



United States Senate

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I write to ask that you use all diplomatic channels available to push the Government of Mexico to make additional infrastructure investments to halt the discharge of toxic sewage from Mexico's Tijuana River into the United States.

The recently-enacted Fiscal Year 2019 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, included the following language requiring the State Department to work with the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) and the Government of Mexico to enhance efforts to mitigate pollution in the Tijuana River Valley:

Southwest Border Pollution.—The Committee is concerned that despite millions of dollars of U.S. infrastructure investments on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border over the past two decades, wastewater, trash, and sediment continue to flow from Tijuana, Mexico into San Diego County, resulting in unsanitary water conditions, pollution, and beach closures in coastal communities. The Secretary of State shall work with the IBWC Commissioner and the Government of Mexico to enhance efforts to mitigate pollution in the Tijuana River Valley, including to implement the recommendations from the IBWC's "Report of Transboundary Bypass Flows into the Tijuana River" (April 2018) and to encourage the Government of Mexico to make additional investments to halt the discharge of waste into the United States.

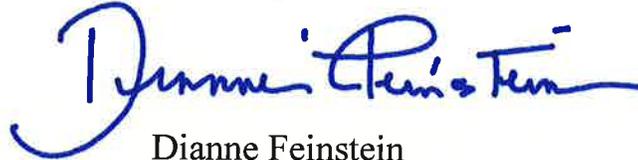
Given this appropriations language, I would like to know what steps your Department is taking to address pollution at the border in coordination with the IBWC. Furthermore, I would like to know if a formalized process has been established for the IBWC to report transboundary pollution incidents to the

Department so that you can raise this issue with your counterparts in Mexico in accordance with the requirement in the appropriations language.

I am deeply concerned by the unsanitary water conditions, pollution, and beach closures that continually pose significant public health risks to my constituents as well as to federal Border Patrol officers. I have received letters from Border Patrol officers as well as parents and their children who have been exposed to pollution emanating from the Tijuana River and become sick with rashes or respiratory illnesses as a result.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I look forward to your response. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:bk