

April 16, 2007

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 3

The Honorable Ben Lujan and  
Members of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable Speaker Lujan and Members of the House:

I this day SIGN AND RETURN HOUSE BILL 2, as amended, with certificate, which was enacted during the Forty-Eighth Legislature, First Special Session, 2007, and except the following item or items, part or parts, which I hereby veto pursuant to the authority granted me in Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution:

On page 32, I have vetoed lines 1 through 12.

The veto of this appropriation does not negate the project from moving forward. The state has invested considerable money thus far in preparing the design, which is 99% complete. Rather this veto makes the dollars available to complete funding for other GRIP 1 projects that are ready to go.

I have always recognized US 491 as an important highway for northwest New Mexico and the Navajo Nation – that is why I included it in my GRIP 1 legislation in 2003. Early in my administration, we also changed the highway designation from US 666 to US 491. My veto of the earmark does not in any way reduce my commitment to making US 491 a safe highway.

However, as indicated during the regular session, the Department of Transportation could possibly begin construction of US 491 on the northern segment in the spring 2008 - after the 2008 legislative session but not sooner. This is still the department's intent, as long as the Navajo Nation and the state of New Mexico complete the requisite easement agreements and resolve the allotment issues.

The Navajo Nation and State have still not finalized the easement agreement.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, personal style.

Bill Richardson

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Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2007

by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2007

by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State