

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
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SMALL BUSINESS

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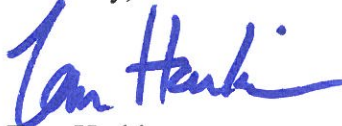
Dear Friends:

I join with you today to recognize the sacrifices of the Ames-Laboratory former workers on this day of commemoration. It is only right that given the important work that was accomplished here in Ames that we take the time to remember and celebrate those workers whose time, talents and abilities helped keep America safe for two generations. We owe these workers a great debt for their contribution to our national security. Many suffered devastating illnesses as a result of exposure to radioactive materials before we fully understood the risks.

In 2000, I was happy to sponsor and help pass the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act which established a compensation program for former nuclear workers. While this program has not been without its difficulties given the obstacles of dose reconstruction after many decades, we continue to work to improve the program and give former workers a fair opportunity at compensation. I commend the skill and dedication of the Public Health team at the University of Iowa, led by Dr. Lar Fuortes, for their service to former nuclear facility workers.

Again, I appreciate your kind invitation to join with you today in commemorating the vital work performed at the Ames Laboratory. Please accept my highest regards and thank you for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator

TH/jnm