



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
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## **New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and Chihuahua Governor Jose Reyes Baeza Continue to Promote Partnerships on Security, Trade, and Environmental Issues**

SANTA FE— New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and Chihuahua Governor Jose Reyes Baeza today chaired the New Mexico-Chihuahua Commission meeting to discuss border security, trade, and environmental issues between the two states.

“The relationship between New Mexico and Chihuahua is at its best and should be considered a model for US-Mexico cross-border relations,” stated Governor Bill Richardson. “Since taking office New Mexico’s trade with Mexico has tripled, from \$116 million in 2002 to \$357 million in 2004.”

The following announcements were made at the meeting:

- A Border Region Public Safety Table will be created to help create an official venue to share information and issue recommendations to both governors. Members of the table will be representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security, Livestock Board, Corrections and the Border Authority.
- A Letter of Support from Governor Richardson and Governor Jose Reyes Baeza will be sent to both the U.S. Secretary of State and the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations in support of the Sunland Park-Anapra Border Crossing.
- Governor Richardson and Governor Baeza agreed to send a joint letter to the Mexican and American Secretaries of Agriculture in an effort to reach an agreement to lift the ban currently in place restricting the importation of United States cattle into Mexico.
- A “Supplier Meet the Buyer” Trade Show will be held in May of 2006 by the New Mexico-Chihuahua Commission. The purpose of the trade show will be to attract Maquiladora suppliers to both New Mexico and Chihuahua, and match existing NM manufacturers with Maquiladoras in Chihuahua.

Governor Richardson declared a State of Emergency along the border in August to help end the cycle of crime, intimidation and danger that has threatened the safety of our border communities. Since the declaration, both New Mexico and Chihuahua took bold action to crack down on crime. The unprecedented sharing of information between the Chihuahua State Police and Federal, State and Local law enforcement in New Mexico has created effective crime-fighting partnerships to make the region safer for trade and tourism.

“Trade between New Mexico and Mexico is moving forward and helping to create good jobs and grow our local border economies,” stated New Mexico Economic Development Secretary Rick Homans. “New Mexico has identified three major business clusters, Aerospace, Information Technology and Micro Electronic Mechanics, that stand to benefit from doing business with their counterparts in Mexico, specifically with the Maquiladora industry in Chihuahua.”

“The possibilities for creating a greater economic relationship and, as a result, boosting the quality of life for both states, are endless,” said Michael Cerletti, secretary of the New Mexico Tourism Department. “Our efforts have given visitors to both countries the opportunity to see what we have in common - state fairs and fiestas, eco-tourism, adventure travel and scenic byways - as well as our differences.”

The New Mexico-Chihuahua Commission was enacted in the 2003 legislature by Governor Richardson to increase trade with Mexico. At last year’s meeting the Governors signed the New Mexico-Chihuahua Trade Alliance Agreement, which established a formal structure to promote business-to-business import and export opportunities between the two states.

“Technology and education exchange is growing as research centers and universities expand their joint programs to pool economic and intellectual resources within the region,” stated Governor Richardson. “As a result new industries are being created, new companies are attracted to the region, and the number of quality jobs on both sides of the border is increasing.”