

**SENATOR TOM UDALL: SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO JOBS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Tom knows that good jobs are the foundation for healthy families and thriving communities. That's why he has fought to make sure New Mexico gets the resources needed to meet the state's boundless potential.

Tom has worked hard throughout his career in Congress to support workers, families, and small businesses in New Mexico. As a **senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee** and the **Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation**, Tom has worked to direct federal resources to support New Mexico's creative economy, diversify the state's economy, ensure national laboratories take advantage of innovative services from New Mexico small businesses, invest in trade infrastructure, and protect New Mexico consumer safety and financial security.

"Together, we have worked to build an economy that works for all New Mexico families – a New Mexico where our children can stay in their home state, have every opportunity to succeed, and raise families of their own. I've worked hard throughout my career to tackle income inequality, support our national laboratories while diversifying New Mexico's economy, invest in our communities, and help create good-paying jobs by promoting the creative economy, tourism, trade, small businesses, and infrastructure." -U.S. Senator Tom Udall

Supporting New Mexico's Creative Economy

As an ardent support of the arts, Tom appreciates the contributions of New Mexico's unique arts community to the state's economy and culture. The arts, cultural education and cultural tourism industry employs 1 in 10 New Mexicans. Tom has introduced legislation to help the New Mexico arts industry grow, including:

- Introducing the **Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the Economy (CREATE) Act**, to ensure that artistic entrepreneurs, artists, galleries, and museums across the country can access resources and programs to help grow their businesses and share their artwork.
- As the top Democrat on the **Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies**, Tom has helped increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities year after year. Both organizations provide grants to arts organizations in New Mexico.

Ensuring Our National Labs Strengthen Local Economies

Throughout his career, Tom has fought to support Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories because of their critical role ensuring American security and the vital economic foundation they provide for New Mexico. Tom has worked hard to make sure that national labs in New Mexico are not only prepared to face changing national security threats, but also contribute to the communities they call home. Tom has introduced legislation to ensure the technology and contracting jobs from national labs benefit New Mexico, including:

- The **Accelerating Technology Transfer to Advance Innovation for the Nation (ATTAIN) Act**, legislation that would streamline the process for moving cutting-edge research and development from our national labs into New Mexico businesses. Tom has championed technology transfer as a way to advance high-tech industries and create jobs in New Mexico.
 - ◆ Tom successfully passed portions of the ATTAIN Act in the FY2019 budget for our national labs, while increasing the budget by **\$4 million** for the government department tasked with helping the Department of Energy expand the commercial impact of technological research, development and deployment.
- Securing over **\$18 million** for the Air Force Research Laboratory in New Mexico for technology transfer in the FY2019 federal budget.
- Ensuring that the Los Alamos National Laboratory's management and operations renewal included subcontracting provisions to prioritize New Mexico local small businesses, while explicitly requiring LANL's plans to engage with the local governments and invest in the community.

Working for Smart Trade Policies to Benefit New Mexico

In addition to shaping New Mexico's culture and history, Tom knows that New Mexico's location as a border state benefits the entire economy. Tom has worked with communities on the border, farmers, and business leaders to develop and defend smart trade policy to create jobs and steer commerce through New Mexico, including:

- Strong support for a **\$10 million investment in the expansion of the Santa Teresa Port of Entry**, laying the groundwork for Santa Teresa as an important commercial link in 2010.
- Working with the General Services Administration and the Senate Appropriations Committee to secure **\$86 million for new construction at the Columbus Port of Entry**.
- Helping secure strong labor and environmental protections in renewed trade agreements between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.
- Successfully **defending New Mexico's local papers from damaging tariffs** that the Trump administration proposed to imported newsprint, supporting the businesses providing local journalism throughout the state.
- Consistently **elevating the concerns of New Mexico dairy farmers to the highest levels of government** following retaliatory dairy tariffs from the Trump administration's ill-advised steel and aluminum tariffs.

Strengthening New Mexico Infrastructure

Tom has fought hard as a member of both the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation to improve New Mexico's roads, bridges, broadband and other critical infrastructure. Tom has secured important funding for New Mexico infrastructure, including:

- **Championing broadband access for rural areas and Tribal communities.** Tom has worked to increase dedicated funding for rural broadband in government funding bills and in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Tom has also introduced and cosponsored legislation to foster rural and Tribal broadband deployment. Tom believes that bridging the digital divide is essential for all New Mexico communities and Tribes so that no one is left behind in today's information-based economy.
- Fighting against proposed cuts to eventually **triple funding for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program** from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion. This resulted in an increase for the rural set aside to 30 percent from 20 percent of the total amount, meaning that rural infrastructure programs received an increase from \$100 million in Fiscal Year 2017 to \$450 million in Fiscal Year 2018 under the program.
- **Defending the critical Southwest Chief rail route** against proposed cuts. In New Mexico, the Southwest Chief serves several communities, including Raton, Las Vegas, Lamy, Albuquerque, and Gallup.

Protecting New Mexico Consumer Safety And Financial Security

Since serving as New Mexico's Attorney General, Tom has always focused on making sure New Mexico consumers get the best value for their money – and that smart government guidelines and independent watchdogs keep them safe from harmful or dangerous products. Tom improved consumer safety by focusing on legislation including:

- **Shielding consumers from getting hit with cell phone "bill shock"** from unexpected data and roaming charges. After Tom pushed the Federal Communications Commission to develop rules that would prevent these charges, Tom's action motivated wireless companies to alert consumers when they are approaching the end of their monthly voice and data contract limits, or when they are about to incur international roaming charges.
- Leading the call to **improve standards for youth football helmets and to look for ways to prevent concussions in youth sports.** Tom led efforts in Congress to improve equipment safety standards and curb false advertising claims, focusing on ensuring parents, coaches and players have the information they need to make important decisions about how to prevent head injuries. He also supported data collection on this issue so that public health authorities can better document and prevent traumatic brain injuries.
- Keeping New Mexico's children safe from drunk driving so that families are no longer torn apart by the loss of loved ones from impaired drivers. Tom introduced the bipartisan **RIDE Act** in 2019 to invest in technology that would prevent drunk drivers from starting their car.

- **Closing loopholes for predatory lenders** by introducing the Stopping Abuse and Fraud in Electronic (SAFE) Lending Act. The SAFE Lending Act would crack down on the worst practices of the online payday lending industry and give states more power to protect consumers from predatory loans.
- **Protecting New Mexicans from COVID-19 scams**, introducing legislation to empower the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and state attorneys general to better hold bad actors accountable for defrauding consumers during the public health emergency.