



## **Governor Bill Richardson Calls Western Governors' Association Meeting in New Mexico A Success For The West**

### **500 Conference Attendees give economic boost to Santa Fe and the state**

For Immediate Release  
June 22, 2004

Contact: Billy Sparks  
505.476.2299

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson is calling the Western Governors' Association (WGA) annual meeting that concluded today in Santa Fe, a success for western states and for New Mexico's economy.

"We tackled many of the serious issues facing our individual states and the western region - wildfire, drought, and energy, and found a great deal of consensus for taking action and finding solutions," said Governor Richardson, who served as WGA Chairman during the past year. "We also unanimously passed a resolution calling for a unified western presidential primary by 2008, which will push these critical issues and concerns onto the priority list for national candidates."

Governor Richardson also noted that the City of Santa Fe, and the state were also winners because of the WGA conference, which was attended by more than 500 people, many of whom brought their families with them to New Mexico.

"The conference attendees and their guests stayed in our hotels, ate in our restaurants and definitely did a lot of shopping," the Governor said. "I also think New Mexico's beauty, history, culture, and many attractions impressed a lot of our visitors, and many of them will be back."

In addition to the resolution calling for a unified western presidential primary, Governor Richardson said he is proud of what he and his fellow governors accomplished at this year's intense 3-day conference:

- Governors passed a resolution to create a clean and diversified energy plan for the west, that establishes measurable goals, creates a realistic strategy to reduce US dependence on foreign oil, and will help break the cycle of out of control energy prices.
- Governors also passed a resolution calling for a national drought policy to help the nation, and specifically western states facing critical water shortages, deal with the severe and prolonged drought.

#30#