

Opening Statement  
Representative Ben Ray Luján  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Markup of 38 Bills  
*September 9, 2020*

Thank you to Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden for holding this markup.

Today, we're acting on 38 bipartisan bills that cover a range of issues important to the people of New Mexico. This includes legislation to reauthorize School-Based Health Centers, strengthen mental health services in schools, and support states' efforts to address substance use disorders.

I want to thank Chairman Pallone for working with me to advance my legislation to address scams targeting Tribes and Tribal members, as well as my legislation with Rep. Gianforte to ensure that tribal health authorities can access the data they need to keep their communities safe and respond to COVID-19 and other public health threats.

Whether it's access to broadband, running water, or health care, the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated many longstanding inequities in our country. Though today's markup is an important step forward, this Committee has more work to do.

There are a number of bills with strong bipartisan support that are not on today's agenda—bills that would make a difference for the American people and the people of New Mexico. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this Committee and with the Chairman and our Ranking Member to move some of these bills before the end of the year.

Thank you, and I look forward to working together with you.