

MONICA DE LA CRUZ
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT, TEXAS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 4, 2023

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NATIONAL SECURITY, ILLICIT FINANCE, AND
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

The current water scarcity and drought conditions in South Texas have created devastating consequences for farmers and residents living in the Rio Grande Valley. Specifically, the need to increase water for crop usage is critical for the success of farmers working and living in the region. Lack of consistent rainfall has caused agricultural producers to deal with devastating crop losses, creating a situation that quickly needs to be resolved.

In 1944, the United States signed a treaty with the Mexican government titled the "Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande". The expectation of the Mexican government was to send an average of 350,000-acre feet of water every year, over a 5-year cycle. As of recently, Mexico has failed to uphold its end of this treaty and American agricultural producers are suffering as a result.

A hotter and drier climate is cause for a call of desperation, as South Texas farmers are preparing to plant in the next 4-5 weeks. This time constraint calls for immediate action to be taken, as the success of the season depends on the Mexican government releasing water to the Rio Grande during these next few weeks. Therefore, I ask the U.S. State Department to meet with Mexican officials, urging their government to fulfill their obligations under the treaty.

Let me be clear, failure of the U.S. State Department to hold official meetings specifically addressing this issue will reap devastating results for farmers in South Texas. The United States must prioritize diplomatic engagement with Mexico to address this issue promptly and effectively – with real results.

I firmly believe that through open and transparent communication, we can create a framework for responsible water management that serves the needs of both nations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Monica De La Cruz".

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