

EXHIBIT A



2nd District Report



CONGRESSMAN MERRILL COOK



January 1998

Dear Friends:

I am writing to update you on issues Congress will tackle this year, give you a progress report on issues particularly important to Utahns and share my 1998 priorities for the 2nd District.

1998 is off to a remarkable start for Utahns and all Americans. This month, you begin to reap the benefits of the laws Congress passed last year, including your first federal tax cut in 16 years, more taxpayer rights and more health care benefits for Medicare recipients. Page three of this newsletter updates you on important expansions in Medicare coverage every recipient should know about.

Not only do Americans, this month, begin to enjoy the benefits of last year's historic legislation, we are getting some good news we haven't heard in more than 30 years: a projected budget surplus. The Congressional Budget Office's latest analysis projects a surplus of \$600 billion over the next 10 years. Right now, Capitol Hill is buzzing with proposals for using this surplus. Those proposals include more tax cuts this year; paying down the accumulated debt and a move to stop using surpluses in the Social Security and highway trust funds to cover deficits in other programs, ultimately masking the size of the real budget deficit. Page two of this newsletter updates you on the latest proposals for the surplus and tax reform.

This year, I will continue in my work to accomplish the following goals for residents of the 2nd Congressional District:

- Protecting Utah's environment, particularly preventing the storage of deadly nuclear waste in Utah's desert.
- Working toward meaningful tax reform, scrapping our muddled, flaw-riddled code in favor of one that is fair, easy to understand and halts abuses by the IRS.
- Fighting to make sure more federal education dollars end up in the classroom and working to see that parents and local educators, not distant bureaucrats, have the strongest voice in a child's education.
- Assisting in the passage of common-sense spending measures like the "lock box" bill I have cosponsored, which requires that cuts in spending are locked away to reduce the federal deficit rather than being funneled into other programs.
- Fighting to get as much federal money as possible for Utah's highway projects, particularly the expansion of I-15.

Finally, I will continue my practice this year of hosting seminars, town meetings and conferences on topics important to you. On Feb. 22, I invite you to attend my retirement

Update on the Battle to Keep Deadly Nuclear Waste Out of Utah

On Dec. 2, I held a public meeting on plans by nuclear utilities from the East and California to store as much as 40,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel rods in casks above ground on the Goshute Reservation, 40 miles from the Salt Lake Valley. This meeting marked the first time all the players in the issue came together to discuss this troubling proposal. Gov. Mike Leavitt, local government officials, representatives of the utilities and concerned groups such as Downwinders of Utah participated in the 2 1/2 hour meeting.

Since then, I have continued my fight to keep this deadly waste out of Utah. I continue to work toward passage of my bill imposing prohibitively high fines on the shipment of nuclear waste to the Skull Valley Goshute site. This week, I urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grant the state and other concerned groups status to intervene in the Goshute Tribe's application for a license to store the waste.



Rep. Merrill Cook confers with Gov. Mike Leavitt during the Dec. 2 meeting on the proposal to store nuclear waste in Utah's desert.

Congress Expands Benefits for Medicare Recipients

I am pleased to announce that Medicare now covers all or most of several vital, preventive tests. It's important that Medicare recipients and their families understand these important new benefits. Please take advantage of this expanded coverage. For more information, call the Medicare Hotline at 1-800-638-6833

Benefit	Description of Coverage
Mammographies Effective 1/1/98	Annual tests for women 40 years and older. 20% copay, but no part B deductible
Pap smear, pelvic and breast exams Effective 1/1/98	Covered one every three years for most women; annual coverage for women at high risk or with abnormal pap smear. 20% copay, no part B deductible. All lab analysis covered.
Colorectal Cancer Screening Effective 1/1/98	Fecal blood test, 1 every 12 months for people 50 and over. Sigmoidoscopy, 1 every 48 months for people 50 and over. Colonoscopy, 1 every 24 months for people at high risk.