

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Christopher Coons
Chairman
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 133
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 125
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20004

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Longworth House Building, Room 1036
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Coons, Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Graham, and Ranking Member Lee,

The 1944 Water Treaty between the United States and Mexico obligates both countries to share water resources from the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers. Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, Mexico still fails to provide minimum, consistent water deliveries to the United States from the Rio Grande, instead waiting until the end of a five-year cycle to deliver the water owed to America. While the United States provides consistent, annual water deliveries to Mexico, the Mexican practice poses a serious threat to the agricultural, industrial, and municipal sectors in border states.

Farmers and ranchers rely on this water for irrigation and sustaining their operations. In February 2024, the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers sugar mill closed due to the lack of water deliveries from Mexico. This was the last sugar mill in Texas which employed over 500 full and part-time employees. Farmers and ranchers across South Texas remain under continued financial strain and could suffer a similar fate as the sugar industry, should Mexico continue withholding water. Additionally, the lack of reliable water delivery affects municipalities and threatens the quality of life for many American citizens living along our border.

As efforts at negotiating a reasonable compromise between our countries have failed to produce an amenable solution for our constituents, we urge you and your colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to withhold designated funds from Mexico until Mexico has agreed to provide more reliable and consistent water deliveries to the United States.

Withholding funds will send a clear message to Mexico that the United States is serious about upholding the terms of our agreement and ensuring that our citizens and industries have access to the water resources they need. This measure will incentivize Mexico to take meaningful action to meet its obligations and resolve the ongoing water dispute.

Please consider this request and incorporate the proposed bill language into the fiscal year 2025 appropriations bill. By doing so, you will help protect the interests of the American people, support our border communities, and uphold the integrity of our international agreements.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Texas appreciates your leadership on the Appropriations Committee and your commitment to ensuring the responsible use of federal funds.

Sincerely,




John Cornyn
United States Senator




Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress

Nathaniel Moran

Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress

Ronny L. Jackson

Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington

Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

Keith Self

Keith Self
Member of Congress