

September 30, 2009

Washington, DC –Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján held a Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) meeting with representatives from Maná, a Grammy Award winning musical group, and Maná's foundation, the Selva Negra Foundation. Maná is a group with a strong following in the U.S. and around world, recording hits over three decades. The meeting discussed clean energy and the environment, including the role Latinos can play globally and in the U.S. Maná has advocated for environmental protection and sustainable living through their foundation, the Selva Negra Foundation.

“This meeting was an excellent opportunity to discuss issues surrounding the clean energy economy and environmental advocacy within the Latino community,” said Rep. Luján. “I am encouraged that Maná and the Selva Negra foundation are committed to environmental protection and sustainable living in the Latino community. I look forward to continuing to work together with them in the future on these issues.”

In the meeting, Alex González (Maná's drummer), members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and officials with Selva Negra discussed the United States' role as a leader in clean energy development and combating climate change. Rep. Luján noted that the American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009, which he supported in the House, is a critical step towards establishing a clean energy economy.

The group also discussed the positive impact a green economy can have for minority and low-income communities in terms of job creation and human health. Rep. Luján highlighted that Latino communities are often hit hardest by the recession and are often disproportionately affected by air pollution.

“We need to get serious about engaging and involving the Latino community in the fight for a cleaner, brighter future. We need to collaborate with advocates like Maná, who inspire millions of people through their music, and educate our Latino communities about the benefits of a green economy.”

Rep. Luján is the Chair of the CHC Task Force on Green Economy and Renewable Energy. The Task Force explores ways to involve Latinos in a clean energy economy—including efforts to support renewable energy development and reduce green house gas emissions.

Maná, a Mexican rock band, has a devoted global following, selling millions of albums. They have won multiple Grammy Awards and Latin Grammy Awards during their career. Maná established the Selva Negra Foundation in 1995, which works with governments and other organizations to promote environmental protection and sustainable living.