



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Gilbert Gallegos
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2217

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson Reports Productive Meeting with Mexican President-Elect Felipe Calderon

President-Elect Calderon Accepts Governor's Invitation to Meet in Santa Fe

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today met in Mexico City with Mexican President-Elect Felipe Calderon to discuss matters of mutual concern to Mexico and New Mexico.

“This was a very productive meeting,” said Governor Richardson. “I congratulated President-Elect Calderon and made him aware of our priorities in the areas of trade, border security, immigration and cultural exchange. I invited President-Elect Calderon to Santa Fe and I look forward to another meeting with him after he takes office December 1.”

President-Elect Calderon accepted Governor Richardson’s invitation to travel to Santa Fe for another meeting after he takes office.

The meeting included a discussion of plans for bi-national economic development, border infrastructure as well as the need and opportunity – with the newly elected U.S. Congress – for comprehensive immigration reform. Governor Richardson also urged that the Mexican government take a more proactive stance in solving the immigration problem.

Governor Richardson has known President-elect Calderon, who served as Secretary of Energy under outgoing President Vicente Fox, for several years.

Governor Richardson has forged a close working relationship with state and federal leaders in Mexico, a leading trading partner with New Mexico. Governor met with President Fox in Mexico City in 2003; and President Fox accepted Governor Richardson's invitation to travel to Santa Fe and address the New Mexico Legislature. That 2003 visit, which also included a public address at Santa Fe's historic plaza, was the first-ever visit to New Mexico by a Mexican head of state.

As Chairman of the Border Governors Association in 2004, Governor Richardson hosted all 10 Mexican and U.S. border governors for a conference in Santa Fe. The Governors reached a historic agreement on water, and made headway on other issues like border security, immigration reform, clean energy and research and development.

Governor Richardson will return to Santa Fe late Monday.

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