

HENRY CUELLAR, PH.D.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Starr Paws Project, Starr County, in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Starr County, located at 401 N. Britton Ave, Rio Grande City, TX 78582. Starr County would use Community Project Funding to renovate and equip a modern animal shelter to serve rural, and underserved colonia communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Currently, the County lacks adequate animal shelter infrastructure, resulting in increased public health risks, strain on local law enforcement, and negative impacts on community safety and quality of life. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a documented gap in essential public services, mitigates public health risks, and delivers long-term cost savings through proactive animal population management and disease prevention.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a)

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar
U.S. Congressman
28th District of Texas