



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor

For immediate release
July 15, 2005

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Governor Bill Richardson encourages new initiative on border traffic

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson signed a letter today with Baja California Governor Eugenio Elorduy Walther that encourages the Secretaries of Homeland Security in the United States and Mexico to expedite work on a bi-national plan to create special border crossing lanes.

The SENTRI (Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection) lanes are designed to allow low-risk commuters quick access at ports between the countries. The goal is to reduce the long lines at most border crossings that result from necessary, but time-consuming border inspections.

“While we respect the need to inspect vehicles as they cross our borders, we must move forward with a plan to move low-risk traffic, including commuters, across the border more efficiently,” Governor Richardson said.

The letter is the result of working during the past year of the Border Governor’s Conference, which wrapped up today in Mexico. Rebecca Montoya, adjutant secretary of the New Mexico Department of Transportation, chaired the border crossing work group, which is overseeing the SENTRI plan.

The letter signed by Governor Richardson and Governor Elorduy Walther, will be sent to U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Mexico Homeland Security Secretary Carlos Abascal Carranza.