

Fri, April 8, 2011 3:17:57 PM

Re: Governors Feedback Forum - 1st issue of our Forum

From: Ralph Arellanes, <ralphnmlulac@gmail.com>

To: GOV. Susana Martinez, <governor@state.nm.us>

Governor Martinez,

The Regents at New Mexico Highlands University are proposing a 10.6% hike in tuition for next year. This is way too high for a community whose median per capita income is \$13,250 per year. We liked your comments regarding the UNM tuition increases and we call on you to hold NMHU's tuition rate increases to below 5%.

The City of Las Vegas is also proposing a 500% increase in their water billing rates - yes 500%!!

The City officials are saying the reason for this is because Las Vegas now needs to build a better water infrastructure, purchase more water rights, drill more wells and more water storage. Again, for a small town whose median per capita income is only \$13,250 per year, this is outrageous.

We need the State and/or Federal government to step up to the plate and help the people with this problem. A 500% increase in the water bill for people living on \$13,250 per year is totally unacceptable and will certainly drive more people deeper into the lines of poverty. We call on your office to help address this issue.

Thank you,

Ralph Arellanes

On Fri, Apr 8, 2011 at 11:26 AM, Ralph Arellanes <ralphnmlulac@gmail.com> wrote:

Good day to you Governor Martinez,

LULAC and the Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico will be starting a "Governors Feedback Forum" effective today, Friday April 8th, 2011. The purpose of this Forum is to provide a voice for the Hispano community directly to you and

members of your staff and Administration.

New Mexico has a Department of Native American Affairs, an office of African American Affairs, a Women's Council and various avenues of communication and representation to you and your office. Yet although Hispanics make up the majority population here in New Mexico, we have no Department of Hispanic Affairs nor do we have an Office of Hispanic Affairs.

Since Governor Richardson failed the Hispanic community by vetoing Senate Bill 21 to create the New Mexico Department of Hispanic Affairs and he worked against us and against our progress in many ways. We the Hispanic community feel we need a direct voice to you and your office.

We believe you need to hear directly from us how we feel about the progress being made, or not being made here in New Mexico in the areas of education, employment, economic development, housing, the environment, healthcare, veterans issues and immigration issues.

We want to ensure our political and legislative leaders are working for the people of New Mexico and we particularly want to voice our opinion as the majority population in New Mexico. As you know, the latest census figures officially confirmed what we have known since the year 2003, that Hispanics are now the majority population in New Mexico and growing rapidly. By the year 2015, Hispanics will become the majority in the State of Texas and the State of California. This will effectively make Hispanics the majority group of the great Southwestern part of the United States.

Yet our voice has been minimized by corrupt politicians and business people with deep pockets here in New Mexico. Hispanics have not had access to the Governor's office for over 16 years. That is why the Hispanic Roundtable of New Mexico unanimously voted to give Governor Richardson an "F" for his performance as Governor of New Mexico and for the way he treated the Hispanic community. This "F" rating has now been published in every major newspaper in the country, internationally and is a forum of discussion with the National Latino Policy Institute in New York City. Their website has held an ongoing discussion about this topic since we censured Richardson here in New Mexico.

Hispanics have not had a U.S. Senator in the Halls of Congress since U. S. Senator Joseph Montoya in 1976 and today, we only have one Hispanic in the U.S. House of Representatives in Congressman Ben Ray Lujan. This is not adequate nor fair

representation of the Hispano community or our population. This is not parity nor adequate representation of "We the People" the Hispano community here in New Mexico. We need more representation and we need our own change.

That is one of the reasons why LULAC leaders and business leaders met in Roswell, New Mexico after our LULAC meeting on Saturday, March 26th. We met to form our own PAC or Political Action Committee. We have named it the CHILE PAC. It stands for "Concerned Hispanos Involved in Legislative Empowerment" PAC.

Basically, the CHILE PAC will serve to support, empower, bolster, provide resources and give a tremendous voice to political candidates who support our issues and our needs. There is more information on our website at www.newmexicolulac.org.

Our LULAC convention we will hold in Taos, New Mexico on April 29th, 30th and May 1st has really gained momentum. We have plenty of great speakers and we have written to several key members of your Cabinet to speak and participate in our convention. Our conference theme is: "We are the majority, we vote and we DEMAND change now!!"

I have now regular mailed and faxed the signed copy of the letter I sent to your office last week via e-mail. We know you are busy reviewing and signing Bills that passed this last Legislative Session. We wish you well and great wisdom in your review of these important Bills.

We look forward to working directly with you and your Administration as we work to break down barriers to progress for the Hispano community and work for a brighter day of dialogue and success for our Hispano community here in New Mexico and beyond.

Thank you for your time Governor Martinez. We look forward to ensuring that this "Governor's Feedback Forum" will be informative and provide you with the real "pulse" of New Mexico's Hispano community today.

Sincerely,

Ralph Arellanes
NM LULAC State Director,
Chairman, Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico
National LULAC Board Member