



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson reacts to decision On Hobbs race track

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today issued the following statement following the decision by the New Mexico Racing Commission to award Zia Partners a license to operate a race track in Hobbs:

“During the campaign I promised the people of Hobbs that they would get a racetrack if they wanted one. They said they did. In the early days of my administration, I set in motion an independent process that ended today with the selection of the Zia Partners. Today, that promise to the people of Hobbs has been kept. This action mean millions of dollars in new economic activity for eastern New Mexico and hundreds of new jobs for the people of Lea County.

“Now the real work begins. The New Mexico Racing Commission will continue to monitor and oversee the progress and make sure that the winner adheres to all his commitments both to the state and to the community of Hobbs. Zia Partners has submitted a comprehensive plan that lays out an ambitious timetable for development. The Racing Commission will serve as an ongoing watchdog for the state in this matter.

“This was an independent decision reached by the Racing Commission based strictly on the individual merits of the applications, their overall financial capabilities and their experience in horse racing. I want to commend all the applicants for their professional presentations and their desire to invest in New Mexico. The independent consultant played an important role in verifying the viability of the plans submitted by the

applicants. I look forward to seeing this process through to a very successful conclusion for New Mexico and for Hobbs. I am sure there will be other opportunities for the unsuccessful applicants as we continue to build a high wage economy throughout New Mexico.

“As I have stated before, personal, political and financial relationships were not a factor in the decision making process. The Racing Commission, not my office or me, made the final decision. Again, I commend all the applicants and congratulate Zia Partners and the people of Hobbs.”