



Governor Bill Richardson Travels to Phoenix to Participate in National Leadership Conference

For Immediate Release

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson will highlight New Mexico's innovative economic growth agenda during a panel discussion with three other reform-minded governors.

Governor Richardson was invited to participate in the conference, hosted by the Democratic Leadership Council, because of his successful efforts to boost New Mexico's economy and create high-wage jobs. The theme of the conference, being held in Phoenix, AZ, is "Real Reformers - Real Results."

About 250 elected officials and party leaders from across the nation are meeting for two days to discuss policy initiatives. Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, the presumptive Democratic nominee for President, was scheduled to speak to the DLC this morning.

Governor Richardson will participate on a panel today with three other governors - Janet Napolitano of Arizona, Thomas Vilsack of Iowa and Brad Henry of Oklahoma. Governor Richardson will talk about his successful efforts to cut taxes in New Mexico in order to make the state more competitive; invest millions of dollars in New Mexico businesses; and attract major film productions to the state.

New Mexico Speaker of the House Ben Lujan will also participate in a panel of state and local leaders during today's DLC conference. Speaker Lujan will highlight New Mexico's efforts to improve public schools by implementing a professional salary system for teachers and raising standards for student achievement.

The Democratic Governors Association is paying the travel costs. The Governor will return to New Mexico late Friday. Saturday, he will attend a memorial service in Lovington for Marine Lance Corporal Aaron Austin, who was killed in Iraq last week.

Governor Richardson will also present Corporal Austin's family with the "Spirit of New Mexico" Award.

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