

March 15, 2007

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 46

The Honorable Ben D. Altamirano
President Pro Tempore
New Mexico Senate
State Capitol Bldg.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore Altamirano and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 363, as amended, with emergency clause, which was enacted during the Forty-Eighth Legislature, First Session, 2007.

The people of New Mexico deserve an open, honest, and accountable government. One essential step toward achieving this goal is to establish a campaign finance system that gives New Mexicans prompt access to information about where campaign money comes from and how it is spent.

I must veto Senate Bill 363 because it takes a step back in our efforts to achieve this goal.

I understand and sympathize with the Legislature's reasons for passing this bill. The electronic reporting system currently established by the Office of the Secretary of State is often slow and difficult to use, and some legislators lack confidence that the information in their campaign finance reports will be accurately and quickly available to interested voters.

The solution to this problem, however, is not to retreat to the days of paper reports and campaign finance obscurity. Nobody is satisfied with the system as is, but it is within our capacity to fix it. We must insist that measurable improvements are made so that we continue to move toward a functioning and trustworthy electronic reporting system.

This goal is achievable and all New Mexicans will be better off when we get there.

Accordingly, signature of this bill is not appropriate at this time.

March 15, 2007

Page 2

Respectfully yours,



Bill Richardson

Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.

by:

Date: _____ 2007

Chief Clerk of the Senate

Time: _____ a.m./p.m.

by:

Date: _____ 2007

Secretary of State