



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor Richardson Authorizes Funding to Build the World's First Purpose Built Spaceport in New Mexico

Governor signs spaceport legislation, making New Mexico the launch pad for the new, private spaceflight industry

LAS CRUCES - Governor Bill Richardson today signed key pieces of spaceport legislation passed during the recently completed legislative session. These bills are essential to moving forward on New Mexico's Spaceport.

"These bills will help create tremendous economic impact for New Mexico, and particularly Southern New Mexico," said Governor Richardson. "As Governor my primary goal has been to build a new level of economic opportunity in New Mexico to keep New Mexicans here at home, and to attract the best and the brightest around the world."

As a result of the legislative session New Mexico is now able to invest \$110 million in building New Mexico's Spaceport in Upham. Of that, \$100 million dollars will be spent over the next three years to build the Spaceport. The other \$10 million dollars in previous funding will now be available to help move forward on the RFP process for the design and construction of the Spaceport.

"This is a unique opportunity for New Mexico to be on the ground floor of a new industry that will bring new companies, more high-wage jobs and opportunities that will move our state's economy forward," stated Governor Richardson.

Governor Richardson today signed:

- **House Bill 89**, sponsored by Representative Boykin, creates one entity, the New Mexico Spaceport Authority, to oversee the Spaceport.

- **House Bill 473**, sponsored by Representative Nunez, allows local communities, which will significantly benefit from the spaceport being built, to ask their voters if they want to support the Spaceport and related development through a new local options gross receipt tax.

Last week, Governor Richardson signed House Bill 835, sponsored by Representative Silva, which allows the State Investment Office to invest in New Mexico aerospace companies that receive more than \$100 million in funding from federal agencies like NASA.

Just yesterday, the State Investment Council preliminarily approved a potential investment deal with a company which is competing for a share of \$500 million in contracts from NASA to build the next generation of spacecraft to replace the Space Shuttle.

“Clearly, we are leading the pack in the race to space against states like Florida, Oklahoma, California, and Texas,” stated Governor Richardson. “New Mexico can be very proud of the role we are taking in the Second Space Age.”

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