

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Santa Fe, NM – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District sent the following letter to the Secretaries of the Departments of Homeland Security and Energy earlier today requesting assistance during the gas outage throughout the state.

Below is the text of the letter:

February 3, 2011

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Naval Security Station
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20393

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary, U.S. Department Of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0001

Dear Secretaries Napolitano and Chu:

I’m writing to seek your cooperation and assistance on an urgent energy shortage and life threatening situation in New Mexico. Due to natural gas shortages in the region, large portions of the state are without heat as temperatures have dipped to record lows. The loss of natural gas could have unforeseen effects upon the region’s many infrastructure networks and result in further shortages. For example, as New Mexicans attempt to compensate for the loss of natural gas with supplemental sources of heat, electrical grids could be strained and local shelters

could be overcrowded.

I'm asking that you do what you can to help with this life-threatening situation. Some suggestions include:

- Asking the national laboratories in the region, Los Alamos and Sandia, to reduce energy usage to only what is absolutely necessary in order to reduce the demands upon local energy networks.
- Tasking the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center (NISAC) with addressing the immediate response to the natural gas shortage, recognizing any effects on other infrastructure networks caused by the shortage, and identifying potential solutions for preventing future shortages.
- Marshalling any available resources of Department facilities to provide for transporting, supplying, and sheltering the people of affected regions.

Any additional assistance your Departments could provide would be greatly appreciated. I am hopeful that by working together, we can provide for those impacted with help during this outage.

Thank you in advance for you help.

Sincerely,

Rep. Ben Ray Luján
United States House of Representatives
NM-03

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