



For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Welcomes Attorney General Gary King's Support for Ethics Reform Package

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today applauded Attorney General Gary King for supporting his efforts to pass meaningful ethics reforms. The Governor, who has been pushing for legislation to place limits on campaign contributions and to enact an ethics commission, will once again be aggressively pursuing ethics reforms during the 2009 legislative session which begins January 20th.

"I look forward to working with the attorney general and lawmakers to once and for all pass a comprehensive ethics reform package," Governor Richardson said. "I've proudly signed the ethics bills that have made it to my desk in recent years. This year, I look forward to signing those important reforms that, in past years, have failed by only a few votes."

Ethics reforms enacted since Governor Richardson took office include a ban on campaign contributions from contractors seeking to do business with the state and limits on gifts to state officials, state employees and candidates.

During the 2009 legislative session, the Governor is asking lawmakers to pass other recommendations of his Ethics Reform Task Force including:

- **Establishment of independent ethics commission**-The commission would provide independent oversight of the executive and legislative branches and all state employees. It would receive and investigate complaints by concerned citizens and whistleblowers. The commission would also have strong powers to investigate and discipline, including the ability to fine, censure, and reprimand public officials, state employees, lobbyists, contractors and officials.
- **Set contribution limits**-The bill places limits on the amount of campaign contributions that can be contributed to candidates and political committees. The limits are \$2,300 for non-statewide candidates and \$5,000 for statewide candidates. PAC's would be limited to \$10,000 in contributions by a single donor.
- **Legislator to lobbyists rules**-The bill bans former lawmakers from being paid to lobby the legislature for one-year after they leave office or their term expires.

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