

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján spoke at a rally and attended a briefing with Power Shift 2009, which brought thousands of young people to the United States Capitol to discuss developing clean energy and addressing climate change. Rep. Luján joined other members of Congress and advocates at the event, including Rep. Chris Van Hollen and Rep. Rush Holt. Later in the day, Rep. Luján attended a Congressional briefing, chaired by Rep. Edward Markey, where youths discussed clean energy and climate change. Juan Reynosa, a youth organizer from Hobbs, New Mexico, testified before the committee about the need for green jobs. The events were organized by Power Shift 2009, a youth-based grassroots movement focused on fighting climate change and promoting clean energy.

“It’s clear that we have to take bold action. Waiting to act means destroyed habitats, drought, storms and land unsuitable to support a vibrant region of the country,” said Rep. Luján in remarks prepared for the climate change rally. “But we don’t have to wait because now is the time. In my home state, like others across our nation, we are hard at work to fight climate change. Our students are learning skills for green jobs. Our schools are already teaching a robust curriculum that includes renewable energy. In schools in my district, college students are learning how to make solar panels and generate power from wind turbines.”

Rep. Luján later attended the “Youth Climate: Green Jobs, Clean Future” Congressional briefing. At the briefing, youth climate change advocates testified before members of Congress. Juan Reynosa of Hobbs, New Mexico discussed the need to create new, clean energy jobs that can sustain future generations. The briefing was chaired by Rep. Edward Markey, Chairman of the Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

Rep. Luján is a member of the Committee on Science and Technology and Vice Chair of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee. As a member of the Committee, Rep. Luján will work to make New Mexico a leader in renewable energy development and to address climate change through research and development. Rep. Luján is also a member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition.

Before coming to Congress, Rep. Luján worked in New Mexico on climate change and renewable energy as a New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner. Rep. Luján developed and signed the Joint Action Framework on Climate Change with his colleagues in California, Oregon and Washington. The Framework established regional solutions to global warming. Rep. Luján has long been an advocate for increasing renewable energy generation. He worked

with the governor and the state legislature to implement energy efficiency standards, net-metering rules, and a Renewable Portfolio Standard –one of the strongest in the nation. The Renewable Portfolio Standard will require utility companies to draw 20 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2020.