

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District released the following statement today regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) announcement that it has initiated an inquiry into the recent gas outages in New Mexico. Luján recently sent a letter to FERC requesting a review of the causes of the outages. [Click here](#) to read Luján’s letter.

“I am pleased that FERC has initiated an inquiry into the gas outages that left more than 32,000 homes in New Mexico without heat during record-low temperatures. New Mexico must have a stable source of power that will continue uninterrupted even in the face of high demand and extreme weather conditions. It is critical that we learn what caused this crisis so that we can take whatever steps are necessary to best ensure it never happens again.

“As we move forward in an effort to prevent a future outage, I want to thank all of those who did their part to help New Mexico endure this crisis, whether it was volunteering at shelters, checking on an elderly neighbor to make sure he or she had enough firewood to get through the night, or turning down the thermostat to conserve gas. I also want to thank all those at the national laboratories for their efforts, from reducing their energy consumption to providing assistance to those without heat. The tremendous efforts I saw firsthand, efforts by so many in the community during this challenging time, are a testament to the resiliency of the people of New Mexico.”

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