

## **Rep. Henry Cuellar Supports Partnerships with Mexico & Central America** *Providing Foreign Aid and Law Enforcement Resources to the Region*

### **Rep. Cuellar is the Co-Chairman of the *U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group*.**

- Ensuring that the essential U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship remains strong and effective today and into the future.
- Supporting America's economic, cultural and security interests, while maintaining critical diplomatic relationship with our southern neighbor.

### **Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$750,000,000 to implement the *United States Strategy for Engagement in Mexico and Central America, in 2015*.**

- Supporting the "Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle of Central America."
- Helping to reduce illegal immigration to the United States.
- Bolstering regional governance, prosperity, and security.

### **Rep. Cuellar helped establish the *High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED)* between the U.S. and Mexico.**

- Flexible platform intended to advance strategic economic and commercial priorities central to promoting mutual economic growth, job creation, and global competitiveness.
- Facilitating dialogue and joint initiatives organized around three broad pillars: 1) Promoting Competitiveness and Connectivity; 2) Fostering Economic Growth, Productivity, and Innovation; and 3) Partnering for Regional and Global Leadership.

## **Active / Passed Legislation**

### **Rep. Cuellar Helped Lead the Passage of the *United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) of 2019*. [Passed into Law]**

- Trilateral free trade agreement that will expand opportunities for American businesses, workers, and farmers.
- Agreement is creating more balanced, reciprocal trade supporting high-paying jobs for Americans and grow the North American economy.
- It is supporting a 21st Century economy through new protections for U.S. intellectual property and ensuring opportunities for trade in U.S. services.

### **Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *North American Development Bank (NADB) Improvement Act of 2019*. [Added to USMCA] [Passed into Law]**

- Doubles the capital reauthorization for the North American Development Bank (NADB) to \$6 billion.
- NADB provides financial support for the development and implementation of infrastructure projects to help preserve, protect, and enhance the environment at the borders.
- A new authorization of \$215 million to fund this capital increase was included in the FY20 appropriations bill for the purpose of providing immediate assistance to border communities.
- An additional \$250 million in funding was secured through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

### **Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *United States-Mexico Electricity Exchange Act*. [Introduced in the House]**

- The Secretary of Energy is directed to work with the appropriate representatives of the Government of Mexico to establish a United States-Mexico Electricity Exchange Initiative to promote the interconnection of electric transmission facilities between the southern border States of the United States and Mexico.
- The Secretary of Energy is directed to conduct a study on the opportunities and obstacles to cross-border trade of electricity; strengthen electric grid resilience and reliability in the border region; promote the

generation and exchange of electricity in the border region; and strengthen the economic conditions in the border region.

**Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *United States-Mexico Tourism Improvement Act of 2021*. [Introduced in the House]**

- Directs the Department of State to emphasize bilateral and corporative tourism policies with Mexico.
- Promotes U.S.-Mexico tourism initiatives, while encouraging U.S. and Mexican nonprofit groups and the private sector to support entrepreneurship development.

**Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act of 2019*. [Passed into Law]**

- Directs the Department of State to develop a strategy to enhance economic cooperation and expand professional and educational exchange programs between the United States and Mexico.
- Encourages more academic exchanges between the countries, as well as exchanges to encourage strengthening business skills and entrepreneurship.

**Rep. Cuellar is the Author of the *Western Hemisphere Resource Assessment Amendment – NDAA 2020* [Passed into Law]**

- Directs the Department of Defense, in collaboration with the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, to assess U.S. funding and resource allocations in the region.
- The assessments focus on investments made by China, Iran, and Russia in the Western Hemisphere.

### **Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Provisions**

#### **FY22 Agriculture & Rural Development Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar secured language directing USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to develop agricultural working groups with its counterparts in Central America and Mexico.**

- Improving the efficiency of the agricultural inspection process.
- Addressing agricultural trade facilitation issues.
- Utilizing existing programs for academic exchanges in agriculture-related fields of study in the region.

#### **FY22 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$17,600,000 to develop methods to combat Harmful Algae Blooms and the Spread of Sargassum.**

- \$4,000,000 to supplement activities related to harmful algal blooms and directs the Corps to target freshwater ecosystems.
- \$5,600,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to develop next-generation ecological models to aid in algal bloom detection, prevention, and management techniques.
- \$8,000,000 for to supplement activities related to harmful algal bloom research and control.

#### **FY22 Homeland Security Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar secured language that will help provide support and funding for outbound inspections.**

- Will interdict the flow of firearms and illicit currency that fund criminal organizations.
- Includes commitment to scanning 100% of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the U.S. at land ports of entry along the border.

**FY22 Interior & Environment Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$26,739,000 to research containment strategies to combat Harmful Algae Blooms and the Spread of Sargassum.**

- \$26,739,000 for Environmental Health programs, including funding for Contaminant Biology research, through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for research on the impacts of unconventional oil and gas.
- Increase of \$1,000,000 above the budget request in Toxic Substances Hydrology for harmful algal bloom research.

**Rep. Cuellar secured \$35,000,000 for U.S.-Mexico Border EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants.**

**FY22 State & Foreign Operations Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure over \$158,910,000 in foreign aid and law enforcement funding to Mexico.**

- \$100,000,000 for Mexico under International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement.
- \$50,000,000 for Mexico under Economic Support.
- \$6,000,000 for Mexico under Foreign Military Financing Program.
- \$1,750,000 for Mexico under International Military Education and Training.
- \$1,160,000 is from Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs

**FY22 Transportation & Housing Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar secured language creating a U.S.-Mexico Infrastructure Coordinator to improve freight infrastructure development at the southwest border.**

- Designates a lead infrastructure coordinator to facilitate more efficient development of international, cross-border infrastructure projects, which is critical to maintaining the U.S.-Mexico bilateral trade relationship.
- Strengthens coordination between the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), General Services Administration (GSA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and their Mexican counterparts.

**Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Provisions****FY21 Agriculture & Rural Development Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar secured language directing USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to develop agricultural working groups with its counterparts in Central America and Mexico.**

- Improving the efficiency of the agricultural inspection process.
- Addressing agricultural trade facilitation issues.
- Utilizing existing programs for academic exchanges in agriculture-related fields of study in the region.

**FY21 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$14,825,000 to develop methods to combat Harmful Algae Blooms and the Spread of Sargassum.**

- \$4,000,000 to supplement activities related to harmful algal blooms and directs the Corps to target freshwater ecosystems.
- \$7,325,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to develop next-generation ecological models to aid in algal bloom detection, prevention, and management techniques.

- \$3,500,000 to supplement activities related to harmful algal blooms and directs the Corps to work collaboratively with appropriate university partners.

**FY21 Interior & Environment Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure \$24,745,000 to research containment strategies to combat Harmful Algae Blooms and the Spread of Sargassum.**

- \$10,397,000 for Contaminant Biology research, through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for research on the impacts of unconventional oil and gas.
- \$14,348,000 for toxic substances hydrology, which includes \$2,000,000 for research on harmful algal blooms.

**Rep. Cuellar secured \$30,000,000 for U.S.-Mexico Border EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants.**

**FY21 State & Foreign Operations Appropriations Provisions**

**Rep. Cuellar helped secure over \$158,910,000 in foreign aid and law enforcement funding to Mexico.**

- \$100,000,000 for Mexico under International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement.
- \$50,000,000 for Mexico under Economic Support.
- \$6,000,000 for Mexico under Foreign Military Financing Program.
- \$1,750,000 for Mexico under International Military Education and Training.
- \$1,160,000 is from Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs

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