

BY MARTIN HEINRICH

In April 2024, Array Technologies broke ground on a new 216,000-square-foot manufacturing campus on the west side of Albuquerque. About the size of three football fields, the campus represents an investment of over \$50 million and is expected to employ over 300 New Mexicans. Array Technologies produces solar tracking technology, a technology that continuously adjusts the position of solar panels to make sure they're always facing the sun — increasing energy production by almost 45% compared to solar panels that don't move at all. One worker at Array Technologies said: "If we can use all that sun, we can change the world."

Array Technologies is just one example of New Mexico's long and proud tradition of creating clean energy and protecting our public lands and natural resources. From the SunZia wind farm and transmission grid project, to the Arcosa Wind Towers manufacturing plant, our state's leadership in clean energy doesn't just move us closer to a clean energy future. It creates good jobs and builds our local economies, too.

The economic impact of companies like Array Technologies, Arcosa and Pattern Energy, which is building SunZia, would not be possible without thoughtful federal policy. All three received production tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act. In fact, across New Mexico, federal investment has dramatically accelerated how much clean energy we produce. Since the passage of the IRA, \$4.4 billion in investments have created more than 4,500 new jobs. These federal incentives and energy tax credits in turn are expected to boost income for New Mexico residents by \$7 billion over the next decade.

But the latest budget from Republicans in Congress will reverse this progress. They want to cut manufacturing incentives for clean energy projects, a move that would jeopardize thousands of jobs and threaten billions of dollars in New Mexico investments.

It's a reckless move that will hurt hardworking New Mexico families — because Republicans' cuts in the proposed budget won't just be an economic gut-punch to our state. It will also be an economic gut-punch to our monthly energy prices.

This is because under the last budget, New Mexico businesses weren't the only ones to receive incentives that made it cheaper to produce clean energy. New Mexico families also received tax credits to install energy efficient appliances or rooftop solar, which makes it cheaper to use electricity in our homes. The Republican budget proposal cuts these, too, a move that will raise prices for families in our state.

This is short-sighted for many reasons, first of which is because we know that renewable energy is now the cheapest form of electricity. Last year, renewable energy dominated in adding power to the grid. It was responsible for more than 93% of new power generation nationwide. This is at the same time as overall energy demand increases, across our state and across the country. People want more power, and we need to meet that demand.

If these budget cuts are made, New Mexico families and small businesses will be the ones to pay the

price. According to a recent analysis, households in our state would see electricity bills go up 17%. Businesses would face 25% price hikes in 2026.

That's money many hardworking New Mexico families simply don't have. With some of the highest poverty rates in the nation, energy costs hit low-income and rural households especially hard. Families below the poverty line spend an average of 20% of their income on energy — five times what's considered affordable — and in some areas, that number reaches 37%. For many, a \$200 hike in utility bills means choosing between groceries and power, skipping a car payment or saying no to a child's after-school activity.

The move would also put 11,800 potential new jobs in our state at risk, jobs that have been announced by clean energy projects that are not yet completed.

And it's not just New Mexico that would pay the price for Republicans in Congress gutting clean energy investment. By next year, some states would see increases of up to \$225 per household in their annual electricity bills — meaning families across our country will be making these same hard decisions, too.

The effects are staggering. If federal investments are repealed, we're looking at up to \$50 billion in lost clean technology exports and 1 million fewer jobs in 2030 across the United States. The truth is this Republican budget plan doesn't make things better: It actively makes them worse. By raising costs and cutting jobs, it will reduce your and your neighbor's quality of life — all to prioritize tax giveaways for the billionaire class.

I am fighting against this outrageous budget proposal, and I ask all of you to stand with me. Tell Republicans in Congress that when they cut these investments, they are not only attacking our affordable, clean energy boom — they are raising costs for the families and businesses that are the lifeblood of our state.