

For Immediate Release

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

Contact:

Senator Jeff Steinborn: 575-635-5615

Senator Benny Shendo: (575) 834-7359

Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director, New Energy Economy, 505-469-4060

Press Conference Date & Time: Monday, January 28, 2019, 3:00pm

Where: Senate Majority Office Conference Room, Roundhouse

### **Senators Steinborn & Shendo Introduce Local Choice Energy Act, the Gold Standard for Energy Democracy**

Today, Senators Jeff Steinborn (D-36, Doña Ana) and Benny Shendo (D-22, Bernalillo, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan and Sandoval) introduced a groundbreaking piece of legislation, Local Choice Energy Act to open up New Mexico's electricity markets to competition and put local communities in control of who supplies their energy.

Local Choice Energy, adopted in seven states (often referred to as "Community Choice Aggregation") will allow any local government or tribal government in New Mexico to pool their electricity demand and become local energy choice providers. Through the legislation, municipalities, counties, and sovereign Native American tribes will be able to secure electricity supplies based on criteria defined by the local community. Newly formed local energy choice providers will work with the investor owned utility in their service area to transmit and distribute that electricity.

"Right now we are all forced into one energy provider that has monopoly power over us. That simply works against everything that can serve our community well, whether it is using competition to get better prices or enabling our ability to choose clean energy that creates jobs with New Mexico companies. We deserve that choice." said Senator Jeff Steinborn. "It is time for energy freedom for New Mexicans and that is why we have introduced this legislation."

"Local Choice Energy will allow Pueblos and municipalities to group the energy needs of its members and then purchase or produce the electricity to meet that need. Any surplus can be sold and Pueblos can use the proceeds from those sales to reinvest

them back into our communities. In this way we provide both clean energy and create economic investment for our communities. It's a win win," said Senator Benny Shendo.

"PNM has 3% solar and EPE has 1% solar on their systems respectively. With local choice energy communities are empowered to make energy decisions aligned with their values and dramatically increase their use of renewable energy, reinvest energy savings dollars back into their community and increase jobs," said Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director of New Energy Economy.

Las Cruces Mayor Pro Tem Councilor Gill Sorg will speak as will a representative from the All Pueblo Councilor of Governors.