

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 30, 1989

JOHN BRYANT
5TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

Knowing of your interest in ensuring that all residents of our state have the same right to safe and decent housing, I want to inform you of activities in the U.S. Congress to assist communities along our state's southern border commonly known as "colonias."

More than a hundred thousand people live in deplorable conditions in these communities without basic necessities such as water, sewage service, electricity and roads. The results of having to drink, cook and bathe without safe water are best evidenced in the high rates of diseases here that have been effectively eradicated in other parts of the country. The economic conditions of both colonias and the State of Texas make the responses to these problems more difficult to devise and implement. Compounding the problem is the unfairness of our local taxpayers and hospital districts being forced to absorb tremendous costs for the consequences of what is largely the federal government's failure to enforce its immigration laws.

For these reasons, my colleagues and I have introduced a number of bills to establish a U.S.-Mexico Border Regional Commission and promote economic development in the region. The commission would be comprised of representatives, who would provide funds to develop programs and demonstration projects to address the root causes of the problems in the region: inadequate health care, water resources, housing, vocational and technical education, and sewage treatment. In addition, we are proposing a series of demonstration projects to assist the neediest counties along our southern border.

Strongly believing that all Texans are entitled to safe living conditions, I am committed to bringing federal assistance to our state and will continue my efforts in Congress towards this end.

Sincerely,


John Bryant
Member of Congress