

April 22, 2010

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján recognized Earth Day by attending the Earth Day Network event on the National Mall. Rep. Luján spoke at the event and introduced Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. On Saturday, Rep. Luján will [attend an Earth Day event in Santa Fe](#)

*“On the 40th Earth Day, as we reflect on 40 years of progress toward greater sustainability, we must continue the effort to pass a cleaner, more sustainable future onto the next generation. We’ve made some progress toward this goal. And that’s important because we can’t wait while others outpace our clean energy efforts. And we can’t wait while our lands and water remain vulnerable to the effects of climate change.*

*I’m encouraged because in the past year, we have made investments in clean energy that will help us make great strides in building a thriving clean energy economy while taking important steps to protect our natural resources. Throughout the country, businesses are finding new ways to generate power and save energy, schools are expanding their clean energy programs, and streams, rivers, land and wilderness are being cleaned up and protected. But we still have a long way to go. We need to keep fighting for comprehensive energy reform that will create clean energy jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and move us toward energy independence. And we need to make sure we protect our land and natural resources.*

*But while we’re tackling large issues, we also must remember that efforts large and small make a real difference – whether it is empowering at risk youth to tackle environmental cleanup projects and build energy efficient homes or encouraging families to use more energy efficient light bulbs and to caulk their doors and windows. Too often we miss signs of progress amidst the great work that remains to be done. And while the remaining work--like taking on climate change, moving toward energy independence, and protecting our lands and water—can feel like a great challenge, every day each of us can and must make a difference toward a cleaner world.*

*The 40th Earth Day is a time to reflect on our progress – but let's make sure we also renew our efforts to pass a cleaner, more sustainable world onto the next generation.”*