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Rep. Luján Delivers Statement for Reading at Green Jobs Conference in Santa Fe

Rep. Luján Continues to Advocate for Green Jobs in New Mexico

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján delivered a statement to be read at the opening of a conference on creating green jobs in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The two-day conference that began on Wednesday is hosted by New Energy Economy, Bioneers, and the Regional Development Corporation in cooperation with the state Economic Development Department and Workforce Solutions. Participants in the conference will discuss creating green jobs in New Mexico and legislation designed to build the state's clean energy economy. John Fogarty, the head of New Energy Economy, will read Rep. Luján's statement at the opening of the conference today, Thursday, January 22, 2009.

"Conferences and discussions like this one are important to advance renewable energy development and create green jobs," said Luján. "We have much work to do in this field. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration, my colleagues in Congress, and experts and advocates like you to build a clean energy economy and create green jobs in New Mexico."

"We need to expand and extend tax credits that encourage renewable energy production and stabilize the industry. An aggressive investment in wind, solar, and biofuels will create millions of new clean energy jobs. We need to modernize our energy grid to accommodate clean energy production, and we need heavy investment in research and development to make renewable energy easier to store and transport. I am encouraged by the plans put forth by President Barack Obama. Under President Obama's plan, the overall investment in renewable energy will total \$150 billion - this investment will create nearly 5 million jobs. New Mexico is well poised to benefit from this investment, and we must work together to fulfill our state's potential in a clean energy economy."

"There is change coming to Washington and that change is perhaps most apparent in our new focus on a clean energy economy."

New Energy Economy is a nonprofit based in Santa Fe that is devoted to creating jobs by finding solutions to global warming. Bioneers is a national nonprofit dedicated to finding practical environmental solutions that create opportunities in communities while repairing ecosystems.

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