

January 23, 2009

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 1

The Honorable Ben Luján and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable Speaker Luján and Members of the House:

I have this day SIGNED:

HOUSE BILL 1, as amended with emergency clause

enacted by the Forty-Ninth Legislature, First Session, 2009.

While I am concerned that the funding contained in the bill was higher than that recommended by either the Executive or the Legislative Finance Committee and does not reflect the level of fiscal restraint we are implementing across state government, I signed it as a gesture of good faith to the legislature as we move forward to tackle the broader budget issues facing the state. Critically, in HB1 the legislature requested expanded budget adjustment authority for their agencies, which allows for greater flexibility in redirecting operating funds to key areas in tight budget conditions. This is an authority I will also seek going forward for executive agencies for the same reason, and so I honored the legislature's request.

It is my hope that the signing of HB1 in its entirety puts the executive and legislative branches on track to face the challenges ahead in a cooperative manner.

Respectfully yours,

Bill Richardson
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.

Date: _____ 2009

by:

Chief Clerk of the House

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.

Date: _____ 2009

by:

Secretary of State