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Job Creation, Construction and Infrastructure Improvements, Workforce Development focus of Tribal Community Investments

Washington, DC- Monday, the New Mexico Congressional Delegation announced that Tribal communities across New Mexico will see significant investments in school improvements and maintenance, road and bridge maintenance, and workforce training. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the almost \$56 million headed to New Mexico is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and is part of the \$3 billion that the Department of Interior will invest in the economic recovery plan.

"Even before the economic downturn, the needs of Indian Country were great. So when Congress wrote a economic recovery bill, we paid close attention to our state's tribes and pueblos," said Sen. Bingaman. "I'm glad that the recovery package will direct millions of dollars to New Mexico's tribes and pueblos for job training, road improvements and school repairs. I know this funding will be well spent."

"It is difficult to think of an area that needs job creation and infrastructure improvements more than Indian Country," said Sen. Udall, a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. "With sky-high unemployment rates and, in some places, third-world living conditions, this recovery funding will be put to good use revitalizing our native communities by creating new employment opportunities and rebuilding crumbling infrastructure."

"As the economic recovery package continues to deliver much needed investments to New Mexico, it is critical that we keep the needs of our families and children in Indian Country in mind," said Rep. Teague. "Funding for job training, road maintenance, and school improvements provides much needed resources and support for a too often overlooked community."

"Funding for projects in Indian Country will create jobs, modernize schools and repair roads and bridges," said Rep. Luján. "These investments will help expand opportunities and build infrastructure in Native American communities."

"Funding new homes on tribal land that utilize renewable energy technology sets the stage for a

greener New Mexico," said Rep. Heinrich. "With more jobs, better schools, and the maintenance and repair of roads and bridges, Indian country will have the tools to strengthen their communities and provide a brighter future for Indian children."

The Indian Affairs projects were selected in a rigorous merit-based process based on the longstanding priorities of the agency, as have all projects included in the Department of the Interior's Recovery Act funding.

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