



For Immediate Release
June 12, 2008

Contact: Caitlin Kelleher
505-476-2299

Governor Bill Richardson Directs State Personnel Director to Develop Policy to Reduce Fuel Use and Expenditure of Tax Dollars

Governor Launches Webpage to Help New Mexicans Avoid High Gas Prices

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today took action to help alleviate travel costs associated with rising gas prices. Governor Richardson has directed State Personnel Director Sandi Perez to develop a policy to help state employees and reduce costs to the taxpayers.

“With fuel prices over \$4 per gallon, we must act aggressively to ease pressures on New Mexicans,” said Governor Richardson. “I have directed State Personnel Director Sandi Perez to find ways for citizens and state employees can cut down on gas costs.”

Perez will look into alternative schedules such as four day work weeks with extended hours. Shorter work weeks would cut down on state vehicle use and peak hour congestion on state roadways.

Governor Richardson has also asked Perez to look into tele-work options. Tele-working would allow state employees to work from satellite office locations and would follow strict accountability standards.

“We need to look at the ways we can cut fuel costs, while still putting the public first and without interrupting their access to services,” said Sandi Perez, State Personnel Director. “We will look at what other states are doing and use that when examining what we can do here in New Mexico.”

In addition, the Governor has also directed General Services Department Secretary Arturo Jaramillo to accelerate transportation efficiency goals for the state fleet and state employee travel.

Governor Richardson today launched a new webpage to help consumers beat high gas prices. New Mexicans can go to www.governor.state.nm.us and click on “GAS SAVERS” to find cheap gas, fuel saving tips, public transit and carpool information.

Sandi Perez will submit her recommendations to the Governor as soon as possible for consideration.

##