



Governor Bill Richardson Applauds WGA Passage of Innovative Clean Energy Resolution

Governor Richardson co-sponsored resolution with California Governor Schwarzenegger

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SANTA FE, NM- New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today commended the members of the Western Governors' Association who today unanimously passed the "Western Clean and Diversified Energy" resolution. The action came during the final session of the WGA's annual conference being held in Santa Fe. The resolution was jointly crafted by Governor Richardson and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"The time has come to effectively increase the use of the West's vast renewable resources, while we create cleaner technologies for using coal and other traditional resources," said Governor Richardson. "New Mexico is clearly a leader in renewable energy- wind, biomass, solar, and geothermal, and also with research and development for new renewable technologies, such as hydrogen fuel cells. It's important we create a sensible, effective national energy policy that incorporates this technology into the mainstream."

The resolution approved today by the WGA:

- Establishes real, measurable goals for clean energy. It calls for 30,000 megawatts of clean energy to be in place by 2015, a 20% increase in energy efficiency use by 2020, and more aggressive development of wind energy.
- Is a critical step toward reducing America's energy dependence on OPEC.
- Will help states respond to energy shortages and be a part of a diverse national energy portfolio, saving consumers billions of dollars.

- Calls for the formation of a working group that will be responsible for developing plans and policies for achieving the goals, and represents an opportunity for the West to continue to lead in integrating clean energy into the nation's energy future.

“By passing this resolution we will be sending a clear message that the west understands the need to create a sensible, achievable energy policy, and western governors care about meeting the energy needs of its population while sustaining a healthy environment,” Governor Richardson added.

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