



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Richardson and Chihuahua Governor Baeza Urge Support for Border Economic Development and Security Initiatives**

*Governors showcase successful New Mexico-Chihuahua relationship and look to  
expand opportunities*

**Washington, D.C.** – Governor Bill Richardson was joined by Chihuahua, Mexico Governor Jose Reyes Baeza in Washington, DC today to promote the thriving relationship between their two states and to seek Congressional support to assist in future growth and opportunity. The two governors held a joint news conference in Washington following a series of meetings with legislators on a wide range of topics including border security, international trade, tourism and border crossings, among other key issues. Governors Richardson and Baeza were accompanied by a number of cabinet secretaries from New Mexico and Chihuahua.

“The economic, cultural, and diplomatic relationships our states have built are an excellent example of what can be accomplished when governments and people work together with the goal of improving the lives of their citizens and building success for their states,” said Governor Richardson. “We are here to ask the President and the Congress, as well the Mexican Government, to see the opportunities and the possibilities of our common border and not simply see it as an area of problems or division.”

The meetings were arranged by the New Mexico-Chihuahua Commission, which consists of six different worktables that address issues of common interest between both states, such as Economic Development and Trade, Border Crossings and Infrastructure, Tourism, Public Safety, Health and Water. Governor Richardson has worked closely with

his Mexican counterparts in border states and the Mexican federal government to create one of the most innovative and dynamic border regions in the world.

Governors Richardson and Baeza met with members of the New Mexico Congressional delegation and raised several specific issues and concerns:

- \* The need for a new border crossing at Anapra, New Mexico,
- \* Extension of hours at the Santa Teresa border crossing,
- \* Alternatives to the strict provisions of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative that requires all US citizens to use a passport for travel between Mexico and the United States, specifically the idea of a “travel card” that would be less expensive and restrictive that could be used instead. The Governors are afraid of any requirement that could restrict or reduce trade, tourism, and exchange between Mexico and the US,
- \* The Governors expressed their unified opposition to the US erecting a fence or a wall along the US-Mexico border.