

MONICA DE LA CRUZ  
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT, TEXAS



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

I write to you today regarding the potential establishment of a new sterile fly facility within the United States, a matter of critical importance to the protection of our livestock and wildlife. As you know, the threat of invasive fly species, such as the New World screwworm, poses a significant risk to the health and economic well-being of our agricultural sector and the delicate balance of our ecosystems.

Given the strategic importance of this facility, I strongly advocate for its location within Texas' 15th Congressional District, specifically at Moore Air Base. This base was previously the site of a facility to help combat screwworm in the 1960's. Additionally, the United States Department of Agriculture currently operates a fruit fly rearing and eclosion facility in this area and the addition of a new sterile fly facility would logically make sense due to the existing USDA infrastructure in place and the operational runway at Moore Air Base. This region also presents a compelling case for consideration, primarily due to its proximity to the United States-Mexico border.

The Moore Air Base location offers several key advantages:

- **Border Proximity:** The proximity to the border with Mexico is crucial for effective monitoring and control of potential incursions of invasive fly species. A facility in this region would allow for rapid response and containment, minimizing the spread of infestations into the United States.
- **Existing Agricultural Infrastructure:** The region boasts a robust agricultural sector with established infrastructure and expertise in livestock management. This existing framework would facilitate efficient integration of the sterile fly facility and

streamline its operations. Additionally, Moore Air Base has operations runways equipped to distribute sterile flies.

- Strategic Location: Moore Air Base offers a central location for distribution of sterile flies to other areas in the southern United States, if such a need arises. Additionally, this base was the site of a facility used in the 1960's to successfully combat screwworm.
- Economic Impact: The establishment of such a facility would provide valuable economic opportunities for the region by generating jobs and stimulating local economies.

I understand the Department of Agriculture's commitment to safeguarding our agricultural resources and natural habitats. I believe that locating this vital facility in Texas' 15th Congressional District would be a prudent and strategic decision, enhancing our ability to protect our livestock and wildlife from the devastating impact of invasive fly species.

I respectfully request that you give this matter your full consideration and explore the feasibility of establishing the sterile fly facility within Texas' 15th Congressional District at Moore Air Base. I am prepared to provide any additional information or support that may be required during your evaluation process.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



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