

**Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia Remarks**  
**Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations**

**Good afternoon, everyone.**

**Thank you Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree for having me here today to share my Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations priorities within the Interior Subcommittee.**

**I am proud to represent Texas' 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes the cities of Houston, South Houston, Pasadena, Jacinto City, and Galena Park.**

**My district is 77% Latino.**

**First, I would like to discuss two of my community projects under the EPA-STAG-Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Account for cleaner water that I strongly urge the committee to consider.**

**1. In the city of Jacinto City, my \$3.2 million project will provide safe drinking water and fire protection to a diverse mix of residences and small businesses.**

**These pipes will be replaced with larger polypropylene pipe which will eliminate the threat of lead poisoning.**

**It will allow the water system to operate at a pressure that can assure the delivery of safe water to each user and supply adequate pressure and fire flows.**

**2. Another project is for the city of Galena Park.**

**This \$6 million project will improve the city's drinking water system by installing and replacing distribution pipes to prevent contamination.**

**The new pipes will also improve water pressure and quality.**

**3. Another request for the committee to consider is my general appropriations request for funding clean air programs.**

**Mr. Chairman, most of the petrochemical complex and the Houston Ship Channel is in my District.**

**Residents in, and around, the area regularly struggle with healthy air quality due to high amounts of ozone, pollution, and smog.**

**Unfortunately, the Houston region frequently ranks among the highest in the country for air quality issues.**

**In fact, right now, we are ranked #8 in the country for the most Ozone-polluted city in the country by the American Lung Association.**

**Air monitors have helped us pinpoint problematic areas and specific pollutants and their effects on people's health.**

**For example, we know that poor air quality can aggravate pre-existing health conditions like asthma or allergies and technology can help us caution those residents who are near a particularly high ozone area before they go outside.**

**My community is trying to monitor air quality more closely and more equitably--through local community, state, federal, and private initiatives.**

**We are trying to get ahead of any potential hotspots.**

**Increasing the number of air monitors and pollution abatement programs through adequate federal funding is one more step in that direction.**

**Clean air is a public health issue.**

**We need to do more to help our communities.**

**That is why I am championing a request letter among my colleagues for strong, robust funding for Clean Air programs.**

**Specifically, I am asking the committee to robustly fund the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State and Tribal Assistance Grants Programs.**

**The EPA State and Tribal Grants program offers funding for a variety of clean water and clean air initiatives.**

**My letter asks for strong funding for this program, specifically those focused on air monitoring and pollution abatement programs.**

**This funding would greatly help communities like mine, across the country, that have long been underserved.**

**Everyone deserves the God-given right to breathe clean air.**

**I am proud to see that the committee prioritized strong funding for this program last year and I sincerely hope the committee once again prioritizes funding for this critical program.**

**Thank you for consideration of these requests.**

**I am happy to answer any questions you might have, and I yield any remaining time.**