



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**

*Governor*

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Contact: Billy Sparks  
505.476.2299

## **Governor Bill Richardson continues to strengthen New Mexico's Film Industry**

### **Economic Impact to New Mexico up 1,000%**

Governor Bill Richardson will be in Los Angeles for a series of meetings with Hollywood executives, including film producer Rob Reiner and executives from Paramount Pictures to promote New Mexico's rapidly growing film industry.

Governor Bill Richardson will chair a forum with major film industry leaders and location managers to urge them to consider New Mexico's competitive film production incentive program. The forum will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel Friday morning.

"We're here to tell you what New Mexico has to offer - to maximize your production dollars and production value - and to listen to your opinions and ideas on what it will take to bring your upcoming projects to the State of New Mexico and keep this industry in the United States," Governor Bill Richardson said in prepared remarks for today's meetings. "New Mexico's film industry is experiencing an unprecedented boom - the economic impact from film has risen 1,000 %, going from \$8 million to \$80 million in just one year. Our talented crew base is expanding rapidly, with more technical and creative talent coming to New Mexico every day."

Governor Bill Richardson, working with the New Mexico Legislature, enacted several proactive initiatives aimed at attracting more film production in the state. The incentives include:

- No-interest loans - up to \$7.5 million per project - for qualified feature projects
- A 15% rebate on all film expenditures taxable in the State of New Mexico - with no cap - that applies to both production and post-production costs.
- Workforce Training money for companies that use New Mexico production crews.
- Free use of 800 state buildings and 800,000 acres of state land available
- "Be Our Guest" program, which offers free hotels, meals and rentals cars, and full access to our experienced locations team
- Free access to our Film Office's Native American Casting database with 1100 participants

Governor Bill Richardson also announced that he will also be perfecting legislation to offer the 15% rebate up front, and his administration is working with the unions to form a non-profit prop, scene and wardrobe inventory available to productions for free.



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“Don’t just take it from us – ask the filmmakers who have worked with us in the last eighteen months,” Governor Bill Richardson said, referring to Tom Cruise and Paula Wagner who produced “Suspect Zero”, Ron Howard, producer of “The Missing” (which premieres in Santa Fe next Thursday), the Tony Hillerman novels, “Thief of Time” and “Coyote Waits” for PBS, and Joel Zwick and Tova Leiter’s “Elvis Has Left the Building”, starring Kim Basinger.

The trip is being paid for by Moving America Forward. The governor will also attend various fund-raisers for his Political Action Committee. He will return to New Mexico Friday night.