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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2005

Evan B. Douple, Ph.D.
Director
Board on Radiation Effects Research
The National Academies
500 Fifth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Dr. Douple:

I write to inquire about the status of the Board on Radiation Effects Research (BRER) project entitled Assessment of Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program. I have a keen interest in the project's recommendations to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on whether other classes of individuals or additional geographic areas should be covered under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) program.

Congress required the final report be completed and presented by HRSA to Congress by June 30, 2005. Yet, when the BRER held its meeting in Boise, Idaho in November, indications were that the BRER report would be completed by March 2005. As you may know, I have concluded that the evidence exists to expand RECA to include four counties in Idaho, and I am committed to introducing legislation. However, it is my expectation that the BREB report will provide evidence that expansion beyond those four counties will be warranted.

As the breadth of my legislation will be based on the results of the report, I hope you can provide me with a better understanding of when the report will be completed and made available to Congress.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo
United States Senator