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NATIONAL SECURITY, ILLICIT FINANCE, AND
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

2/12/2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

I write to you today on behalf of South Texas farmers, whose livelihoods have been jeopardized by Mexico's failure to uphold its water delivery commitments under the 1944 Water Treaty. The treaty requires Mexico to deliver an average of 350,000 acre-feet of water a year to the United States over a five-year cycle. Since the early 1990s, Mexico has consistently failed to fulfill its treaty commitments. This continues to have devastating impacts on farmers and communities across South Texas, resulting in hundreds of layoffs and nearly a billion dollars in losses for American farmers.

As of today, Mexico owes over one million acre-feet of water to the United States for this current five-year cycle. To put this into perspective, one million acre-feet is enough to supply the water needs of Houston, the largest city in Texas, for over three years.

Swift action must be taken to hold the Mexican government accountable and secure immediate water deliveries for our farmers. I respectfully request that:

1. As part of the ongoing trade negotiations with Mexico, we should demand an immediate water delivery of 350,000 acre-feet. This should be executed within 15 days of an agreement with Mexico. Further, we must also demand that Mexico adhere to a schedule of transfers of 350,000 additional acre-feet of water every 30 days beginning one month after the initial delivery of water, until the deficit is complete.
2. The 1944 Water Treaty be added to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement negotiations and ensure that, as part of the negotiations, there are punitive measures put in place to hold Mexico in compliance with annual calendar deliveries of 350,000 acre-feet of water.

3. The State Department declares that its official position is that the language in the 1944 Water Treaty is to be interpreted that Mexico must deliver 350,000 acre-feet of water to the U.S. on an annual calendar basis.

On behalf of the South Texas farming families affected by Mexico's treaty violations, I thank you for considering these requests and look forward to working with your office to put American farmers first.

Sincerely,



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress
15th District of Texas

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