

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2546

To authorize appropriations for the provision of financial assistance to protect public health, the environment, and water quality along the United States-Mexico border.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 1993

Mr. DE LA GARZA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation

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## A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the provision of financial assistance to protect public health, the environment, and water quality along the United States-Mexico border.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Good Neighbor Envi-  
5       ronmental Assistance Act of 1993”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7       The purpose of this Act is to protect the economy,  
8       public health, environment, and water quality of the Unit-  
9       ed States-Mexico border area which is endangered and is

1 being polluted by raw or partially treated sewage, effluent,  
2 or other pollutants.

3 **SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon approval of the necessary  
5 plans and specifications, the Administrator is authorized  
6 to provide financial assistance to the Secretary of State,  
7 acting through the American Section of the International  
8 Boundary and Water Commission, or any other Federal  
9 agency, any other appropriate commission, entity, or bor-  
10 der State designated by the President. Such financial as-  
11 sistance shall be for the construction of projects—

12 (1) consisting of wastewater treatment works to  
13 protect the residents and surrounding areas from  
14 pollution resulting from any inadequacies or break-  
15 downs in wastewater treatment works and systems;  
16 or

17 (2) consisting of treatment works to provide  
18 primary or more advanced treatment of municipal  
19 sewage and industrial waste.

20 (b) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may make  
21 grants for construction of treatment works described in  
22 subsection (a) in Mexico only if, after public notice and  
23 comment, the Administrator determines that treatment  
24 works in Mexico, in conjunction with any wastewater  
25 treatment works or other project constructed under this

1 or any other Act, are not sufficient to protect residents  
2 of border States from water pollution originating in  
3 Mexico.

4 (c) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—The Commis-  
5 sion or such other agency, commission, entity, or border  
6 State as may be designated under subsection (a), is au-  
7 thorized to operate and maintain any treatment works  
8 constructed under subsection (a) in order to accomplish  
9 the purposes of this Act.

10 (d) APPROVAL OF PLANS.—Any treatment works for  
11 which financial assistance is made under this Act shall be  
12 constructed in accordance with plans developed by the  
13 Commissioner or such other agency, commission, entity,  
14 or border State as may be designated under subsection  
15 (a), in consultation with the appropriate officials of the  
16 affected border State, and approved by the Administrator,  
17 to meet the construction standards which would be appli-  
18 cable if such treatment works were being constructed  
19 under title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

20 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—Construction of the treatment  
21 works under subsection (a) shall be at full Federal expense  
22 less any costs paid by the affected border State and less  
23 any costs paid by the Government of Mexico as a result  
24 of agreements negotiated with the United States.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act.—

3 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
4 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

5 (2) the term “border State” means the States  
6 of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas; and

7 (3) the terms “construction” and “treatment  
8 works” have the meanings such terms have under  
9 section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control  
10 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251).

11 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years  
13 beginning after September 30, 1993, such sums as may  
14 be necessary to the Administrator to provide financial as-  
15 sistance under this Act and such sums as may be nec-  
16 essary to the Commission or such other agency, commis-  
17 sion, entity, or border State as the President may des-  
18 ignate under section 3 to carry out this Act.

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