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GOVERNOR

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**Governor Susana Martinez Announces Nearly 150 New Jobs in Santa Teresa,
Signs Bill to Encourage Aircraft Maintenance Companies in New Mexico**
Six companies announce they are locating in Santa Teresa

Santa Teresa — Today, Governor Susana Martinez announced new jobs at five companies and an additional company that will add jobs as a result of her signing HB14, which eliminates the Gross Receipts Tax on maintenance services and parts on aircraft. The six companies are projected to create nearly 150 new jobs in New Mexico.

“Making New Mexico competitive has proven to be an effective strategy in growing our aviation industry and helping attract new businesses to our state,” said Governor Susana Martinez. “By signing today’s bill, we are able to level the playing field with other states so we can keep aviation business here.”

HB14, Aircraft Parts & Maintenance Gross Receipts, extends the existing gross receipts tax deduction for aircraft manufacturers to all providers of aircraft parts and labor services. All of New Mexico’s neighboring states except Utah do not tax services performed on aircraft.

HB14 will encourage aircraft maintenance businesses to stay in New Mexico and because of this legislation, Santa Fe Aero Services plans to acquire an El Paso company and relocate it to Santa Teresa. The move will create 20 new jobs over the next three years with an average salary of \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year.

“This is a very good day for the New Mexico aviation industry as we can now directly compete with our neighboring states, which will swiftly bring more work and new jobs to our industry,” said Ron Tarrson, owner Santa Fe Aero Services. “For our company, we are immediately establishing a new aircraft avionics and maintenance center at the Santa Teresa Airport and expect to hire some 20 new technicians in the next few of years — all new good-paying jobs that are in addition to the 20 folks we already employ in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.”

Previously, pilots traveled to places like Colorado to have their aircraft serviced because it was cheaper than doing it in New Mexico. New Mexico’s aircraft maintenance economic impact was only \$88.7 million, eighth-lowest in the country despite our state’s ideal environment for general aviation. New Mexico has only a fraction of its surrounding states’ aviation jobs and maintenance per airport.

“This legislation makes it possible for companies like Santa Fe Aero to create jobs in New Mexico,” Governor Martinez said. “That’s our continuing mission: to level the playing field so that we can compete with the states that surround us.”

The estimated revenue impact is slight—less than \$500,000 annually—and could easily be offset by increased revenue from additional employment in this sector. This legislation was sponsored by Representative Jim White (R-Albuquerque) and Senator Carlos Cisneros (D-Taos).

Earlier this week, Governor Martinez also signed into law legislation that will eliminate the sales tax on the purchase of aircraft over 10,000 pounds, a move that can spur growth in New Mexico's aviation industry and create up to 125 good-paying jobs in the Roswell area.

Governor Martinez also announced the location of five additional companies to New Mexico.

- ERO Resources - Provides container storage, as well as mechanical services for rail-related business. The company purchased six acres in the Santa Teresa Intermodal Park where it will establish a terminal for business. The company will hire up to 50 employees within the next three years.
- Transmaritime – A third party logistics organization with more than 35 years in the logistics industry has operations in Laredo, Pharr, and El Paso, Texas. The company has purchased 25 acres in the Santa Teresa Intermodal Park where it will construct a terminal to handles ocean freight containers for its clients. The company plans to hire 15 people for its operations.
- Stagecoach Cartage and Distribution, LP – An El Paso-based company that provides trucking and logistical services to clients throughout the U.S. and Mexico has purchased ten acres in the Santa Teresa Intermodal Park where it will establish a logistics yard. In 1999, Stagecoach was ranked one of the top 100 fastest growing privately held inner-city companies in America. In 2006, Stagecoach was the first carrier granted access to Mexico under NAFTA. Stagecoach will hire nine new employees for this operation.
- Kalisch Chatarra – A metals recycling company is in search of 30 acres to establish a metals recycling/compacting operation. Company will build a 10,000 square foot building and hire up to 20 employees.
- Oak Tree Inn and Penny’s Diner - This national chain was founded in 1984 and is now the leading provider of lodging facilities for railroad employees in the United States. It currently has 33 hotels throughout the U.S., many of which have a Penny’s diner. Oak Tree’s 56-room Santa Teresa hotel, with a 24-hour Penny’s diner, is scheduled to open on May 6th. The hotel has space to expand by another 20 rooms. The company will employ 34 employees at its Santa Teresa site.

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