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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

2/23/2024

Secretary Anthony Blinken  
U.S. Department of State  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Tom Vilsack  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Secretary Blinken and Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing to ask that you prioritize and engage in the enforcement of the 1944 Water Treaty. Inaction from the State Department and the Department of Agriculture in standing up for our farmers in South Texas and advocating for water owed to the United States has caused deep suffering for agricultural producers and communities in South Texas. As of now, Mexico has delivered less than 40 percent of what should have already been delivered.

As a result of the undelivered water, the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, after 51 years of continuously growing and processing sugarcane into raw sugar in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, have had to close their doors. With over 100 local growers growing over 40,000 acres at times and the mill employing over 500 full-time and seasonal workers annually, RGVSG, Inc. proudly contributed to the food security of the United States. This closure directly results from Mexico's failure to abide by the 1944 Water Treaty with the United States. Mexico's lack of consistent and reliable water deliveries puts all Texas agriculture at risk.

For over 30 years, farmers in South Texas have been battling with Mexico's failure to comply annually with the provisions in the 1944 Water Treaty. The State Department's unwillingness to prioritize the citizens and agricultural producers of South Texas has led to numerous water shortages in our region. Despite efforts by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary & Water Commission, without the U.S. State Department's

support, little to no progress on attaining consistent and reliable water deliveries from Mexico has been achieved.

Continued inaction by this administration on this issue is unacceptable and has led to irreversible damage to the economy in Texas. Meanwhile, I have worked tirelessly to highlight and make progress on the water treaty conflict with Mexico since being sworn into office this past year. In November, the House passed H.Res. 683, a bipartisan resolution which I introduced to support the diplomatic relations required to encourage the Government of Mexico to fulfill its water deliveries annually to the United States.

On behalf of South Texas Farmers, we request you engage with Mexico to ensure they enter into compliance with the 1944 Water Treaty. I also request meetings with both of you to see how we can work together to ensure Mexico delivers water that is owed to the United States. Continued failure by this administration to prioritize this issue will lead to further job losses and negative economic impacts on communities across Texas.

Sincerely,



Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress  
15<sup>th</sup> District of Texas