government, Obama Administration, US Congressional Leaders, Department of Interior, Department of Justice, US EPA, and Office of Surface Mining this Resolution.

WHEREAS:

WHEREAS; radioactive pollution has been a cause of death and sickness on Navajo Nation for nearly 70 years.

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WHEREAS; the cause of this plague is rooted in the Uranium mining that began in secret during World War II for the production of the first atomic bomb as part of the top secret Manhattan Project but the mining continued for decades thereafter to build America's nuclear arsenal during the Cold War Era.

WHEREAS; the miners were never properly advised of the dangers of personal atomic radiation exposure and the mines were not sealed up properly.

WHEREAS; tons of radioactive uranium tailings and other dangerous debris found its way out of the mines and were carried by the winds into our air, water, land, homes, buildings, and anywhere else that dust travels and ultimately settles.

WHEREAS; unless found, removed, and sequestered, much of the radioactive pollution will remain lethal for up to 4.7 billion years.

WHEREAS; the dangers from the uranium mining activity was largely concealed from the Navajo People for more than 4 decades.

WHEREAS; the US Government passed the Right to Know Act in 1986 empowering Americans to learn about environmental risks of pollution and dangerous industrial activity.

WHEREAS; still the US Government did not allow victims of atomic radiation exposure to recover damages caused by those hazards until 1990, when the Radiation Exposure and Compensation Act was enacted by President George H. Bush.

WHEREAS; a five year cleanup effort was later enacted in 2007 by President George W. Bush but the plan of cleanup will end when funding stops, not when the problem is resolved.

WHEREAS; the Act does not provide for compensation to all victims, only to those who were exposed to atomic radiation as the result of their direct involvement in the uranium mining industry or because they were downwind of nuclear testing.

WHEREAS; many of the health conditions related to atomic radiation exposure remain excluded from coverage under the Act and only those who display acute symptoms are covered. It may take many years between the time of exposure and the onset of symptoms to appear.

WHEREAS; exposure to atomic radiation did not end when the mining stopped or when the cleanup of mining sites was completed. Lands have been contaminated and new victims are created every time the wind blows or when contaminated water is consumed or used for hygiene.



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WHEREAS; for all of these reasons and in view of the ongoing denial of government and industry in addressing these issues before great harm and damage was done to innocent people, we demand that this resolution be passed by Navajo Nation and United States Government call for an Amendment to the US Constitution proclaiming that all citizens have an inalienable right to clear air, clean water, and preservation of our homelands.

WHEREAS; for all of these reasons and in view of the ongoing denial of government and industry in addressing these issues before great harm and damage was done to our water, air and lands and the innocent people that live upon the land, we demand that this resolution be passed by Navajo Nation demanding that the President of the United States must compel Congress to resolve that the cleanup of all atomic radiation hazards created by act of and under the jurisdiction of the US Federal Government must continue to be funded until the job is completed to the standard set by the *Navajo People*.



WHEREAS; for all of these reasons and in view of the ongoing denial of government and industry in addressing these issues before great harm and damage was done to our water, air and lands and the innocent people that live upon the land, we demand that this resolution be passed by Navajo Nation demanding that the President of the United States Government respect and honor the Moratorium against mining Uranium, until such time that all Uranium Contamination has been remediated.

WHEREAS; for all of these reasons and in view of the ongoing denial of government and industry in addressing these issues before great harm and damage was done to the lands and to innocent people, we demand that this resolution be passed by Navajo Nation calling for the creation of an open network of Uranium radiation data collection monitoring sensors and alert equipment *operated privately by the Navajo People*, so that no person shall ever be lied to again about the threat of radiation in our air, water and our sacred homelands.

WHEREAS; for all of these reasons and in view of the ongoing denial of government and industry in addressing these issues before great harm and damage was done to our air, water, homelands and to innocent people, we demand that this resolution be passed by Navajo Nation calling for the establishment of standards for developing resources on all lands of Navajo Nation through a process driven by the people, with open councils of the people, and for the good of the people.

WHEREAS; for all of these reasons and in view of the ongoing denial of government and industry in addressing these issues before great harm and damage was done to innocent people, we call upon all

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candidates running for office in the US Senate disclose their positions on our above stated just claims and causes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

We the Dine Forgotten People through this Resolution demand Navajo Nation and United States Government jointly and severally formally declare by Constitutional Amendment and Order, that all people have the inalienable right to clean air, clean water, and the preservation of sacred lands and that immediate action must be taken to Fund the Ongoing need for Remediation of Radioactive Contamination in our Air, Water, and Homelands to ensure our survival and that the named parties will Support the People's Uranium Radiation Activity Data Collection Network. And finally, demand the Navajo Nation and United States Government respect and honor the Moratorium against mining Uranium, until such time that all Uranium Contamination has been remediated and the all the people of the Navajo Nation are properly indemnified and are equipped to monitor the air, water and land to know they are safe from the deadly hazards that has caused such harm to innocents including all living and our unborn.

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Health Disparities

- Gastric cancer rates up 50% during the 1990s among Navajo people in two New Mexico counties with uranium sites. Uranium has been linked to reproductive cancers, and a sharp increase in breast, ovarian, and other cancers among teenage girls.
- Today, cancer rates many times the national average have been found (Cole, *Arizona Daily Sun*, 3-29-08; A1, A8). Cancer rates among Navajo teenagers living near mine tailings are 17 times the national average (Smith, 2008).
- Reproductive-organ cancers in teenage Navajo girls average 17 times higher than the average of girls in the United States (Raloff, 2004).
- Navajo Neuropathy and other severe health issues are associated with drinking uranium contaminated water. In spite of high rates of cancer, diabetes, autoimmune disease, kidney failure and birth defects, there has been no comprehensive study of public health in uranium and coal mine communities.
- North Americans have the highest rate of infant mortality (7.5 X the national average), highest death rates from malnutrition, plague, exposure, highest rate of teen suicide, and low life expectancies— male 44.6 y, and female <47 y (U.S. Bureau of the Census, *A Statistical Profile of the American Indian Population* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1984).

Dan Sythe, CEO of International Medcom, Inc, manufacturers of the radiation detection instruments used to protect lives in the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster of 2011 in Japan and who donated the Geiger counter that was used on Navajo Nation for a report to the US EPA and found dangerous levels of radiation in ponds used by children for swimming said,

“The Navajo People have suffered for generations from the lingering effects of uranium pollution that began in secret with the war effort in World War 2 to develop atomic weapons and continues to this day in the form of airborne uranium dust and debris.

International Medcom strongly supports the right of all people to have direct access to critical scientific information that affects their health and wellbeing and the health and wellbeing of their loved ones and future generations.

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It is impossible to turn back the clock but we can start saving lives today. The Navajo people deserve and need to be empowered with lifesaving knowledge about the unseen radioactive danger that continues to plague them.”

Forgotten People President Don Yellowman added,

“The grassroots are behind this initiative because it will save lives. People know this is the right thing to do and we plan to move ahead with this effort immediately. We must show the politicians that we are serious. Please visit our website at www.forgottennavajopeople.com to show your support.”

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