

May 8, 2009 12:26 PM

*Nonproliferation for Labs Supported in President's Budget;*

*Rep. Luján Will Work with Delegation to Fight Cuts to LANL Program*

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján said that while he was concerned with the decision not to fund upgrades to Los Alamos Science Neutron Center, he was encouraged by funding boosts to nonproliferation programs at Los Alamos National Laboratory in President Obama's budget. President Obama's budget included a 25 percent increase in funding for nuclear nonproliferation.

"I am encouraged that President Obama's budget proposal includes significant support for nuclear nonproliferation research at Los Alamos National Laboratory. It is important to use the brain trust and expertise at Los Alamos National Laboratory to solve some of the most pressing issues facing our country and the world. Nonproliferation is especially important as hostile countries pursue nuclear weapons. This investment in nonproliferation research at Los Alamos National Laboratory shows a willingness to broaden the research and development conducted at the lab."

"I am concerned, however, that the budget does not include funding for upgrades to the Los Alamos Science Neutron Science Center. The program is important to ongoing research and our national security. I will work with the delegation to oppose this decision."

"Los Alamos National Laboratory has tremendous potential to contribute breakthroughs in the areas of nonproliferation, energy and other scientific research. The Obama Administration will make important decisions regarding the nuclear stockpile pending their complete review of the Nuclear Posture Review. As these considerations and decisions are undertaken, I will continue to work with the lab, the congressional delegation and the Obama Administration to use the expertise and brain trust at Los Alamos National Laboratory to solve some of the most difficult issues facing our nation."