



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Receives Commitment from Homeland Security Chief for New Permanent Border Patrol Presence

WASHINGTON, D.C. – New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today received a commitment during a meeting with U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to significantly and permanently increase the number of border patrol agents in New Mexico.

Governor Richardson and New Mexico Homeland Security Director Tim Manning met today in Washington, D.C., with Secretary Chertoff, Randy Beardsworth, the Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, David Aguilar, Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, and Josh Filler, Director of State and Local Government Coordination.

“I had a very productive meeting with Secretary Chertoff, and I am encouraged by the Secretary’s commitment to significantly increase – on a permanent basis – the number of border patrol agents along the New Mexico border with Mexico,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Secretary Chertoff also pledged to work and consult with the State of New Mexico on the development of any new border policy.”

Governor Richardson also discussed a possible summit between Secretary Chertoff and border governors to discuss border security.

Governor Richardson also expressed concern to Secretary Chertoff about the Real ID Act recently passed by Congress and being implemented by the Department of Homeland Security. The Governor told Secretary Chertoff that New Mexico, like most states, faces significant costs if it were to go change its identification requirements.