



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

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**Governor Bill Richardson Issues Statement on Completion of
\$15 Million Israel Bonds Investment**

Investment "Will Benefit New Mexico and Israel"

ALBUQUERQUE - Governor Bill Richardson announced today the purchase of \$5 million in Israel Bonds, on top of the \$10 million purchased in 2003, which the Governor stressed "will benefit both New Mexico and Israel."

"Israel bonds are a proven financial investment that we are proud to include in our portfolio," said Governor Bill Richardson. "I am pleased that this purchase will help Israel move forward with important economic projects that will better the lives of its citizens."

Through its purchase, New Mexico has joined two dozen other states that have added more than \$1 billion in Israel bonds to their investment portfolios. **Today's \$5 million bond purchase completes an overall \$15 million investment by New Mexico in Israel Bonds rated "A" or better.**

New Mexico is committed to strengthening trade relations with Israel. Israel is a leader in high technology, as such, the Israeli economy resembles the increasingly high tech oriented New Mexico economy.

"We are very gratified that Governor Richardson and the state of New Mexico have made this substantial investment in Israel bonds," said Joshua Matza, Bonds President & CEO, "The investment highlights the strong principles shared by the American people and the people of Israel – freedom, democratic values and the determination to surmount every challenge."

(PHOTO ATTACHED: New Mexico Israel Bonds Chairman Harold Albert (left) and Governor Bill Richardson display a promotional check highlighting the state's \$15 million Israel bond purchase.)