

June 26, 2009

American Clean Energy and Security Act Includes Luján's Language for Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, Clean Energy Job Training Funding

[**WATCH REP. LUJAN DISCUSS THE BENEFITS OF THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT ON THE HOUSE FLOOR**](#)

[**VIEW PHOTOS OF REP. LUJAN ATTENDING A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSING THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT**](#)

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján joined his colleagues to vote for the American Clean Energy and Security Act (HR 2454), which will create clean energy jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and save billions of dollars long term. The Act included language that Rep. Luján worked on to provide funding for clean energy job training and include Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges as Innovation Hubs for clean energy research. The American Clean Energy and Security Act passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 219 to 212.

“Our country’s dependence on foreign oil threatens our economy and security. We need to take bold steps to become energy independent by growing a new energy economy. Comprehensive energy reform will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, making us more secure as a nation. The American Clean Energy and Security Act will help us begin to achieve these goals,” said **Rep. Ben Ray Luján**

“For too long we have accepted the status quo on energy. Now, with the American Clean Energy and Security Act, we can put America on a path to energy independence, make America the global leader in energy technology, cut costly and harmful pollution, create new jobs, and save billions in the long run. The American Clean Energy and Security Act will make sure that the next generation can build on this new foundation of opportunity. The legislation is an important step as we transition to a clean energy economy,” said **Rep. Ben Ray Luján**.

In May, prior to the beginning of the Energy and Commerce Committee’s markup of the bill, Rep. Luján sent a letter to Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman and Rep. Edward Markey, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment. The letter outlined his priorities for job training and education, a 25 percent Renewable Electricity Standard (RES), investment in smart grid advancement and transmission infrastructure, and comprehensive climate change legislation to reduce green house gas emissions.

This week, Rep. Luján wrote another letter to the Chairmen Waxman and Markey, highlighting

three areas in the bill that he believed should be strengthened. His letter called for a higher RES, increased energy efficiency incentives for utilities, and broader net metering requirements to make net metering available to homeowners and other markets.

Rep. Ben Ray Luján's Provisions in the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES)

Funding for Clean Energy Job Training

*"Rep. Luján has been a strong leader on supporting clean energy job training and education that will ensure equity and opportunity in the new economy. We thank him for his willingness to advocate on behalf of these issues, and for his efforts toward incorporating job training language into the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009," said **Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, CEO, Green For All***

*"A strong and robust clean energy economy can power our country and lift communities out of poverty and into the middle class. I'm excited that funding was included in the American Clean Energy and Security Act for clean energy job training that can spur economic growth in New Mexico and in communities across the country," said **Rep. Ben Ray Luján**.*

Rep. Luján worked with Chairman Waxman to ensure that ACES included strong support for green jobs training and education programs. After committee markup, Rep. Luján organized a meeting with Chairmen Waxman and Markey to meet with CHC Members and discuss clean energy job training and education. As a result of these efforts, Chairman Waxman included a provision in his Manager's Amendment that allocates allowance value to the Green Jobs Act (Title X of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007). In 2012 and 2013, 0.75% of allowance value – an estimated \$860 million – is allocated to the Green Jobs Act. The Green Jobs Act trains workers, particularly those from disadvantaged communities, for jobs in the clean energy economy. The Green Jobs Act also creates green pathways out of poverty. Workers who are at the margins of the current economy will be provided with the training and support necessary to gain middle-class careers in the green economy.

Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges as Clean Energy Innovation Hubs

*"I thank Representative Luján for his important work on this bill, particularly with the Clean Energy Innovation Hubs. We have an opportunity to reshape our energy system in a way that develops the economy and brings opportunity to underserved populations. The work of Representative Luján will ensure that this opportunity extends to Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges and the scientists, engineers, and big thinkers affiliated with them," said **Chairman Edward Markey***

"Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges need to be included in a clean energy economy. The research that we conduct at these institutions can educate the next generation of scientists and researchers, and ensure that no community is left behind as we transition to a clean energy economy. New Mexico is home to many Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal

*Colleges that can become important research hubs and make our state a leader in producing scientists, engineers and other professionals for a clean energy economy,” said **Rep. Ben Ray Luján***

Rep. Luján worked with Chairman Markey to incorporate language in the Innovation Hubs section of the bill that supports Hispanic Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges. The Energy Innovation Hubs are made up of consortia of university and private research communities, industry, national laboratories and other energy innovation participants to develop and transfer clean energy technology into the marketplace. Rep. Luján’s language specifies that in establishing three of the eight Energy Innovation Hubs under this section, the Secretary of Energy is required to give special consideration to consortium applicants that include at least one Hispanic Serving Institution or Tribal College.

Hispanic Serving Institutions in New Mexico

Central New Mexico Community College

Eastern New Mexico University, Main

Eastern New Mexico University, Roswell
New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico Junior College

New Mexico State University, Alamogordo Branch

New Mexico State University, Carlsbad

New Mexico State University, Grants

New Mexico State University, Main

Northern New Mexico College

Santa Fe Community College

University of New Mexico, Main

University of New Mexico, Taos

University of New Mexico, Valencia County Branch

Western New Mexico University, Main

Tribal Colleges in New Mexico and Navajo Nation

Navajo Technical College

Institute of American Indian Arts

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

Diné College