



August 28, 2019

Hon. Juan Vargas
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Vargas:

On behalf of the Border Trade Alliance, we write to you thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 3895, the North American Development Bank's Pollution Solution Act, and to extend our strong support for its passage. We believe the bill's \$1.5 billion capital increase for the NADB will expand the good work and positive impact of the institution.

For 25 years, the NADB has been vitally important to improving basic services in the border region by financing numerous water, wastewater, solid waste and street paving projects, among others. Throughout its history, NADB has provided nearly \$3 billion in loans and grants to support infrastructure projects in the border region. NADB has leveraged its initial paid-in capital of \$405 million into investments totaling \$8.6 billion in sustainable infrastructure, representing a 1:21 total leveraged investment ratio and benefitting more than 17 million residents of the region.

We share your and your colleagues' belief that the NADB could make a powerful and lasting impact in addressing the ongoing challenge of cross-border pollution flows in the Tijuana River Valley. A better capitalized NADB would not only be a positive influence in that region, but border-wide.

The BTA also supports your legislation's call for the NADB to develop more efficient processes that will help streamline the financing of worthy projects. Further to that goal, the BTA has previously supported efforts to reduce redundant certifications, and we support allowing the institution to internally approve qualifying projects under a certain monetary threshold.

Our organization's advocacy for the Bank and for a capital increase is longstanding. The BTA has previously supported proposed policy reforms outlined by Sen. John Cornyn and Representative Will Hurd and Representative Henry Cuellar that would allow the NADB to provide financing for projects related to natural gas, with an emphasis on cross-border energy distribution and consumption and the energy security of the United States and Mexico; as well as the expansion or new construction of international land border crossings to help facilitate the lawful flow of goods and travel across the U.S.-Mexico border. Improved efficiency at our border crossings not only reduces border wait times, which are a drag on the region's competitiveness, but it also helps improve the area's air quality by reducing pollution resulting from idling vehicular and commercial traffic.



The BTA welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your cosponsors, as well as additional Members of Congress and affected stakeholders, in any and all efforts to ensure that legislation that advances these shared goals passes into law.

Thank you again for your leadership on the important issue of the mitigation of cross-border pollution. We look forward to working with you as the bill makes its way through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Britton Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and "C".

Britton Clarke
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paola Avila". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "A".

Paola Avila
Chair

CC: Rep. Scott Peters
Rep. Susan Davis
Rep. Mike Levin
Rep. Maxine Waters, Chairwoman, House Committee on Financial Services
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy