

State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson and U.S. Senator Pete Domenici urge legislators to pass “Jobs First” money

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson teamed up with U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today in urging the state Legislature to work in a bipartisan partnership to pass crucial money for economic growth. Governor Richardson and Senator Domenici said the money is a key part of the “Jobs First” program they formed shortly after the governor’s election.

Governor Bill Richardson issued the following statement after a meeting with Senator Domenici:

I want to thank my good friend, Senator Domenici, for being here today. As you may remember, the Senator and I teamed up shortly after my election in November to create the “Jobs First” program to bring and keep quality, high-wage jobs in New Mexico.

We intend to follow through with that commitment, which is why we are here today. Senator Domenici and I are urging the Legislature to work in a bipartisan partnership to approve crucial appropriations related to our “Jobs First” effort.

The Legislature already passed -- unanimously -- my plan to cut personal-income and capital gains taxes. Once again, I thank them for overlooking partisan differences and doing what was best for the state of New Mexico.

Now, we – the Senator and I – hope the Legislature works with us to pass a host of other tax incentives and new appropriations for innovative programs that will give us the tools to recruit businesses to New Mexico.

Perhaps the most important piece of that package is a \$3 million appropriation for marketing and recruitment. It’s one of my major initiatives. It’s part of the Governor’s budget. I encourage the House and Senate to include this important economic development proposal in the budget.

We need that money to supplement efforts of local economic development organizations all across the state. The goal is to contract with private, non-profit groups that will market the state and recruit new industry. I will work with Senator Domenici on recruitment efforts and trade missions.

We are also pressing legislators to support:

- Increase trade with Mexico
- Enact targeted economic incentives for high-tech industries, rural development and higher wages.
- Protect our four military bases and two national labs.

Senator Pete Domenici and I will continue meeting on this important and historic initiative. We have both pledged to hold public briefings outlining specific steps as needed during this effort.

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