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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Ben Ray Luján
Statement for Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
January 28, 2011

To Chairmen Hamilton and Scowcroft, commission members, and my fellow New Mexicans, thank you all for being here. As the Commission considers America's nuclear future it is important that it hear from New Mexicans, as we have been part of America's nuclear past to an uncommon degree.

I am sorry I am not able to be here in person to speak with you, and I am confident you will hear from many of my constituents. As I have said before, and shared with my colleagues in committee hearings, I hope we agree that simply putting waste in the ground is not sustainable, and quite honestly not a solution. I wanted to convey my desire, through this statement, that we pursue as vigorously as possible technologies to reduce the amount of waste produced, both, through greater efficiency and through recycling techniques that break down the waste.

I think one of the lessons from our experience with fossil fuels is that we should start addressing fuel use efficiency and environmental effects earlier rather than leaving it for future generations. We have this opportunity now and I hope we resist the temptation to pass this off to future generations.

I appreciate your invitation to speak here today and look forward to working with you in the future on this important issue.

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