

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

September 29, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Secretario Marcelo Ebrard
Relaciones Exteriores de México
Av. Juárez 20, Colonia Centro,
Cuauhtémoc, 06010 Ciudad de México,
CDMX, Mexico

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Secretario Ebrard:

As the United States and Mexico continue to combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, hundreds of American companies are facing challenges navigating policies affecting supply chain reliability and delivery critical resources to maintain their way of life. The Rio Grande Valley, in my Congressional District, is particularly dependent on the enforcement of the bilateral resource treaties between our countries.

The Mexican-controlled waters of the international Rio Grande Basin are vital to ensuring that water right holders, in South Texas, can irrigate crops, supply water to municipalities, and conduct industrial operations. The 1944 *Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande Treaty* is, therefore, intended to protect the interests of many of my hardworking constituents, and meet their reliant needs. Without the Treaty deliveries, Texas must decrease allocations of water from international reservoirs to water right holders along the Rio Grande and force stakeholders to secure alternate sources of water, change crops, and reduce operations.

The United States is in full compliance with the agreement and continues to meet their annual obligation to Mexico of 1,500,000 acre-feet of water from the Colorado River. In accordance, Article 4 of the Treaty stipulates that Mexico must deliver 1,750,000 acre-feet of water to the United States over a five-year period. Given Mexico's current deficit, in order to comply with the agreement, it must deliver about one year's worth of water to the U.S. before the cycle ends on October 24, 2020.

As both our governments seek to honor the provisions of this Treaty, and reach a resolution, I acknowledge the sensitive nature of this matter to the Mexican people. However, the ongoing delays in critical water resource delivery to my constituents in the Rio Grande Valley must be addressed. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress
28th District of Texas