



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson to be Recognized for Leadership in Fight Against DWI, Speak at MADD 25th Anniversary

Governor Will Also Meet with Bush Administration Officials on Border, Cannon and Agriculture Issues

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson will travel to Washington DC on Saturday, October 1 to attend the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) 25th Annual National Conference. The Governor will be recognized by MADD for his tireless support in the fight against drunk driving. The Governor will also address the conference at 1 p.m. Eastern Time at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave, Washington DC.

On Monday, Governor Richardson will hold a series of meetings in Washington to discuss border security, Cannon Air Force Base, and agriculture issues.

The Governor and New Mexico Homeland Security Director Tim Manning will meet with national Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff concerning border security. Governor Richardson will discuss the Secretary's plans for assignment of additional federal Border Patrol agents to the New Mexico/Mexico border. Governor Richardson will also reiterate his suggestion to the Secretary that governors, state, and local officials become more involved in formulating border policy.

The Governor will hold meetings with military officials to assist in efforts to find a new mission for Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis. The Governor, Chair of the New Mexico Base Planning Commission Hanson Scott and Commission Member Randy Harris will meet with Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Mike Wynne and General Richard Cody, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

The Governor will also meet with U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez to urge that import tariffs on Mexican cement be lifted. A cement shortage is currently threatening to stall New Mexico's construction industry. This shortage could result in construction delays, millions of dollars in unfilled contracts, and ultimately the possibility of layoffs and small contractors being forced out of business.

Finally, the Governor and New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Miley Gonzales will meet with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns concerning the closure of the Mexican border to U.S. cattle. The Mexican border was closed to U.S. cattle exports following last year's Mad Cow Disease scare. The Governor would like to see this border reopened. Historically, New Mexico's annual exports of cattle have put between \$10 and \$15 million into the state's economy. There has been no evidence of Mad Cow Disease in New Mexico.

The Governor will return to New Mexico on Monday.

Governor Richardson is Chairman of the Democratic Governor's Association and his travel is being paid for by the DGA.

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