

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 24, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 Seventeenth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young:

We write to request that you include \$100 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) in the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

EPA's Border Water Infrastructure Program funds competitive grants on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border to help finance critical infrastructure projects impacting predominantly Hispanic and Native communities. These projects include the construction of first-time water hook-ups and sewage infrastructure that help reduce polluted runoff in the U.S. as well as shared waterways between the U.S. and Mexico. The current pipeline of projects that have submitted applications for the program is more than \$320 million, of which BWIP would cover more than \$125 million.

Our southern border states are home to 2,000 colonias, many of which lack basic infrastructure like water and wastewater services among others. In Mexico, urbanization, geography and inadequate wastewater infrastructure have led to untreated sewage, trash and sediment routinely flowing into the U.S. through shared waterways. This program is designed to aid those communities, on both sides of the border, which have the capacity to maintain and administer utilities funded through the grants.

This vital fund has proven to be a successful program over its life. To date, 137 projects have been financed using BWIP funds (69 in the U.S. and 68 in Mexico) including colonias and federally recognized tribes. This is the only federal program which works on both sides of the border, and Mexico has been a faithful partner, matching every dollar invested on their side of the border.

We must prioritize funding for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program to meet the needs of colonia residents who live in the U.S and lack basic services like clean drinking water

and sewage treatment, and to meet the broader needs of the border for first-time water hook-ups and sewage infrastructure. We look forward to working with you to adequately fund this much-needed program for the states along our Southern border with Mexico.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



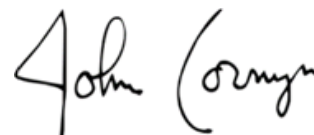
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress