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(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to extend and increase the authority for the ombudsman under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to extend and increase the authority for the ombudsman under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “EEOICPA Ombuds-
5 man Extension and Enhancement Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASED AUTHORITY FOR OMBUDSMAN UNDER**
2 **ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILL-**
3 **NESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM.**

4 Section 3686 of the Energy Employees Occupational
5 Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C.
6 7385s-15) is amended—

7 (1) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
8 lows:

9 “(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Office shall be as
10 follows:

11 “(1) To assist individuals in making claims
12 under this title.

13 “(2) To provide information on the benefits
14 available under this title and on the requirements
15 and procedures applicable to the provision of such
16 benefits.

17 “(3) To act as an advocate under this title in
18 appropriate instances, as determined by the Om-
19 budsman.

20 “(4) To make recommendations to the Sec-
21 retary regarding the location of centers (to be known
22 as ‘resource centers’) for the acceptance and devel-
23 opment of claims for benefits under this title.

24 “(5) To carry out such other duties as the Sec-
25 retary shall specify.”;

1 (2) in subsection (e)(2), by adding at the end
2 the following new subparagraph:

3 “(C) Proposed changes in the administra-
4 tive practices of the Department of Labor to
5 mitigate difficulties identified under subpara-
6 graph (B) and potential legislative changes
7 which may be appropriate to mitigate such dif-
8 ficulties.”; and

9 (3) by striking subsection (g) (establishing a
10 sunset date) and inserting the following:

11 “(g) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Ombudsman
12 shall have authority to hire or contract for any supplies
13 or services including the services of individuals with exper-
14 tise in relevant disciplines, including health physics, medi-
15 cine, industrial hygiene, and toxicology, as the Ombuds-
16 man may from time to time consider appropriate.”.