

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
TRPA RESOLUTION NO. 2024–

NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

WHEREAS, the great state of Nevada, known for its natural beauty and diverse landscapes, is home to a unique geological feature - an abundance of surface uranium, making it the leading state in the United States with this natural resource; and

WHEREAS, the granitic and glacial till soils of the Lake Tahoe Basin also contain naturally elevated levels of uranium;

WHEREAS, uranium is harnessed for various beneficial uses, including nuclear energy production, medical applications, and scientific research;

WHEREAS, it is crucial to recognize that while uranium has beneficial applications, it also poses potential dangers when it naturally breaks down into radon gas, a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that can endanger the health and well-being of our residents;

WHEREAS, radon gas occurs naturally when Uranium breaks down, silently seeping into the homes of our residents;

WHEREAS, it has come to our attention that many Lake Tahoe residents remain unaware of the hidden danger lurking within their homes, known as radon - a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas, which stands as the primary cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that approximately 21,000 people in the United States tragically lose their lives each year due to lung cancer caused by indoor radon exposure. Lung and bronchus cancer claim more lives each year than any other form of cancer;

WHEREAS, lung cancer, impacting more women than breast cancer, poses a higher risk to Nevadans compared to the national average;

WHEREAS, it is a fact that one in four homes in Nevada contains elevated levels of radon. Any Lake Tahoe home could harbor elevated radon levels, even when neighboring homes do not. Living in a home with an average radon level of 4 picocuries per liter of air poses a risk comparable to smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day;

WHEREAS, most geologic units of the Lake Tahoe Basin have been determined to have high potential for radon;

WHEREAS, it is the right of home buyers to know the radon level of any home they consider purchasing;

WHEREAS, the importance of radon testing cannot be overstated, as it is the sole means to determine whether a home contains elevated radon levels. This testing is not only easy and free but also opens the door to potential mitigation efforts that can make homes safer;

WHEREAS, the University of Nevada, Reno Extension's Nevada Radon Education Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stand firmly in support of initiatives aimed at motivating all Lake

Tahoe residents to act by testing their homes for radon, mitigating elevated radon levels, and promoting new construction with radon-reducing materials and features.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency does hereby support January 2024 as National Radon Action Month in Lake Tahoe.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency this ____ day of _____, 2024, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Cindy Gustafson, Chair
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Governing Board