

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

We are writing on behalf of the farmer members of the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers Cooperative.

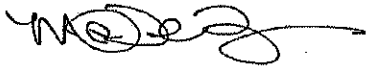
As you are aware, Mexico has failed to deliver over 800,000 acre feet of water to the United States under the 1944 Water Treaty. As a result of the delinquent water deliveries, the Rio Grande Valley sugar cane farmers were the first producer group in the region to be forced to close their operation, which resulted in a loss of 500 jobs.

The Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers (RGVSG) were eligible to receive funds under the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) for calendar year 2022. It has been the only major assistance program to help the growers. USDA was able to get the first payment for calendar year 2022 to them at the close of 2023. However, they desperately need the second payment. Despite having no sugarcane crop to make into sugar and sell, the RGVSG through its cooperative farmer members must continue to pay expenses associated with the sugar mill as the operation winds down.

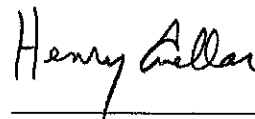
Please disburse the second payment for ERP 2022 as soon as possible to help these farmers and their families navigate this crisis. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important action.

Sincerely,



Rep. Monica De La Cruz



Rep. Henry Cuellar