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**Luján to Hold Renewable Energy Conference Call in Advance of Recovery Vote**

*Recovery Bill Could Boost Renewable Energy Industry in New Mexico*

Washington, DC - Rep. Ben Ray Luján will hold a conference call with renewable energy advocates, experts and elected officials today, Monday, January 26. During the call, Rep. Luján will discuss renewable energy projects in the upcoming economic recovery bill and beyond. An investment in renewable energy can create green jobs in New Mexico. Experts and advocates on the call will include officials from Eastern New Mexico University, the New Mexico League of Conservation Voters, the Solar Energy Research Park and Academy, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and other experts and advocates.

**What: Conference Call with Renewable Energy Experts, Advocates and Elected Officials; Media Availability Following the Call**

**When: Today, Monday, January 26**

"It's important that renewable energy projects are part of the discussion in the upcoming economic recovery bill," said Luján. "We must advance renewable energy development and create green jobs in New Mexico, and there has never been a better time to do so. I look forward to meeting with advocates and experts in the renewable energy field."

Rep. Luján has experience working on renewable energy development and legislation. As the Chairman of the Public Regulation Commission, Rep. Luján 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.

Last week, Rep. Luján sent a letter to Congressional leadership outlining priorities for New Mexico in the upcoming economic recovery legislation. One of the priorities was renewable energy projects.

"We need to expand and extend tax credits that encourage renewable energy production and stabilize the industry," said Luján. "An aggressive investment in wind, solar, and biofuels will create 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."

Rep. Luján is a member of the Committee on Science and Technology, which will work on research and development issues regarding new renewable energy technology.

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