



For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Signs Agreements with Governor of Sonora, Mexico Including Establishing New Flights

Governor Also Attends 66th Annual Border Health Association Conference

HERMOSILLO - Governor Bill Richardson today signed two agreements with the Governor of Sonora, Eduardo Bours Castelo, while visiting the capital of Sonora, Hermosillo. The Memorandums of Understanding are focused on strengthening economic, tourism and security ties between the states, including establishing direct flights between Albuquerque and Sonora.

“Together, working through our common interests, we are building a partnership that we’ll reap benefits from for years to come,” Governor Richardson said. “Through these agreements we’re creating endless possibilities for expanding our economic, tourism and cultural endeavors.

The Governor was joined today by Tourism Secretary Mike Cerletti, Economic Development Secretary Mondragon and State Police Chief Faron Segotta.

A brief description of each MOU follows:

1) Framework to Create a New Mexico-Sonora Commission

Agreement of understanding to provide the framework to create a New Mexico-Sonora Commission. The purpose of the Commission would be to strengthen economic, cultural, tourism and border security joint endeavors between the states of Sonora and New Mexico. The two states, Sonora and New Mexico, share an isolated section of international border, with shared concerns in combating smuggling and organized criminal activity. By creating a commission, the

business, governmental, cultural and personal interests of citizens in both states will be strengthened by increased trade and interchange between the two neighbors.

2) Pursue a Commercial Flight between Albuquerque and Puerto Peñasco and Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico

Agreement of understanding to pursue a commercial flight between the cities of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Puerto Peñasco and Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

Governor Richardson also spoke today at the 66th Annual US-Mexico Border Health Association Conference in Hermosillo.

“Good health is one of the most important determinants in the social and economic wellbeing of our communities and our states,” said Governor Richardson. “Residents in the border region need better access to healthcare and insurance, and that we should join forces at the local, state and federal levels to increase the number of doctors, nurses, dentists, and clinics necessary to meet the needs in our border communities, where high rates of poverty limit residents’ access to such services.”

In his remarks, Governor Richardson urged the other Mexican and U.S. border states to develop similar agreements to facilitate improved healthcare in the border region.