

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
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**Congress of the United States**  
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April 25, 2024

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
HT-2 The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee,

I write to thank you for your proven commitment to supporting border communities' water infrastructure, and to request critical funding for the International Boundary and Water Commission's (IBWC) work in Nogales, Arizona regarding the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI). Specifically, we are requesting full funding of \$12.5 million for IBWC operations and maintenance of the IOI pursuant to Section 5602 of Public Law (P.L.) 118-31, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Full funding of \$12.5 million is the final step required by P.L. 118-31 to effectuate the full and formal transfer of ownership of the IOI to the IBWC. The City of Nogales and IBWC have executed the MOA required by statute which provides for the conveyance of all right, title, and interest if the City in the IOI to the IBWC, grants necessary easements and rights of way to the IBWC for access to the IOI, and provides agreement regarding flows into the IOI that are controlled by the City.

The federal government, through the IBWC, has already invested \$34 million in the rehabilitation of the IOI. This underscores the need to fully fund the authorized operations and maintenance account for the IOI to protect this substantial federal investment that has already been made. Without clear ownership, the federal government is at risk of being liable for future rehabilitation but without requisite legal and physical access to the entire length of the U.S.-side of the IOI. Moreover, this investment is a key first step to enhancing national security through the future installation of a debris screen on the IOI at the border to protect against cartel and other illicit actors using the IOI to transport paraphernalia.

Thank you for your continued support of international water issues and your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress