

May 12, 2010

*Bill Would Improve Competitiveness, Encourage Economic Development*

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján spoke in support of the America COMPETES Act, which will improve American competitiveness, encourage economic development and help train a new generation of researchers and scientists. A vote is expected tomorrow. Last month, the legislation passed out of the Committee on Science and Technology with bipartisan support. Rep. Luján [successfully amended the legislation in the Committee](#) to include support for New Mexico's national laboratories and institutions of higher learning.

*"I rise today in support of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, and I thank Chairman Gordon and my colleagues on the Committee on Science and Technology for their hard work on this important legislation.*

*During these difficult economic times, it's more important than ever to make sure the United States has the ability to compete globally - which is why I included language in this bill that encourages cooperative agreements between small businesses and our national laboratories. Our national laboratories are developing new technology that could change the way we generate energy, keep our airports safer, and make our hospitals healthier. My language will make sure this technology gets into a competitive marketplace to encourage economic development and create jobs here in America.*

*The COMPETES Act also makes key investments in science education, ensuring that our students are prepared for the jobs of the future. For too long there has been a divide that has kept minority students out of these fields. We must close this divide and make sure that this generation of students has the opportunity to be the next generation of scientists, researchers and inventors. That's why I included language in this bill to support Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other Minority Serving Institutions. The America COMPETES Act will drive innovation, support small businesses, increase American competitiveness and create jobs, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill."*