

**Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (TX-34) Remarks**  
**House Committee on Agriculture**  
**Member Day Hearing**  
**Wednesday December 10, 2025, at 10:00AM**

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Thank you, Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig, for holding today's Member Day hearing. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before the Agriculture Committee and advocate for South Texans.

Earlier this year, Republicans enacted a bill that cut nearly \$200 billion from SNAP – the largest cut to SNAP in history. As Americans are struggling with inflated grocery costs and skyrocketing health care prices, taking food assistance away is cruel.

I represent the 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas, where over a quarter of all households use SNAP. The highest out of all districts in Texas, and one of the highest in the country.

This will force families, children, senior citizens, and veterans to go hungry.

I urge this Committee to work in bipartisan manner to right the wrong imposed by the Republican “Big, Ugly Bill.”

I also want to take a moment to highlight the following issues currently facing the agricultural industry in South Texas, *in no particular order*.

First, our domestic shrimpers continue to experience economic hardships caused by an increase in foreign shrimp imports, high fuel prices, labor shortages, and immigration regulations.

As a result, many South Texas shrimpers are forced to remain docked or sell their trawlers. And are on the verge of a major collapse, threatening many small family-owned businesses and coastal communities in my district and along the Gulf Coast.

The federal government must do more to protect the shrimping industry. I urge the Committee to allow commercial shrimpers to access agricultural safety net programs, increase FDA (Food and Drug Administration) inspections, and provide resources to allow the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) to purchase domestic shrimp and distribute them to our schools and local food banks.

Second, as the New World Screwworm inches closer to South Texas, this represents a serious threat to our cattle producers and wreak havoc on our economy and food supply chain.

For decades, the U.S. has worked with Mexico, Panama, and other Central American nations to control the New World Screwworm using the Sterile Insect Technique. However, I fear current infrastructure is not enough.

We need to procure more production and distribution facilities if we are to eradicate this pest again. TX-34 stands ready to assist should the USDA consider the procurement of a new or temporary site. Our proximity to the border and robust transportation infrastructure makes us a prime candidate.

Lastly, I want to highlight the current H-2A visa backlog. The recent government shutdown caused significant backlogs and processing delays for the Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification – halting H-2A processing and leaving farmers with deteriorating product in the fields.

Although operations have resumed, it's not enough. We need a solution, so farmers aren't left with rotting product in their fields.

Therefore, I encourage the Committee to urge the Administration to deem the certification office as “essential.”

I also encourage you to support the workforce bill that I will soon introduce – the *Save the American Workforce Act*. My bill would allow employers to temporarily sponsor migrants who have been in the country for at least five-years with no criminal record.

I urge you and your colleagues to join me in driving these initiatives forward and focusing on concrete improvements for the American people.

Thank you, and I yield back.