

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

We write to express our support of federal funding, in the fully authorized amount, for the Southwest Border Regional Commission (“SBRC”) in any subsequent COVID package.

The SBRC was created to address economic distress in the southern border regions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. One of seven authorized federal regional commissions and authorities, the SBRC is a congressionally chartered, federal-state partnership created to provide economic development in respective service areas. Although authorized in the *Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008* (P.L. 110-234), along with the Northern Border Regional Commission and the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, the SBRC is the only one of these commissions to have never received a corresponding federal appropriation.

As Members who represent districts at the Southwest border, we fully comprehend the importance of this commission and its intended function as a unique facilitator of economic vitality for our communities. Congress authorized federal funding for the SBRC in annual amounts of \$30,000,000 from FY2008 to FY2018, and \$33,000,000 from FY2019 until FY2023.

We find urgency in our desire to remedy this continuing oversight given the ongoing public health and economic crisis in our communities. We, therefore, compel you to properly appropriate the fully authorized amount of \$33,000,000 in the upcoming COVID-19 Phase IV package, which would provide economic stability and relief to many of our constituents.

Pursuant to this petition, we request the following bill language be included in the measure:

*“SEC \_\_\_\_\_. DIVISION C—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT TITLE IV 1 INDEPENDENT AGENCIES SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.*

*For necessary expenses of the Southwest Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$33,000,000, to remain available until expended.”*

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Should you, or your staff, have any questions please contact Travis Knight in Rep. Cuellar's office at [Travis.Knight@mail.house.gov](mailto:Travis.Knight@mail.house.gov), or Felipe Galvis-Delgado in Rep. Torres Small's office at [Felipe.Galvis-Delgado@mail.house.gov](mailto:Felipe.Galvis-Delgado@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



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Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress  
28<sup>th</sup> District of Texas



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Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress  
2<sup>nd</sup> District of New Mexico



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress  
15<sup>th</sup> District of Texas



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress  
16<sup>th</sup> District of Texas



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Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress  
1st District of Arizona



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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress  
7th District of Arizona