June 25, 2009

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján voted for an amendment to require the Secretary of Defense to provide Congress, by the end of the year, with an outline of its exit strategy for U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. The amendment was considered as part of the FY 2010 National Defense Authorizations Act (H.R. 2647). The amendment failed by a vote of 138 to 278. There was a similar standalone bill introduced earlier by Rep. James McGovern (D-MA), HR 2402, which Rep. Luján cosponsored.

“The men and women of our Armed Forces have served bravely and done everything we have asked of them, and as we move forward it is important for us to clearly outline an exit strategy in Afghanistan,” said Rep. Luján. “This amendment would have required the Secretary of Defense to outline a responsible exit strategy by the end of the year while fully supporting our troops. I will continue to advocate to responsibly end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.”