

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 181

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the obligations of Mexico under the Treaty Between the United States of America and Mexico of 1944 relating to the use of the Colorado, Rio Grande, and Tijuana Rivers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ (for himself, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. GONZALEZ) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the obligations of Mexico under the Treaty Between the United States of America and Mexico of 1944 relating to the use of the Colorado, Rio Grande, and Tijuana Rivers.

Whereas under the Treaty Between the United States of America and Mexico of 1944, the Governments of the United States and Mexico assumed certain rights and obligations relating to the Colorado, Rio Grande, and Tijuana Rivers;

Whereas under the treaty Mexico is obligated to supply to the United States over successive 5-year periods 350,000 acre-feet of water each year from the Rio Grande River,

and the United States is obligated to supply to Mexico 1,500,000 acre-feet of water each year from the Colorado River;

Whereas from 1992 to 1997 Mexico accrued a deficit of 1,500,000 acre-feet of water owed to the United States, and did not make prompt payment to the United States under the 1944 treaty;

Whereas from 1998 to 2000 Mexico further accrued a deficit owed to the United States of 700,000 acre-feet of water, making no payments to the United States as provided under the 1944 treaty;

Whereas as of September 2002, Mexico has a total water debt of almost 1,700,000 acre-feet of water owed to the United States;

Whereas the United States has made annual payments of 1,500,000 acre-feet of water to Mexico from 1992 to 2002 and has never been in violation of its obligation to make payments of water under the 1944 treaty;

Whereas as of October 2, 2002, Mexico will be in formal violation of the 1944 treaty for the second consecutive 5-year cycle;

Whereas the recent agreement signed by the Governments of the United States and Mexico in August 2002, authorizes the North American Development Bank to offer financial resources to repair and upgrade Mexican irrigation canals in Chihuahua and other projects on the United States side of the border with Mexico, but fails to provide for prompt payment to the United States of Mexico's water debt and is inadequate in establishing a prompt water payment schedule, providing assistance to the South Texas region for development of infrastructure improve-

ments, and providing economic assistance to farmers for their losses;

Whereas there has been a lack of commitment by the executive branch of the United States Government during the past two administrations to find a reasonable and fair solution to this situation; and

Whereas because of this unresolved matter, the agricultural sector in South Texas has suffered economic losses of nearly \$2,000,000,000 in the past ten years: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress calls upon the executive
 3 branch—

4 (1) to take specific actions to ensure that the
 5 Government of Mexico meets its obligations under
 6 the Treaty Between the United States of America
 7 and Mexico, and Protocol, signed in 1944, to supply
 8 Rio Grande River water to the United States;

9 (2) to withhold deliveries to Mexico of Colorado
 10 River water, until such time as Mexico complies with
 11 obligations under such treaty and protocol to deliver
 12 Rio Grande River water to the United States; and

13 (3) to consult with and report to the Congress
 14 on the actions taken under paragraphs (1) and (2).

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