



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor

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Governor Richardson Calls on President Bush to Take Action on High Energy Prices

SANTA FE, NM – Governor Richardson today led an effort with 15 of the nation’s Democratic Governors to call on the Bush Administration to make stronger efforts to lower gas prices and diversify America’s energy sources.

The 16 Governors sent a letter today to President Bush expressing concern about high gasoline prices and calling on the president to take swift action to provide consumer relief and accelerate efforts to make America energy independent. Meanwhile, Democratic Governors are putting in place initiatives to help Americans deal with high gasoline prices.

“Americans are hurting and we need action now on high gas prices, not more task forces and studies,” said DGA Chair New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. “Talk is cheap but gas sure isn’t. Most Americans already know what is wrong—America relies too heavily on foreign oil, and that reliance has only grown under the Bush administration. We need to focus both on efforts that stabilize prices in the short term while also creating American-made renewable energy sources that create jobs and increase energy security.”

The governors’ letter specifically calls on the president to:

- Take additional steps to restrain soaring corporate oil profits that harm consumers but do nothing to invest in alternative energy sources or oil capacity.

- Rollback or divert to alternative energy investments more of the additional \$10 billion in oil and gas subsidies that exist under current law. Tax dollars should support the public interest, not the special interests.
- Address federal laws, merger policies and enforcement deficiencies that continue to allow companies to manipulate oil supplies and merge without any regard to the public interest.

Signing the letter were Govs. Janet Napolitano (Ariz.), Ruth Ann Minner (Del.), Rod Blagojevich (Ill.), Tom Vilsack (Iowa), Kathleen Sebelius (Kan.), John Baldacci (Maine), Jennifer Granholm (Mich.), Jon Corzine (N.J.), Bill Richardson (N.M.), Ted Kulongoski (Ore.), Ed Rendell (Penn.), Anibal Acevedo Vila (P.R.), Phil Bredesen (Tenn.), Chris Gregoire (Wash.), Joe Manchin (W.V.), and Jim Doyle (Wis.).

Governor Richardson is taking action to lower prices at the pump. This week, the Governor called on the oil and gas industry to pitch in \$50 million to create a rebate program that would help consumers struggling with high gasoline prices. Governor Richardson has also been a long-standing advocate for increasing use of renewable fuels such as solar, wind, ethanol and biomass.

“Energy independence is a long-standing priority of mine and I am proud to be leading the way on this issue. If the president is serious about addressing America’s energy challenges, he should work with states like New Mexico and use our successes as building blocks for a comprehensive energy solution,” said Richardson.

A copy of the letter sent today is attached.

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