

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

# S. 1286

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants to improve wastewater treatment for certain communities in the United States located close to the border between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26 (legislative day, JUNE 30), 1993

Mr. BINGAMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

---

## A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants to improve wastewater treatment for certain communities in the United States located close to the border between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

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 “Colonias Wastewater  
5       Treatment Act of 1993”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) as of the date of enactment of this Act,  
4 there is a severe lack of wastewater treatment facili-  
5 ties in the area of the border between the United  
6 States and Mexico;

7 (2) the lack of facilities is leading to the pollu-  
8 tion of rivers and ground water in the area and to  
9 environmental degradation; and

10 (3) the pollution presents a grave threat to pub-  
11 lic health through the proliferation of gastro-  
12 intestinal and infectious diseases.

13 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO CERTAIN COMMUNITIES.**

14 Title V of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
15 (33 U.S.C. 1281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
16 the following new section:

17 **“SEC. 521. GRANTS TO CERTAIN COMMUNITIES.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
19 vision of law, the Administrator is authorized to award  
20 a grant for wastewater treatment to—

21 “(1) a community that meets the requirements  
22 of subsection (b); or

23 “(2) a county, municipality, or other political  
24 subdivision of a State acting on behalf of a commu-  
25 nity that meets the requirements of subsection (b).

1       “(b) ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES.—A community that  
2 meets the requirements of this subsection is a community  
3 that—

4           “(1) is designated by the State or county in  
5 which the community is located as a colonia;

6           “(2) is located in the region along the border  
7 between the United States and Mexico;

8           “(3) the Administrator determines is eligible to  
9 receive a grant under this subsection on the basis of  
10 objective criteria (including the lack of a potable  
11 water supply, an adequate sewage system, or decent,  
12 safe, and sanitary housing); and

13           “(4) before November 28, 1990, existed as a  
14 colonia (as determined by the Administrator).

15       “(c) USE OF GRANT.—A grant awarded under this  
16 section may be used for 1 or more of the following:

17           “(1)(A) The construction (including planning,  
18 design, repair, extension, improvement, alteration, or  
19 reconstruction) of a publicly owned treatment works  
20 (including collection lines or interceptor sewers, not-  
21 withstanding any limitation otherwise imposed with  
22 respect to the provision of assistance for collection  
23 lines or interceptor sewers).

24           “(B) The acquisition of land, or any easement  
25 or other right-of-way, to which the recipient of as-

1 assistance is not the owner (at the time of receipt as-  
2 sistance), that is necessary to carry out the con-  
3 struction or operation of the publicly owned treat-  
4 ment works, or the final disposal of residues result-  
5 ing from the treatment of water or waste.

6 “(2) The disposal of wastewater by surface or  
7 underground methods, (or both).

8 “(d) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant awarded under this  
9 section may be for an amount not to exceed 100 percent  
10 of the cost of the project that is the subject of the grant.

11 “(e) DEFINITION; BORDER AREA.—The term ‘border  
12 area’ means the area situated within 100 kilometers on  
13 either side of the United States-Mexican international  
14 boundary.

15 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Environmental  
17 Protection Agency, to carry out this section, such sums  
18 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 1994 through  
19 2000.”.

○