

May 5, 2010

Washington, DC – Rep. Ben Ray Luján has been named to the Committee on Natural Resources. The Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction over federal land agencies including the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“The Committee on Natural Resources oversees many programs and agencies that are important to New Mexico and my constituents,” said Rep. Luján. “In New Mexico, we place great value on our lands and resources, and with the Committee, I will work to make sure these resources are available for future generations.”

The Committee also oversees Native American issues, including the care and allotment of Native American lands as well as claims that are paid out of Native American funds. Rep. Luján represents 15 Pueblo tribes, the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Navajo Nation.

“With the Committee on Natural Resources, I will continue to fight for Native Americans who too often struggle to be heard,” said Rep. Luján. “I look forward to working with Chairman Rahall to improve services in Indian Country and preserve our treasured land and resources.”

Rep. Luján has already introduced 9 separate bills that have fallen under the Committee’s jurisdiction. Early in his term, he introduced a bill to protect the Sabinoso Wilderness. He has also introduced legislation to finalize two tribal water settlements that were considered by the Committee on Natural Resources before passing through of the House.

Rep. Luján will continue with his position on the Committee on Science and Technology.