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Secretary Trujillo Commends Governor's Signature of the Energy Transition Act

SANTA FE – New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Secretary Lynn Trujillo on Friday commended Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for signing into law Senate Bill 489, the Energy Transition Act, landmark legislation establishing New Mexico as a national leader in clean energy, requiring increased renewable energy statewide while specifically providing workforce training as well as transition assistance to communities affected by moving away from the use of coal power.

The new law transitions New Mexico away from coal and toward clean energy, ensures greater renewable energy production, reduces costs for consumers, and provides tens of millions of dollars in economic and workforce support for communities impacted by coal plant closures.

“The Act supports Native communities in the San Juan County region who will be impacted by the closure of the San Juan Generating Station,” said Secretary Trujillo. She credits the inclusion of Native communities to Senator Benny Shendo Jr.’s leadership in proposing vital amendments to the bill.

“With the signing of this historic legislation into law, we are seeing the protection of our natural resources as well as taking better care of our lands,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez. “I would also like to acknowledge the number of dollars that were set aside in this bill for economic development and for the workforce, for those plant workers to be able to be assisted in learning a new trade, in this case, we would like to encourage more education and teaching in the renewable energy industry.”

“Senate Bill 489 marks a new era in New Mexico’s economic future,” said Senator Benny Shendo. “By increasing the renewable energy requirements for both investor owned utilities and rural electric cooperatives, it will provide others the opportunity to engage in the energy production space, including tribes. We look forward to a cleaner and safer environment for our children.”

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