



BTA

**Border
Trade
Alliance** TM

September 30, 2019

Hon. Mike Levin
1626 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Levin:

On behalf of the Border Trade Alliance, we write to you thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 4039, the Border Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, which authorizes \$150,000,000 for fiscal years 2020 through 2024 for the Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP), and implements other needed reforms intended to improve border region water quality infrastructure.

The BTA has been a longtime supporter of the BWIP and we believe that job-creating cross-border commerce is more likely to thrive if the environment along the U.S.-Mexico border is vibrant and safe. To that end, the BTA has grown increasingly concerned about sewage originating from Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico flowing northward into San Diego County resulting from failing Mexican infrastructure. Investing in infrastructure improvements via the BWIP can help prevent future untreated sewage discharges and other environmental crises. A robust, well-resourced BWIP will deliver tangible, positive results for the region.

As you know, this wastewater challenge exists not just in the San Diego-Tijuana area, but border-wide, which is why we further support your legislation's call to evenly divide the disbursement of program funds among the two Environmental Protection Agency regions that encompass the states along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The BTA welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your cosponsors, as well as additional Members of Congress and affected stakeholders in advancing this bill. Thank you again for your leadership on the important issue of the mitigation of cross-border sewage flows. We look forward to working with you as the bill makes its way through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Britton Clarke

President



Paola Avila
Chair

CC: Rep. Susan Davis
Rep. Scott Peters
Rep. Juan Vargas