

# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

For immediate release  
6/3/03

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### **GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON ASKS PUBLIC FOR IDEAS TO IMPROVE STATE GOVERNMENT**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today asked New Mexico citizens to join the effort to make state government more efficient. As part of the New Mexico Performance Review project, citizens are encouraged to call a toll-free number or e-mail the Governor's Office with suggestions for improving government services or saving taxpayer money.

Citizens can access the Performance Review web page through the Governor's web site at [www.governor.state.nm.us](http://www.governor.state.nm.us), or by calling 1-866-667-2338.

Governor Richardson delivered the following remarks at a news conference in Santa Fe:

#### **Performance Review remarks**

During the first months of my administration, I've reiterated that I am serious about making state government more efficient. We're scrubbing the state budget for fat, duplication, and outmoded regulations that no longer make any sense, if they ever did.

Already, my cabinet secretaries have found more than \$21 million in tax savings by cutting unnecessary contracts. I expect more savings before we're done.

But we needed to dig deeper - not to cut government for the sake of cutting government. Rather, my goal is to reshape state government into the kind of high-quality, low-cost customer service operation every New Mexican demands.

In addition to the thorough review we're conducting, there are two other ways to find out which areas of state government need to be improved, and which areas should be cut. The first is to ask state employees who deliver services every day. They know what works. And they know what doesn't.

As part of the New Mexico Performance Review process, we've asked state employees for their input. Guess what? We logged more than 6,000 survey responses, generating about 4,000 fresh ideas for improving government. We're sifting through those ideas now, and narrowing them down to usable recommendations.

Let me give you a few examples of what my Performance Review has come up with, so far:

- One idea is to cut back on the number of postage stamps we give to inmates in state prisons. They get as many as five stamps a week. That's over and above their legal correspondence. By cutting back on stamps state taxpayers save as much as \$100,000 a year. That's not unreasonable. At the same time we still allow inmates to have postage to stay in communication with their families. I know that's important.
- Another simple idea is to retrofit fixtures and equipment to save up to \$800,000 in energy costs. This idea fits nicely with my plan to make state government buildings more energy efficient.
- We may be able to flatten the management structure of state government. My team has told me that many employees are misclassified as managers. We will change that.
- Currently, state agencies use four different e-mail systems. Nineteen agencies run their own e-mail systems, and 13 agencies contract for services. We think we can save \$1 million by consolidating these services.

These are just ideas at this point. But you never know what might add to this effort. And while we may eliminate some state positions that aren't necessary, we will NOT lay off employees. The intent is to streamline government.

Which brings me to the second phase of this effort. Now I want to broaden the outreach to include New Mexico citizens - the customers of state government. After all, it's their state government. All New Mexicans depend on its services and taxpayers foot the bill.

We've set up a special hotline at 1-866-667-2338. It's toll-free and anonymous. Or log onto our Web site at [www.governor.state.nm.us](http://www.governor.state.nm.us). I want citizens to let me know what they think works in state government, and what doesn't. Whether you are a taxpayer, a customer of state services, a state employee on the front lines, or simply a concerned citizen, I want to hear from you. Your ideas can help shape New Mexico state government for years to come.

And when the New Mexico Performance Review team has completed its work, I will deliver a blueprint to the people of New Mexico with highly specific recommendations for cutting costs and improving customer service throughout state government. Each recommendation will have a detailed fiscal analysis and fit into a comprehensive legislative package for lawmakers to implement.