

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

*Rep. Luján, Chair of CHC Task Force, Holds Meeting with White House Advisor on Clean Energy Economy*

Washington, DC – Yesterday, Rep. Ben Ray Luján held a Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) meeting with Van Jones, the Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Rep. Luján is the Chair of the CHC Task Force on Green Economy and Renewable Energy. The meeting's purpose was to discuss how the Latino community can help move the new green energy economy forward. The CHC wants to ensure that the Latino community will be trained to fill the jobs of this new economy and that green jobs training programs are accessible to our communities through the Green Jobs Act and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“In the coming years, a strong clean energy economy will be important to create jobs and get our economy back on track,” said Rep. Luján. “Latinos have an important role in this emerging green economy, and it is critically important that they are part of the discussion. We must promote clean energy job training opportunities to Latinos, to ensure they are part of this growing workforce. It is encouraging that the White House is including the Latino community in the clean energy movement.”

Rep. Luján was named Chair of the CHC Task Force on Green Economy and Renewable Energy earlier this year. The Task Force explores ways to involve Latinos in a clean energy economy. In addition to chairing this CHC Task Force, Rep. Luján is a member of the Committee on Science and Technology, which works on research and development issues regarding new renewable energy technology.

Van Jones is the Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Jones is the former President and founder of Green for All, an organization dedicated to using clean energy to create opportunities to lift people out of poverty. He is also the author of *The Green Collar Economy*, which discusses the ways our country can create clean energy jobs.