

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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**GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON ACCEPTS
HISTORIC INVITATION
TO WORLD ECONOMIC CONFERENCE**

Santa Fe: New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson will take the state's economic development plan to the international stage this week. The Governor has accepted an invitation to participate in the 2003 World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. The World Economic Forum is the world's foremost gathering of leaders of business, government, international organizations, and the media. Governor Bill Richardson is the first New Mexico Governor ever to be invited to this exclusive event.

While Governor Richardson received an invitation from the organizers of the World Economic Forum, his attendance was requested by both political leaders and business executives eager to discuss New Mexico with the new Governor. The Governor has scheduled meetings with several corporate executives with a specific goal of encouraging them to open facilities in New Mexico or expand existing operations another enormous job opportunity for New Mexico is contracts. "I will encourage firms to contract with New Mexico companies both large and small," Governor Richardson said.

"I have made it clear that creating a high wage economy is a major priority of my administration," said Governor Richardson. "The World Economic Forum is a unique and exciting one-stop shop for many businesses we would love to bring to New Mexico. There are real opportunities to create new deals and hopefully move forward with some already in the works. This is something I simply could not pass up."

The Governor will take part in several events and activities, including three different panels on world issues, meeting with the top management of important companies, and gathering informally with other leaders from around the world.

Rick Homans, New Mexico Secretary for Economic Development, will accompany Governor Richardson on the trip to Davos. "This can potentially benefit the entire state," said Secretary Homans. No state money will be spent on the trip to Davos. "We want Governor Richardson and his Economic Development Secretary, Rick Homans to recruit quality businesses to New Mexico and help our existing firms. We are excited about this historic trip," Gary Tonges, President of the Albuquerque Economic Development, said.

Governor Richardson and Secretary Homans will be meeting with executives from many different multinational corporations, such as the Fluor Corporation and United Parcel Service, and Time Warner Communications. They will join the leaders of many other large, successful corporations at the WEF, including Bill Gates, Founder and Chairman of Microsoft, Philip Condit, Chairman and CEO of the Boeing Company, Raymond Viault, Vice Chairman of General Mills, and many more. The WEF runs from January 23-January 27, and includes 2,150 participants from 99 countries.