

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

12/19/2024

President Donald J. Trump  
1100 S Ocean Blvd  
Palm Beach, FL  
33480

Dear President Trump,

We would like to congratulate you on your election victory. As you prepare for your return to the White House, we write to bring to your attention the ongoing water shortage in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) of Texas due to Mexico's failure to meet its obligation under the 1944 Water Treaty. We respectfully request your assistance on this matter.

The United States and Mexico share the waters of the Rio Grande under a 1944 Water Treaty in which Mexico is obligated to deliver 350,000 acre-feet of water to the U.S. annually. This delivery is vital to irrigation farming and municipal use in the RGV, helping generate billions in economic productivity for the region.

However, Mexico has regularly failed to fulfill its annual delivery commitments and owes over 960,000 acre-feet of water for this current five-year cycle. As we approach the final year of this cycle, the entire RGV region, particularly the agricultural sector, is suffering economic hardship while the Mexican government shows no signs of meeting its obligations.

The devastating impacts of Mexico's inaction worsen by the day. This year, the only sugar cane operation in Texas, the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, announced that after over 51 years they were forced to close operations and pull out the last remaining acres of sugarcane due to years of Mexico failing to fulfill its water delivery obligations. With its closing, 500 American jobs were lost. As farmers struggle to cope with the situation, below are initial estimates of losses due to a lack of irrigation water:

- Sugarcane: \$98,000,000 in 2024 economic losses at the farm-level (5-year average value of production) as estimated by a 2023 report by Texas A&M; this estimate is now a reality as the mill has closed and there is no sugarcane crop. Comparing the 2020/2021 crop to the 2023/2024 crop, there was a reduction of

16,903 acres harvested and of 742,029 tons, for a loss of \$24,528,246 in grower payments. As a COOP, that is a loss to the growers.

- Citrus: since 2020, the Lower RGV has experienced an 85,000-ton reduction in citrus production, valued at around \$147,000,000, and the removal of 7,000 acres of citrus. The transition costs associated with removing these orchards are considerable, estimated at \$800 per acre, totaling \$5,600,000.
- Vegetables: for the 2024/2025 crop year, 40% of the Lower RGV vegetable industry estimates a combined loss of \$72,000,000 in gross revenue. Given similar scenarios for the other 60%, predictions are a total of \$180,000,000 loss in gross revenue.
- Row crops: as of August 2024, in the Lower RGV, corn and sorghum yields on irrigated acres are down approximately 40% from the 5-year average. At the current prices, the 40% yield loss amounts to \$25,000,000 between corn and sorghum. Producers, hit by a yield loss and a price loss, are challenged to pay back loans. A COOP Cotton Gin in La Feria, Texas is reporting losses for 2023 & 2024 at \$24,625,208.

Without swift and decisive action, many growers will face the possibility of default on bank loans and the inability to secure financing for future crops, resulting in bankruptcies and land auctions. The RGV produces over 9 million cartons of grapefruit and oranges and approximately 5 million cartons of juice for consumers nationwide. Reduced citrus and sugar production will inevitably lead to severe supply chain disruptions, greater dependence on foreign imports to satisfy demand, and overall higher grocery prices for American families.

A decline in sugarcane production will also have trickling impacts on other industries, including molasses, which is a byproduct of sugar production and an important feed supplement for livestock.

We respectfully request that you take swift action to hold Mexico accountable for the water they owe the United States under the 1944 Water Treaty and hope that this can be a priority for your administration in your discussions with Mexico.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and consideration of these requests. We look forward to working closely with your administration to hold Mexico accountable for its water deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty.

Sincerely,



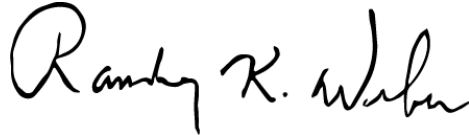
Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Keith Self  
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A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Chip Roy, featuring a large 'C' and 'R'.

Chip Roy  
Member of Congress

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Dan Crenshaw, featuring a large 'D' and 'C'.

Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Ronny Jackson, featuring a large 'R' and 'J'.

Ronny Jackson  
Member of Congress