

MONICA DE LA CRUZ
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT, TEXAS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

2/5/2025

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

Dear Secretary Rubio,

As you continue to negotiate with Mexico, I want to bring to your attention the ongoing water shortage in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) of Texas due to the Mexican government's failure to meet its obligations under the 1944 Water Treaty. I respectfully request that as part of your negotiations, you hold the Mexican government accountable for the water they owe the United States.

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 and feeding American families nationwide.

Last 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 their water delivery obligations. With its closing, 500 American jobs were lost.

Mexico's failure to make water deliveries has national consequences as well. 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 national supply chain disruptions, greater dependence on foreign imports to satisfy demand, and overall higher grocery prices for American families.

I also want to commend the Trump Administration for holding Mexico accountable to secure their border and stop the flow of illegal drugs that are pouring into our country. I was pleased to learn that President Trump was able to negotiate 10,000 Mexican soldiers to be sent to the border to aid in these efforts in return for a one month delay on

tariffs being imposed on Mexico. It is my hope that we can discuss an exclusion of fruits and vegetables in the proposed tariffs on Mexico, if tariffs are eventually implemented.

Agriculture is a vital part of the South Texas economy, and farmers rely heavily on trade with Mexico. According to the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. imported more than \$45 billion in agricultural products from Mexico in 2023, accounting for 63 percent of U.S. vegetable imports and 47 percent of U.S. fruit and nut imports. In 2022, about 55 percent of U.S. fresh fruit and vegetable imports from Mexico entered through Texas land ports, arriving in 325,467 truckloads.

Many of these goods passed through the land ports of entry in my district and this commerce greatly contributes to the South Texas economy. Food security is national security and it's important that the agriculture supply chain experiences minimal impacts that could be passed down to American consumers.

I am committed to working alongside President Trump's Administration to be a voice for South Texans and advocate for the needs of our farmers during trade negotiations. The trade relationship with Mexico is critical to the Rio Grande Valley and the vitality of our local economies. I thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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

Cc:

The Honorable Scott Bessent, Secretary of Treasury

Howard Lutnick, Secretary of Commerce Nominee

Jamieson Greer, U.S. Trade Representative Nominee

The Honorable GT Thompson, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture