



## Letter to the editor: EEOICPA-exempt civilian workers need champion

Posted: May 10, 2018 2:11 a.m.

In 2000, Congress enacted the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). The purpose of this act is to provide medical and financial benefits for current and former DOE nuclear energy workers if they become ill or died as a result of occupational illnesses.

For some unexplained reason, the Congress specifically exempted all the civilian workers that have worked the past 65-plus years at the Naval Reactors Facility located at the Idaho National Laboratory Complex. This would include several thousand workers.

This unjust and discriminatory action by Congress is reprehensible.

I have been advised that, because the nature of this beast is political and not against the law, there is no legal remedy available.

I have contacted the Idaho governor's office, all the Idaho senators' offices, the Idaho Attorney General's office and the Idaho representatives' offices. They listen to my story, but don't seem motivated to any action. Only someone with the higher government offices can remedy this unreasonable transgress of the Idaho citizens' rights.

I know it would be a herculean effort for our Idaho elected officials to step forward and remedy this unjust act of Congress.

We have only one small individual way to respond to this no-action situation. That is our vote. Maybe the next election will present us a champion.

(Word count: 215)

WILLIAM A. BURTENSCHAW

St. George, Utah