

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

JON BARELA
CABINET SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2015



Contact: Angela Heisel
(505) 629-5148
Angela.Heisel@state.nm.us

Governor Susana Martinez Announces New Jobs in Questa, Expansion of Taos Mountain Energy Bars

Questa, NM - Governor Susana Martinez announced today that Taos Mountain Energy Bars will expand to a 10,000 square-foot facility in the Questa Industrial Park. The expansion is expected to create 15 full-time jobs.

"Today's announcement is an important step for the Questa community," Governor Martinez said. "We're working hard to diversify our economy and make New Mexico more competitive for manufacturers like Taos Mountain Energy Bars. We want to continue to do all we can to support the food industry in Northern New Mexico so that it continues to create jobs for communities."

The expansion is the result of the New Mexico Economic Development Department investing more than \$437,000 in Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) funds into the Questa Industrial Park.

Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela, Senator Carlos Cisneros (D-Questa), Questa Mayor Mark Gallegos, and Taos Mountain Energy Bars Co-Founders Kyle Hawari and Brooks Thostenson joined Governor Martinez for the announcement.

"We are thankful for a strong public-private partnership with the Village of Questa, the County of Taos, and the State of New Mexico," said Hawari, a founder of Taos Mountain Energy Bars. "We look forward to being a long-term job creator in Northern New Mexico for years to come."

Taos Mountain Energy Bars produces organic snack bars including flavors like almond agave, chocolate butterscotch, caramel pecan, and toasted coconut. Hawari and Thostenson started the company with the help of the Taos Food Center. The Taos Food Center, run by the Taos County Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC), provides equipment, services, and support to local-food based entrepreneurs.

###