

SFGate.com

ADVERTISEMENT



Get More. Get AAA.

**Our Auto Insurance Rates Have Dropped.**

**Make this the year switch to**

SFGATE HOME ■ NEWS **NEW!** ■ BUSINESS ■ SPORTS ■ ENTERTAINMENT ■ TRAVEL

SEARCH



SFGate



Web Search by YAHOO!

San Francisco Chronicle

## Mexico's president to California leaders: We must work together

Matthew Yi, Chronicle Staff Writer

Thursday, February 14, 2008



SHARE



COMMENTS (112)



FONT | SIZE:



**(02-13) 13:45 PST Sacramento - --**

Mexican President Felipe Calderon today urged California officials to work with Mexico to build closer economic ties, ensure border security and fight to save the environment.



"Collaboration and shared responsibility should be the basis of our relationship, because the prosperity of California and the prosperity of Mexico can only be fully realized if we work together," he said in a speech to a joint session of the Legislature.

As part of that effort, the president and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger today agreed on a memorandum of understanding to tackle climate change by jointly creating an action plan within three years.

Later today, Calderon plans to visit the Robledo Family Winery in Sonoma, which is owned by an immigrant from his home state of Michoacan. He will then fly to Los Angeles, where he will meet with migrant workers.

Calderon's trip to the Golden State is part of his six-day U.S. tour, his first since becoming president in 2006. Before arriving in Sacramento late Tuesday, the president and his wife, Margarita Zavala, had visited New York, Boston and Chicago.

Immigration was a key issue of his morning address in the state Capitol.

"I know that immigration is a controversial issue today in this great nation. But I strongly believe that Mexican and Mexican-American workers are a large reason for the dynamic economy of California," he said.

Calderon, citing a study by the Council of Economic Advisers of the White House, argued that the United States benefits from Mexican immigrants because they complement the nation's workforce, increase productivity and contribute more in taxes than they receive in public services

SIX COUL

NOW A IN HD

MOS

1. B
2. V g
3. C
4. N
5. T M
6. M ti
7. S C

Top

Mil

FORD 2003 M \$9,488

HOND. 2005 A \$16,58

HOND. 2004 A \$17,98

HOND. 2004 A

"We must take a comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of immigration, considering its economic, political, social and cultural aspects. We need to make migration legal, safe and organized," he said.

A Republican lawmaker took exception to Calderon's comments about immigration reform in the United States.

"I think it's entirely inappropriate for him, as a foreign head of state, to come into our country and enter the domestic political debate," said Sen. Tom McClintock, R-Thousand Oaks (Ventura County).

But Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, D-Los Angeles, said Calderon has a right to express his opinions on the issue and agreed with the president that the way to stem the flow of immigrants from Mexico is to improve economic conditions there.

Calderon said Mexico has attracted record foreign investment, kept its inflation rate in check and plans to spend \$250 billion over next five years to improve Mexico's infrastructure. He added that the United States and Mexico must realize their unique economic position.

While California's economy is capital intensive, Mexico's is labor intensive, he said, adding that Mexico needs more investments from California and the rest of the nation.

Calderon narrowly won Mexico's presidential election in 2006, beating his more liberal rival, former mayor of Mexico City Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

In New York, Calderon met with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to talk about climate change, among other things. In Boston, he spoke to students at faculty at his alma mater, Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he earned a master's degree in public administration.

When he arrived in Sacramento late Tuesday, Calderon was greeted by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The two first met in 2006 when the governor visited Mexico City on a trade mission.

After speaking before the joint session of the Legislature, Calderon was scheduled to hold private meetings with Schwarzenegger and his cabinet members while California First Lady Maria Shriver planned to give Mexico's First Lady a tour of the California Museum for History, Women & the Arts near the Capitol.

*E-mail Matthew Yi at [myi@sfnicle.com](mailto:myi@sfnicle.com).*



(112)

**Share your thoughts on this story.**

[Add Your Comment](#) [View Comments](#)

\$14,98

**HOND/**  
2003 C  
\$13,98

**HOND/**  
2005 C  
\$14,98

**HOND/**  
2006 C  
\$14,98

**HOND/**  
2004 Pi  
\$20,98

**CHRY**  
2000 S  
\$7,988

**NISSA**  
2005 S  
\$11,98

**TOYOT**  
2004 C  
\$13,98

**HOND/**  
2003 O  
\$16,88

**HOND/**  
2005 O  
\$23,98

**HOND/**  
2005 E  
\$15,98

**ACUR/**  
2005 R  
\$14,98

See r



About 1  
View All

**Ads by Yahoo!**

**Mylabbandsurgeon.com Hospital Angeles Mexico**

Loose weight fast. Top 4 lap band surgeons in U.S. & Mexico.  
(www.MyLapBandSurgeon.com)

**Contract Manufacturing - Mexico**

The Initiative Group provides contract manufacturing and shelter services in Mexico.  
(www.igteam.com)

**mexico manufacturing**

Software to Manage Manufacturing Outsourcing. Download Whitepaper.  
(www.ArenaSolutions.com)



Get The Chronicle for up to 40% off

[Back To Top](#)

San Francisco Chronicle Sections

© 2008 Hearst Communications Inc. | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [RSS Feeds](#)

**HEARST** newspapers