

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico's Third District released the following statement tonight following President Obama's State of the Union Address.

“Tonight, President Obama put the focus back on what should be our top priority – creating jobs. He correctly pointed out that reducing our deficit cannot be the only path we take if we want to grow our economy, rebuild the middle class, and spur job creation in New Mexico and across the country.

“While we must work to responsibly reduce our deficit with a balanced approach that prevents the sequester's arbitrary cuts, it is vital that we make investments that lay the foundation for a stronger economy. Strengthening STEM and early education, promoting entrepreneurship and job training, investing in a clean energy economy, and encouraging innovation will help grow a stronger middle class that is the key to a brighter future for New Mexico.

“I was also pleased that the President announced that 34,000 American men and women will be coming home from Afghanistan as we wind down a decade of war. I hope for the swift and safe return of our troops who are serving bravely in harm's way.

“Moving forward, one area that we must hear more about from the President is his goal of reducing our nation's nuclear weapon stockpile. It will be critical to examine the details of this plan to determine its impact on New Mexico; however, I believe Los Alamos National Laboratory has an important role to play in achieving this goal and in maintaining and ensuring the safety of a smaller nuclear deterrent.

“In his address this evening, President Obama laid out a path forward for our country that includes many elements that have already received significant support from the American people. I am hopeful that we can come together to address the challenges we face, put an end to the manufactured crises that have impacted an economic recovery, and make progress that moves our nation forward.”

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