

Amendment offered by Ms. De La Cruz of Texas

Amendment description

The amendment would establish an interagency working group led by the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the economic interests of South Texas producers impacted by Mexico's failure to deliver water under the 1944 Water Treaty.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7567
OFFERED BY MS. DE LA CRUZ OF TEXAS

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 124 . RIO GRANDE VALLEY AGRICULTURAL WATER**
2 **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in coordina-
4 tion with the heads of the agencies described in subsection
5 (c), shall establish an interagency working group to coordi-
6 nate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the eco-
7 nomic interests of United States agricultural producers
8 impacted by water deliveries under the 1944 Water Trea-
9 ty.

10 (b) DUTIES.—The Working Group shall—

11 (1) analyze the economic impact of water deliv-
12 ery deficits under the 1944 Water Treaty on the
13 United States agricultural sector in the area affected
14 by such water delivery deficits, including specific as-
15 sessments of damages to perennial crops;

16 (2) develop and implement a multi-agency strat-
17 egy to—

18 (A) secure annual and predictable water
19 deliveries in accordance with the 1944 Water

1 Treaty through the coordinated use of Federal
2 diplomatic and operational authorities;

3 (B) enhance the resilience of the domestic
4 agricultural water supply through improved
5 conservation and infrastructure;

6 (C) assess trade-related mechanisms avail-
7 able to address agricultural supply chain dis-
8 ruptions caused by such water delivery deficits;

9 (D) ensure that water resources and infra-
10 structure in South Texas are efficiently man-
11 aged and operational for the beneficial use of
12 agricultural producers and municipal users; and

13 (E) support Federal officials in securing
14 annual and predictable water deliveries in ac-
15 cordance with the 1944 Water Treaty;

16 (3) facilitate coordination among Federal agen-
17 cies and with the State of Texas to align diplomatic,
18 trade, and infrastructure efforts with the critical
19 needs of the agricultural community in South Texas;
20 and

21 (4) provide a forum for public engagement and
22 transparency regarding—

23 (A) the status of water deliveries from
24 Mexico under the 1944 Water Treaty; and

1 (B) the findings of the Working Group and
2 the strategy developed under paragraph (2).

3 (c) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be
4 composed of—

5 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture (who shall
6 serve as Chair);

7 (2) the Secretary of State;

8 (3) the Secretary of the Interior;

9 (4) the Commissioner of the United States Sec-
10 tion of the International Boundary and Water Com-
11 mission, United States and Mexico;

12 (5) the Administrator of the Environmental
13 Protection Agency;

14 (6) the United States Trade Representative;

15 (7) the Chief of Engineers and Commanding
16 General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

17 (8) the Assistant to the President of the United
18 States for National Security Affairs.

19 (d) MEETINGS.—

20 (1) FREQUENCY.—The Working Group shall
21 meet not less frequently than annually.

22 (2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Working Group
23 shall—

24 (A) hold the meetings described in para-
25 graph (1) in a manner open to the public; and

1 (B) provide an opportunity for interested
2 stakeholders, including agricultural producers
3 and irrigation districts, to provide oral and
4 written comments to the Working Group.

5 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
7 Working Group shall submit to the Committees on Agri-
8 culture, Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, and Ways and
9 Means of the House of Representatives, and the Commit-
10 tees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropria-
11 tions, Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations,
12 and Finance of the Senate, a report describing—

13 (1) the findings resulting from the analysis
14 under subsection (b)(1);

15 (2) the status of diplomatic and operational ef-
16 forts to secure compliance with the annual water de-
17 livery requirements of the 1944 Water Treaty;

18 (3) an assessment of potential trade or adminis-
19 trative actions to secure long term water reliability
20 under treaties with Mexico; and

21 (4) recommendations for projects, resources,
22 and legislative authorities needed to fully implement
23 the strategy developed under subsection (b)(2).

24 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) 1944 WATER TREATY.—The term “1944
2 Water Treaty” means the Treaty Relating to the
3 Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana
4 Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington
5 on February 3, 1944 and the Supplementary Pro-
6 tocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

7 (2) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working
8 Group” means the interagency working group estab-
9 lished under subsection (a).

