



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Governor Bill Richardson Signs Innovative Energy Bills Also Signs Bills Allowing Purchase of Land to Build and Expand State Parks

For Immediate release

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today signed legislation relating to energy, the environment, and state parks.

Here are Governor Richardson's prepared remarks from the signing, which took place at the New Mexico Audubon Society's Randall Davey Center in Santa Fe:

"I am here today to say New Mexico *can* have it all. We *can* build a prosperous, high-wage economy, we *can* become a leader in renewable energy production, we *can* have responsible development *and* create beautiful parks to honor our history and culture and provide recreation for our families. We can do all this, *and* protect and preserve our environment and precious natural resources. I made that promise during the campaign, and I'm here today to sign important legislation to help us move closer to that goal.

The bold step we are taking today would not be possible without the unique partnership we've built among government agencies, the legislature, private industry, the general public, and environmental groups. I believe these kinds of partnerships, bringing diverse groups together to reach a common goal, are what must be achieved to realize true progress in these tough fiscal and regulatory times. I would like to personally thank the partners who have joined us today- would you please stand up and be recognized?

It's a new era- the **clean energy era**- in New Mexico, and the people in this room are helping to make it happen.

Here are the bills I'll be signing today:

SB 43- Public Utility Renewable Energy Rules

I am proud to say that New Mexico is continuing on its way to becoming a leader in clean, renewable energy production. The nation is taking notice- and **Senate Bill 43, sponsored by Senator Roman Maes**, is a key part of this effort. This bill requires energy producers to make a serious commitment to renewable energy production- wind, solar, biomass- and include it in their production base. Imagine, industry, government, and environmental groups- unlikely allies who used to fight about everything- working together for economic development *and* to protect the environment.

HB 251-Advanced Energy Technology Development Act

House Bill 251, sponsored by Representative Nick Salazar, sets up a program for us to invest around the state in hydrogen and other cutting-edge energy technologies. Through this energy fund, we are going to convert schools, state buildings, and non-profits to clean energy sources, just as I promised during the campaign.

SB 86- Excise Tax Abatement for Fuel Efficient Vehicles

We're going to encourage people to use more fuel-efficient vehicles, and we're going to give them money to do it, in a way. **Senate Bill 86, sponsored by Senator Carlos Cisneros**, sets up a tax abatement program for people who buy highly efficient new cars. This does several things at once- helps reduce pollution, invests in new technology, and saves people money.

STATE PARKS

Finally today, I am proud to say that this year we will make a significant investment in our state parks- **\$5.7 million dollars in capital and operating costs**- to create, expand, and improve State Parks across New Mexico.

SB 326- Purchase land with proceeds from other sales

Senate Bill 326, Sponsored by Senator Don Kidd, allows the state to use the proceeds from the sale of the Cottonwood-Walnut Creek property in Eddy County to purchase land to for state parks. The proceeds, expected to be approximately \$900,000, will be matched with federal funds, to provide a total of one-point-eight million. These funds will be used to expand and improve Sugarite and Manzano State Parks, and can also be used to purchase land for other parks as well. This is another example of the legislature and state agencies working together to benefit all New Mexicans.

Also included in the money I announced are:

- \$2 million to build and operate New Mexico's thirty-third State Park- Mesilla Valley Bosque Park in Dona Ana County. We are working to build a partnership among the State Parks Division, private landowners, the International Boundary and Water Commission, Bureau of Land management, and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District to manage the park.
- \$1.7 million to purchase land for new parks or expand existing parks.

The legislature got behind our efforts this session, and approved key portions of our parks plans:

- The Legislature approved a transfer of land from the Game and Fish department to State Parks, so we can create Eagle Nest State Park- a promise I made during the campaign that I want to be completed by July 4th.
- The legislature also approved our plans to negotiate the possibility of taking over the operation of the Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial at Angel Fire.

And lastly, I have committed \$3.5 million for the city of Albuquerque to secure the purchase of 111 acres of old Taylor Ranch land to prevent development on the land, and eventually make it part of Rio Grande State Park.

This Governor, this administration will continue to work to protect the lands that are so important to our heritage, our culture, and our future.”

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