



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
August 15, 2006

Contact: Jon Goldstein
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Mary Skeen to New Mexico House of Representatives District 59

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointment of Mary Skeen to the New Mexico House of Representatives District 59. She will complete the term of Representative Avon Wilson of Roswell who passed away in July after a long battle with cancer. Mary Skeen is the widow of Congressman Joe Skeen.

“Mary Skeen knows the land, people and issues of southeastern New Mexico well,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “Her long involvement with agriculture and ranching both in Washington and in New Mexico will make her an excellent Representative.”

Mary Skeen runs the family ranching enterprise, the Buckhorn Ranch in Lincoln County, and is active in the New Mexico Wool Growers Association.

Her late husband, Congressman Joe Skeen, served for 22 years in Congress where he sat on the House Appropriations Committee, was chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and was later chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior.

District 59 comprises parts of Chaves, Otero and Lincoln Counties and as a multi-county district Governor Richardson is empowered to fill this vacancy with candidates recommended to him by the County Commissions. Mary Skeen was recommended to Governor Richardson by the Chaves County Commission. She will serve until the winner of the 2006 election takes office.

#30#