Rep. Cuellar Supports Environmental Protections

Provides Funding to Preserve Natural Resources and Clean Water

Active / Passed Legislation

Rep. Cuellar, as a Senior Member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, has supported numerous initiatives to Combat Climate Change.

Rep. Cuellar was the Lead Sponsor of the North American Development Bank (NADBank) Improvement Act of 2019. [Added to USMCA] [P.L. No: 116-113]
- 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).

- Secured a new authorization of $300 million to fund grants under the Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) to address sewage pollution in the USMCA.

- Directs the Department of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area in a border region of Texas as the Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Corridor.
- The Corridor is a large a diversified landscape, characterized by historical land uses and architecture, social traditions, and ecosystems.

- Provides $66.2 billion over ten years to alleviate the threat of lead in drinking water systems across the United States.
- Requires every utility in America to develop a plan to identify and remove lead pipes that threaten residents, especially children.
- Helps utility companies invest in critical infrastructure plans and remove dangerous chemicals from community water systems.

- Establishes a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while setting goals for reducing such emissions from covered sources by 83% including the electric power and oil and gas sectors, and heavy industry.
- Designed to ease the transition into a low carbon economy by providing assistance to those impacted by a cap - including industry, affected sectors of America’s workforce, and low-income households; these also include support for international climate change programs.
**Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Provisions**

**FY22 Agriculture and Rural Development Appropriations**

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $93,000,000 for Grants for Colonias, and Alaskan and Hawaiian Native Villages under the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account.

**FY22 Energy and Water Development Appropriations**

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $109,000,000 for Emissions Mitigation Innovations and Carbon Capture Technology.

- $26,000,000 for Emissions Mitigation from Midstream Infrastructure.
- $13,000,000 for Emissions Quantification from Natural Gas Infrastructure.
- $38,000,000 for Carbon Utilization for research and development activities to support valuable and innovative uses of captured carbon.
- $12,000,000 is for carbon capture research that benefits natural gas power systems.
- $10,000,000 for the research and optimization of carbon capture technologies at industrial facilities.
- $10,000,000 for a competitive solicitation to conduct tests of technologies for carbon dioxide absorption integrated with algae systems for capturing and re-using carbon dioxide to produce renewable materials.

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

- $8,000,000 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.
- $4,000,000 for the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program to supplement activities related to harmful algal blooms.

**FY22 Interior and Environment Appropriations**

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 helped secure $130,982,000 for the Brownfields Grants Program.

- An increase of $40,000,000 from FY21.

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $1,536,308,000 for the Superfund Remedial program and Emergency Response and Removal.

- An increase of $330,497,000 from FY21.
Rep. Cuellar helped secure $15,000,000 for the Centennial Challenge.

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $135,980,000 for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation projects for constructed assets.

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $188,184,000 for cyclic maintenance projects.

**FY22 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations**

- Added language directing the U.S. Commissioner to the IBWC to work with officials in Mexico to address the adverse impacts of waste from Mexico on communities in the United States.
- Secured language directing this funding to focus on reducing the amount of sediment runoff and eradication and mechanical control of carrizo cane.

**Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Provisions**

**FY21 Agriculture and Rural Development Appropriations**

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $68,000,000 for Grants for Colonias, and Alaskan and Hawaiian Native Villages under the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account.

**FY21 Energy and Water Development Appropriations**

- $13,000,000 for Emissions Mitigation from Midstream Infrastructure.
- $6,500,000 for Emissions Quantification from Natural Gas Infrastructure.
- $23,000,000 for Carbon Utilization for research and development activities to support valuable and innovative uses of captured carbon.
- $10,000,000 is for carbon capture research that benefits natural gas power systems.
- $8,000,000 for the research and optimization of carbon capture technologies at industrial facilities.
- $8,000,000 for a competitive solicitation to conduct tests of technologies for carbon dioxide absorption integrated with algae systems for capturing and re-using carbon dioxide to produce renewable materials.

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 corps to work collaboratively with appropriate university partners.
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 helped secure $90,982,000 for the Brownfields Grants Program.
  • An increase of $1,982,000 from FY20.

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $1,205,811,000 for the Superfund Remedial program and Emergency Response and Removal.
  • An increase of $22,911,000 from FY20.

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $15,000,000 for the Centennial Challenge.

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $135,980,000 for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation projects for constructed assets.

Rep. Cuellar helped secure $188,184,000 for cyclic maintenance projects.
  • An increase of over $34 million from FY20.

**FY21 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations**

  • Added language directing the U.S. Commissioner to the IBWC to work with officials in Mexico to address the adverse impacts of waste from Mexico on communities in the United States.
  • Secured language directing this funding to focus on reducing the amount of sediment runoff and eradication and mechanical control of carrizo cane.