



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Gilbert Gallegos
505.476.2217

Governor Bill Richardson to meet with top Pentagon brass on base closure, Secretary Mineta & members of Congress on commuter rail

SANTA FE - New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson will meet Tuesday with Pentagon officials to make the case for keeping the state's four military bases off the next base closure list.

Governor Richardson is scheduled to meet Tuesday morning with Raymond F. Duboise, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations & Environment. Mr. Duboise is Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's lead official in charge of the base-closure process.

"The state of New Mexico is making a substantial financial commitment to keeping our four military bases off the closure list," Governor Bill Richardson said. "Now, I'm putting my experience to work by personally traveling to Washington to meet with top-level officials to make the case for New Mexico's military bases. These bases are too important to the state and to the communities of Albuquerque, Clovis, Alamogordo and Las Cruces and to the national defense. I am committed to doing everything in my power to convince the Pentagon of the significance of the missions at each of these installations."

Commuter Rail

While in Washington, Governor Richardson and New Mexico Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught will meet Tuesday with U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta about New Mexico's plans for commuter rail projects. Governor Richardson wants New Mexico to become a key western state in the area of rail transportation. The Governor

will push for federal matching funds for rail projects between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, Belen and Albuquerque, and El Paso and Albuquerque.

Governor Richardson and Secretary Faught will also meet with key members of Congress, including:

- U.S. Representative Don Young, Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
- U.S. Senator Richard Shelby, Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Housing and Urban Affairs
- U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, ranking member of Committee on Banking and Housing and Urban Affairs

- U.S. Representative William Lipinski, member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
- U.S. Representative Corrine Brown, member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Governor Richardson will also meet with national Democratic Party Chairman Terry McAuliffe to discuss the upcoming Democratic National Convention. Governor Richardson is chairman of the convention.

The Democratic Governors' Association is paying for Governor Richardson's travel. He will return Tuesday night.

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