

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District highlighted a recent announcement by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack that 28 telephone utilities, including one in New Mexico, will receive funding to build, expand, and improve broadband in rural areas. Roosevelt County Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will receive more than \$12.3 million to deploy new equipment and install Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) equipment to enhance its broadband network.

“Investing in our communities by connecting families and small businesses to the world through high-speed internet is vital for a stronger New Mexico,” Congressman Luján said. “From applying to a job to making a purchase miles away, more of what we do in our everyday lives requires access to the internet and a level of connectedness that too many areas in New Mexico do not yet have. Investing in these critical projects not only makes our small businesses more competitive, it also puts people to work building the infrastructure New Mexico needs to open new doors. Providing enhanced broadband services will help bridge the digital divide in rural communities, ensuring they are never more than a mouse click away from all that the internet and our increasingly connected world have to offer. ”

The \$12,358,000 award to Roosevelt County Telephone Cooperative is part of more than \$478.6 million in funding for 18 states announced by the USDA that aims to expand opportunities in rural America.

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