

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District applauded Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu’s announcement today of a new program to make it easier for start-up companies to work with national laboratories and to commercialize new technologies.

As part of the Obama Administration’s [Startup America Initiative](#) , the Department of Energy is launching “ [America’s Next Top Energy Innovator](#) ” program. This program will make it easier for domestic start-up companies to license technologies from DOE’s 17 national laboratories, including Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico, by reducing licensing fees and streamlining paperwork requirements.

“The labs are a tremendous resource for helping small businesses and improving our economy, both nationally and in New Mexico,” Luján said. “I’m glad to see the Obama Administration is taking proactive steps to help start-ups and to make it easier for them to commercialize technologies coming out of our national labs. This program will contribute to our effort to out-innovate our global competitors so that we can create good jobs right here at home.”

Luján has been a strong advocate for increased technology transfer from the national labs since coming to Congress. Earlier this year, he started the Congressional Technology Transfer Caucus with Co-Chair Representative Frank Wolf of Virginia in order to bring together members of Congress who share the goal of strengthening the economy by helping move technological innovations that are occurring in national labs and universities into the marketplace.

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