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Luján Appointed to the Committee on Science and Technology

Key Committee will Oversee Research and Development of Energy and Environmental Technologies

Washington, DC - Rep. Ben Ray Luján has been appointed to the Committee on Science and Technology. The Committee's broad jurisdiction includes energy research and development at national laboratories across the country, including Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Committee also oversees important environmental research.

"I am honored to be appointed to the Committee on Science and Technology," said Luján. "Last week, President-elect Obama announced his intention to double the production of renewable energy, which will require increased research and development. The Committee on Science and Technology oversees energy research and development, and I look forward to using my expertise on renewable energy to be a part of the discussion on effectively developing this important resource. By expanding a clean energy economy in New Mexico, we will create jobs and help get our economy back on track."

In addition to energy research and development, the Committee also oversees environmental research and development, which can be used to protect vulnerable lands and fight global warming.

New Mexico has long been a leader in energy, and today the state is poised to lead a new clean energy economy that Luján has helped grow as a member of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. He has worked with the governor and the state legislature to implement energy efficiency standards, net-metering rules, and an innovative Renewable Portfolio Standard. The Renewable Portfolio Standard will require utility companies to draw 20 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2020. Luján also joined with his colleagues in western states to develop and sign the Joint Action Framework on Climate Change. The states identified the best practices to fight climate change-including increased renewable energy development and strong energy efficiency practices-and they have started implementation on regional level.

New Mexico is well-positioned to be a leader in renewable energy development. The state has vast energy resources in traditional and renewable energy. The eastern side of the state has become a generating source of renewable energy. In Quay County, the North American Wind Research and Training Center at Mesalands Community College has established curriculum and provided training opportunities to create a strong labor force to support a robust renewable energy economy. New Mexico is ready to be an important contributor to the future of solar generated power. Luján worked on many of these issues as a member of the Public Regulation Commission. As a member of the Committee on Science and Technology, Luján will use the innovative energy advances in New Mexico to make an immediate impact.

Los Alamos National Laboratory is at the forefront of promoting and researching technologies that help make our nation a better and safer place to live. Los Alamos National Laboratory is currently conducting important research on solving the renewable energy storage problem, in addition to critical computer modeling and planning on transmission paths. Luján will use his experience and a position on the Committee on Science and Technology to grow these important programs.

"My experience and the resources in my district will allow me to make an immediate impact on the both the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science and Technology," said Luján. "The institutions in my district, including Los Alamos National Laboratory and Cannon Air Force Base will allow me to bring a unique perspective to homeland security, especially as emerging threats require innovative technology. In addition, the diverse resources in my district and my experience on energy and climate issues will help me step into an important role in the Committee on Science and Technology."

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