



The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
U.S. House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 24th, 2021

The Honorable John Michael Katko
U.S. House of Representative
2428 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blunt-Rochester and Representative Katko,

On behalf of GreenLatinos, an active comunidad of Latino/a/x environmental and conservation champions fighting against climate change and environmental degradation across the nation, we are writing today to support H.R. 3293, the Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act of 2021. This legislation can provide critical relief to the households who need it most, including our Latinx, Black and Indigenous communities. Water is an essential human right, and no one should be left without water simply because they are unable to afford it.

The number of households not being able to afford water has grown tremendously in recent years due to increased utilities bills and a lack of federal financing support. The households unable to afford these climbing payments are susceptible not only to water shutoffs and to the accumulation of large debt, but also to the health threats caused by lack of access to safe and affordable water.

These threats have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, which has disproportionately impacted our Latinx communities, Black, and Indigenous communities. The pandemic has affected our health, our employment, our education, and our livelihoods. It has overwhelmed our Latino communities and other communities of color, having inequitable access to affordable water is also another challenge that we have had to face during this time.

The Federal Government must solve this problem by both increasing its investment in water infrastructure and ensuring water affordability for lower income households. The permanent low-income water customer assistance program that this bill seeks to create is an excellent way to target relief to the low-income households and communities who need it most now and in the future.

H.R. 3293 offers a collective solution for low-income Americans and the water utilities that serve them. GreenLatinos looks forward to working alongside you to develop the strongest most comprehensive version of this program, so that we can ensure all communities have access to affordable water.

Sincerely,

Mark Magaña

Founding President & CEO

GreenLatinos