



**Statement from Kristina Baehr, Just Well Law PLLC,
Plaintiffs' Counsel for Military Families and Service Members
Affected by the Red Hill Disaster**

AUSTIN, Texas, June 24, 2026 — The following statement was provided today by Kristina Baehr, counsel for the plaintiffs in the *Feindt*, *Whaley* and *Hughes* federal-court cases in response to the U.S. Department of Justice news release regarding Red Hill settlements:

"The United States' settlement payments to hundreds of Red Hill families are a step in the right direction. Every dollar paid represents some measure of accountability for families who were exposed to fuel-contaminated water in their homes, suffered injuries, and then were forced to fight their own government for recognition and relief.

"For more than four years, these military families and civilians have had to fight in the community and in court after the Government initially denied and minimized the catastrophe at Red Hill. Families were told their water was safe when it was not. Their symptoms were questioned. Their exposure was disputed. Their injuries were contested. The Government went so far as to argue before the federal court in the *Feindt* trial that there was not enough fuel in the water in November 2021 to make anyone sick, and therefore thousands of victims were merely 'somatic.' That strategy failed. Then, even after the Red Hill trial court ordered damages for families harmed by the contamination, the Government offered settlements at far less than the Court's order.

"Some of the most difficult chapters of this case are still unfinished. The Government has refused to compensate any of the service members, arguing that exposure to water contamination in their homes with their families was "incident to military service." That issue is on appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

"Settlements are appropriate. Accountability is overdue. And thousands of plaintiffs will continue to seek accountability and justice."

"The Red Hill disaster was not simply an environmental failure. It was a failure of trust between the Government and the military and civilian families it is obliged to protect. Until every affected family is treated fairly, until injured service members have their day in court, and until the full consequences of Red Hill are acknowledged, this matter is not over."

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