



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Bill Richardson Praises Gaylord Nelson as an Environmental Visionary and Fighter for Clean Air, Land and Water**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today released the following statement following the death of environmental leader Gaylord Nelson, the former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator:

Gaylord Nelson was an environmental visionary. I looked up to him as a young Senate staffer in the 1970's. He addressed issues that our world had not yet recognized, such as environmental protection.

As the "Father of Earth Day," Senator Nelson understood that the environment is part of our public health, our economy, and our everyday lives. He brought people together around basic concepts such as clean air and clean water.

As Counselor to The Wilderness Society, Senator Nelson also understood the importance of our public lands – they provide resources, they provide recreation, and they are crucial to the quality of life here in the West and our legacy to future generations.

It would be an understatement that this Nation needs – right now – more Gaylord Nelsons. More senators and representatives who have vision, who think and act inclusively, and who respect the value and importance of environmental protection.

To his family, his friends, and his co-workers I extend my sympathies, and on behalf of New Mexico, our appreciation for his full and productive life of service to our country and our environment.

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