



November 15, 2018

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
2209 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4328

Dear Representative Cuellar:

On behalf of the Border Trade Alliance, we write to you to encourage you and your colleagues to support a General Capital Increase (GCI) for the North American Development Bank, which we believe will expand the good work and positive impact of the institution. We believe that legislation implementing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement would serve as an ideal vehicle to advance a GCI.

Over the past nearly-25 years, the NADB has been vitally important to improving basic services in the border region by financing numerous water, wastewater, solid waste and street paving projects, among others. Throughout its history, NADB has provided over \$2.76 billion in loans and grants to support infrastructure projects in the border region. NADB has leveraged its initial paid-in capital of \$405 million into investments totaling \$8.2 billion in sustainable infrastructure, representing a 1:20 total leveraged investment ratio and benefitting more than 12 million residents of the region.

The BTA also supports proposed policy reforms you have outlined along with your colleagues Rep. Will Hurd and Sen. John Cornyn, which would allow the NADB to provide financing for projects related to natural gas, with an emphasis on cross-border energy distribution and consumption and the energy security of the United States and Mexico; as well as the expansion or new construction of international land border crossings to help facilitate the lawful flow of goods and travel across the U.S.-Mexico border. Improved efficiency at our border crossings not only reduces border wait times, which are a drag on the region's competitiveness, but it also helps improve the area's air quality by reducing pollution resulting from idling vehicular and commercial traffic.

We also support their call for the NADB to develop more efficient processes that will help streamline the financing of worthy projects, including reducing redundant certifications, and allowing the institution to internally approve qualifying projects under a certain monetary threshold.

A more efficient, nimbler NADB, with greater ability to fund worthy projects, would positively impact the U.S.-Mexico border region and the broader U.S.-Mexico relationship. It is for these reasons that the Border Trade Alliance respectfully requests your support for a North American Development Bank General Capital Increase to be included as part of the USMCA implementing legislation.

Sincerely,

Paola Avila  
Chair

Britton Clarke  
President