



News Release

Contact: Tobias Sellier, APPA Senior Communications Specialist, 202/467-2927

SENATOR JEFF BINGAMAN HONORED BY NATIONAL ENERGY GROUP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Washington, D.C., March 14, 2012 —Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, today received the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Public Service Award at the association's Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C. This award, initiated in 1978, recognizes a publicly elected or appointed official at the national or state level whose activities have furthered the objectives of public power.

During his five terms in the Senate, Bingaman has fully embraced the public power business model and the concept of public enterprise. He's also worked to prevent market power and manipulation in the electricity industry. During the debate leading up to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct05), Bingaman staunchly defended against outright repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act without some additional protections being included to ensure continued Federal Energy Regulatory Commission review of mergers.

“Throughout his career, Chairman Bingaman has understood the need for public power, and has opposed efforts to legislate us out of business,” said APPA President & CEO Mark Crisson. “We'll miss his leadership in Congress.”

The state of New Mexico has seven public power systems serving more than 75,000 customers.

###

APPA is the national service organization for the nation's more than 2,000 community- and state-owned electric utilities serving 46 million people.