

Land Bill to Preserve Natural Resources Throughout New Mexico

Washington, DC – Today, Representatives Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich and Harry Teague attended the bill signing of the Omnibus Public Land Bill at the White House with President Barack Obama. Senators Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall, long-time advocates of the legislation, also attended the signing. As chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Bingaman authored the Omnibus Bill and shepherded it through the Senate. The Omnibus Land Bill included more than 160 separate provisions that will protect our national parks and forests, preserve historic places, and invest in water infrastructure.

“Today, President Barack Obama made an historic statement to protect our beautiful landscapes and the natural resources they contain by signing the Omnibus Land Bill,” said Rep. Luján. “This bill preserves treasured land for the next generation and makes water resources available to communities that need it. By protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural resources which are integral to the identity of New Mexico and America, this bill ensures the prolonged existence and availability of forest lands and natural resources for future generations.”

“From the Snowy River Cave in Lincoln County to the prehistoric trackways in the Robledo Mountains in Dona Ana this package of bills provides important protections for some of the natural treasures we have throughout southern New Mexico,” said Rep. Teague. “I applaud the work that Senator Bingaman has done over the years to get this monumental piece of legislation enacted.”

“In the West, we know the value of water and the value of the places where we hunt, fish and recreate with our families,” said Rep. Heinrich. “This law will help us maintain these places and the cultures that they support. The proud tradition of conserving our most precious natural resources, championed by Teddy Roosevelt more than a hundred years ago, has been secured for another generation of Americans.”

The Omnibus Land Bill included 12 separate provisions that will benefit New Mexico by preserving New Mexico’s natural resources, including the Rio Grande Pueblos Irrigation

Infrastructure Improvement Act, the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act, the Navajo-San Juan Indian Water Rights Settlement, the New Mexico Aquifer Assessment Act, and the Sabinoso Wilderness Act.

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