



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary
Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

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EMNRD Cabinet Secretary joins Congressional Leaders and U.S. Department of Energy Secretary for Energy Roundtable

Albuquerque – Today Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst joined a roundtable hosted by Senator Martin Heinrich with Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Jennifer Granholm, and business and union leaders. The discussion focused on New Mexico's success in expanding the state's renewable energy and transmission infrastructure and the associated economic benefits to rural areas.

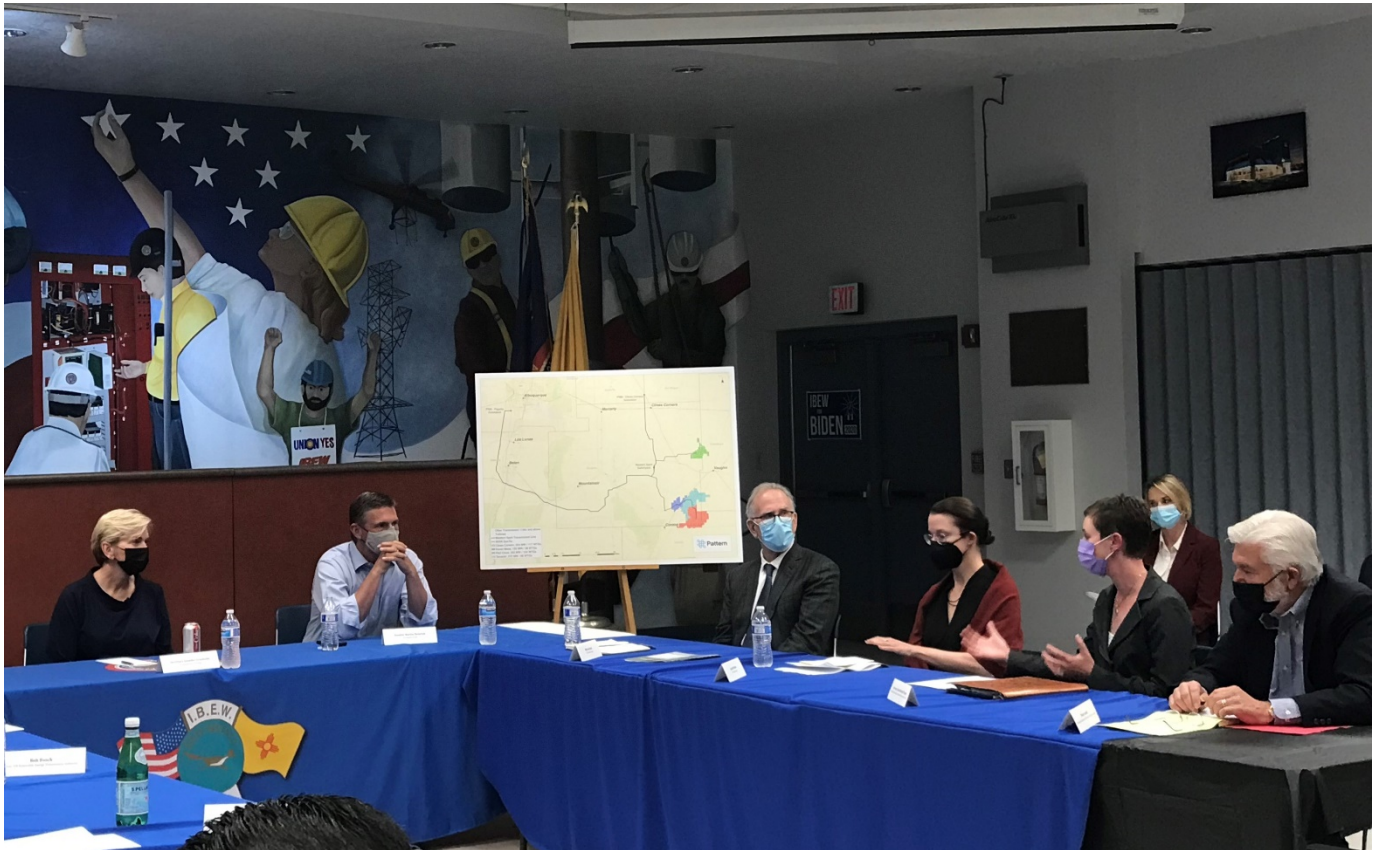
The event highlighted New Mexico's rapid progress expanding renewable energy generation and transmission, and explored how federal programs, regulations, and support can promote additional transmission line construction, further growing the wind and solar industry across the state. By investing in transmission, New Mexico can create local jobs, reduce emissions, and meet the ambitious milestones laid out in the Energy Transition Act.

"New Mexico is a leader in renewable energy and transmission business and policy," said EMNRD Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. "Between passage of the Energy Transition Act, work to modernize our electric grid, and our cross-government collaboration to attract renewable energy companies to New Mexico, we've made great progress. With strong federal, business, and non-governmental partners we can expand dramatically on those successes in the future."

Held at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 611 offices in Albuquerque, representatives from the Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, Pattern Energy, and IBEW were also in attendance. Attendees discussed the Western Spirit Transmission Project which will connect more than 800 megawatts of wind power to the New Mexico grid and create hundreds of jobs in rural communities. The project is an example of the importance of expanding transmission lines across the state to facilitate renewable energy in New Mexico.



From left: Fernando Martinez, Executive Director Renewable Energy Transmission Authority; U.S. Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury; Mike Garland, CEO Pattern Energy; U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich; U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm; Bob Busch, Chair Renewable Energy Transmission Authority; Brian Condit, Business Manager International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 611; EMNRD Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst; and Sarah Webster, Vice President Pattern Energy.



Secretary Cottrell Propst addresses Secretary Granholm about New Mexico's renewable energy progress and opportunities.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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