



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

Governor Bill Richardson Announces Colorado Comes Through with Cumbres & Toltec Funding

For Immediate Release
March 22, 2006

Contact: Jon Goldstein
(505) 476-2248

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that the State of Colorado has come through with a \$250,000 down payment on its obligation to the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TSRR). This funding will help keep the railroad operating and serving tourists between Chama, NM and Antonito, CO this summer.

“This money, together with \$535,000 in operating money approved by the State of New Mexico, will enable the railroad to be in tip-top shape for the start of its season on Memorial Day,” Governor Richardson said. “I am committed to helping this unique bit of western history thrive as an attraction for Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado.”

The check, delivered last Friday to the C&TSRR Commission in Antonito, Colo., was the work of Colorado State Sen. Lewis Entz and Rep. Rafael Gallegos, whose districts include Antonito, the Colorado terminus of the scenic narrow-gauge line.

The scenic line was purchased by the States of Colorado and New Mexico in the early 1970s to preserve a piece of the narrow-gauge steam rail lines that opened the mountainous areas of Colorado and New Mexico to mining and commerce in the 1880s.

In addition to the operational funding, New Mexico also appropriated \$1 million for capital improvements to the track and the steam locomotives. Changing federal safety requirements have necessitated expensive modifications to the 19th Century steam locomotives that power the train.

“The Cumbres and Toltec has weathered some tough years, but I want the citizens of Chama and Antonito to know that I am committed to building the line to new levels of public use and appreciation,” Governor Richardson said. “And, to those who haven’t yet

experienced the breathtaking beauty of the Toltec Gorge, you should go this summer and see what you have been missing – or if you have been, go again!”

Governor Richardson praised the legislative support in both Colorado and New Mexico for the continued preservation of the train. He particularly complimented Colorado Gov. Bill Owens, with whom he has made mutual commitments to rebuild and enhance the line.

#30#