

RUBÉN HINOJOSA
15TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States
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March 7, 2001

FMCSA - 98 - 3297 - 27
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98 - 3299 - 22

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I want to thank you for your decision to implement the cross-border trucking provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This action will help the United States and Mexico realize the full benefits promised under the NAFTA.

As you know, South Texas serves as the primary port of entry for trucking trade between the U.S. and Mexico. An estimated 1.9 million trucks pass through Rio Grande Valley border ports. The current freeze on cross-border trucking has impacted U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico, which in the year 2000 accounted for almost 12.5 percent of total U.S. agricultural exports and produced a trade surplus of well over \$1 billion.

The current antiquated border trucking system requires transfers of loads from long-haul trucks to older drayage vehicles for short hauls in the limited "commercial zones" on both sides of the border - and then back to the long haul trucks again. The new provisions will eliminate the need for the older drayage vehicles and reduce congestion and pollution that result from long lines of drayage trucks stacked up at border crossings.

To date, the U.S. government has refused to accept applications from Mexican fleet owners and thus has never inspected the Mexican long-haul fleet. I urge you to quickly implement new procedures what will safely allow Mexican trucks to travel on U.S. roads so that we might enjoy increased trade with Mexico, our ally and second largest trading partner.

Sincerely,



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

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March 23, 2001

Dear Representative Hinojosa:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding cross border trucking provisions of NAFTA.

I have shared your letter with the President's advisors and the appropriate agencies who have been formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Bcc w/ copy of inc.: - for appropriate action
USTR; DOT; AG- for information

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