



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

For Immediate Release  
September 30, 2006

Contact: Gilbert Gallegos  
505-412-2644

### **Governor Bill Richardson Issues Statement on Vigil Verdict**

ALBUQUERQUE – Governor Bill Richardson released the following statement following today’s verdict in the corruption trial of former State Treasurer Robert Vigil:

“Mr. Vigil got his day in court and a jury of his peers has spoken,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “The conviction on attempted extortion, which is very serious, is further evidence of unethical and criminal conduct that cast a black cloud over the Treasurer’s Office. Public officials must be honest and held to a higher standard.

“We need to learn a lesson from this, and move forward with the reforms that I started to increase oversight of the Treasurer’s Office and restore the public’s confidence in that office,” Governor Richardson said.

Shortly after Mr. Vigil resigned as State Treasurer, Governor Richardson appointed Doug Brown, a Republican, to replace him and clean up the mess in the Treasurer’s Office. Mr. Brown moved quickly and aggressively to restore credibility to the office and assure the public that state money was in good hands. As a result, the state continues to benefit from some of the highest bond ratings in the nation.

Governor Richardson signed an executive order earlier this year increasing oversight of the Treasurer’s Office. The order established a Code of Ethics for the office, set campaign contribution rules, established a whistleblower program and increased oversight responsibilities of the State Board of Finance.

#30#