

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
Ambassador, the United States
Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Julie Callahan
Ambassador, Chief Agricultural Negotiator
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer and Ambassador Callahan,

We appreciate your team's continued engagement with our offices as you prepare for the upcoming renegotiations of the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA). Since its enactment under the first Trump Administration in 2020, USMCA has delivered fairer market access for America's agricultural producers. Through agreements struck since the beginning of the Administration, President Trump has reduced the agricultural trade deficit by 42%¹ and has opened key markets such as the European Union, China, India, and the United Kingdom to many American agricultural products. This increased market access will directly benefit the agriculture producers in our districts.

As the Administration moves forward with the USMCA's mandatory review process, it is critical that your team prioritizes the elimination of trade deficits with Canada and Mexico, and seizes this opportunity to enforce Mexico's on-time, annual payments of water deliveries from the 1944 Water Treaty.

Regions across the United States are experiencing drought conditions that have become exacerbated by Mexico's disregard of the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty. The treaty outlined specific thresholds of water quantities that each country must provide to the other, including Mexico's responsibility to provide 350,000 acre-feet of water to the United States, annually.

¹ United States Department of Agriculture. "Trade Wins." USDA, 2026.
<https://www.usda.gov/trade-wins>.

For years, the Texas Delegation has been pursuing the repayment of Mexico's water debt and the needed enforcement of the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty. Secretary Rollins has worked extremely hard to get Mexico to deliver the water owed to us per year, but ultimately the United States remains at the mercy of Mexico's compliance without any enforced consequences.

The effects of not including strong enforcement mechanisms for the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty are clear. In 2023 alone, South Texas suffered an economic impact of almost \$1 billion due to the water shortage.² This included the closure of the last sugar mill in Texas, resulting in the loss of 500 jobs and \$100 million from the state's economy.³ A long term solution to this perennial issue requires robust enforcement mechanisms.

Specifically, we ask for the inclusion of the following into the USMCA:

- Annual, predictable and enforceable water deliveries; and,
- Utilize the USMCA's dispute settlement procedures to address instances of non-compliance; and,
- Transparent monitoring and reporting to track water deliveries and identify potential violations; and,
- Explore strict enforcement mechanisms for non-compliance with the 1944 U.S Mexico Water Treaty which USTR deems to properly manage trade relations and ensures adherence to the agreement.

Incorporating the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty in the USMCA would prove more conducive to the resolution of the issue than any singular vow to resolve the existing water debt. Enforcement mechanisms would free South Texas communities from having to depend on Mexican goodwill for their prosperity.

Once again, thank you for your consideration. Please know our offices are willing and eager to assist any way we can.

Sincerely,

² Texas A&M Agrilife, rep., Estimated Economic Impacts of Irrigation Water Shortages on Lower Rio Grande Valley Agriculture, December 22, 2023, [https://agecoext.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2023.08.Estimated-Economic-Impacts-of-Irrigation-Water-Shortages-on-LRGV-Agriculture.pdf#:~:text=Therefore%2C%20the%20total%20crop%20production%20loss%20due,citrus%2C%20vegetable%2C%20and%20sugarcane%20acreage%2C%20\\$24.0%20million.](https://agecoext.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2023.08.Estimated-Economic-Impacts-of-Irrigation-Water-Shortages-on-LRGV-Agriculture.pdf#:~:text=Therefore%2C%20the%20total%20crop%20production%20loss%20due,citrus%2C%20vegetable%2C%20and%20sugarcane%20acreage%2C%20$24.0%20million.)

³ Fernando Del Valle, "Sugar Mill Closing amid Water Crisis; \$100 Million Impact Expected | Myrgv.Com," My RGV, February 22, 2024, <https://myrgv.com/local-news/2024/02/22/sugar-mill-closing-amid-water-crisis-100-million-impact-expected/>.



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



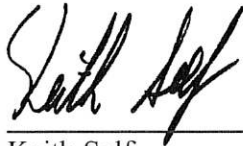
Wesley Hunt
Member of Congress



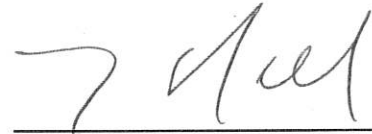
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Cc:

The Honorable Marco Rubio