Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico's Third District highlighted today a $6.6 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to improve electric infrastructure in rural Eastern New Mexico. USDA Rural Development has approved the loan to Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. to make investments in a smart grid project and improvements to 65 miles of distribution lines in Harding, Quay, and Union counties.

"These funds are critical to provide rural New Mexico with a reliable source of energy that will power our communities," Congressman Luján said. "This investment in smart grid technologies will increase efficiency and enable customers to save money on their electric bills."

The $6,646,000 loan is one of $201 million in loans in eight states announced by USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service, and is part of ongoing efforts to improve the economic stability of rural communities.

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