JOHN CORNYN
TEXAS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4305

December 21, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your steadfast leadership in protecting our nation and citizens both abroad and at home.

This year Texas and the southeastern border of the United States were heavily damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Like you, I was shocked and saddened to learn of the overwhelming destruction and agree we must continue to provide adequate funding for flood protection—which is the first line of defense against future water related natural disasters. It is for this reason, I respectfully ask that you funding to the United States International Boundary and Water Commission's (IBWC) Rio Grande River Flood Control System Rehabilitation Project at the level of $10 million in your fiscal year 2007 budget request to Congress.

The IBWC has the important task to monitor issues affecting the international water between the United States and Mexico. In recent years, concerns regarding the capability of the Lower Rio Grande Valley region to sustain major flooding have arisen. In fact, studies conducted have proved that levees in this area are deficient in height and structurally unsound.

Therefore, it is critical that the federal government continue to be a good partner in adequately funding this project to ensure flood protection for these communities, many of whom could easily find themselves in the path of a devastating storm that would deluge South Texas. As you and your Administration continue compiling the budget request for fiscal year 2007, I respectfully request your full consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN
United States Sentaor

cc: The Honorable Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
Mr. Joshua B. Bolten, Director, Office of Management and Budget