

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 20, 2026

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20508
Dear Ambassador Greer:

We write with concerns about enforcement of Mexico's environmental obligations under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), and specifically Mexico's failure to enforce its own wildlife, fisheries, and trade laws in the Upper Gulf of California. A year has passed since the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) released that the US complaint was meritorious. We would like to understand what the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has done since, and what it intends to do next.

The history here is long and, at every stage, slow. In August 2021, four conservation organizations—the Animal Welfare Institute, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Environmental Investigation Agency, and the Natural Resources Defense Council—filed a complaint with the CEC, asserting that Mexico failed to enforce its own wildlife law and its regulations banning gillnets and the capture of totoaba in vaquita habitat. In February 2022, USTR separately requested Environment Consultations with Mexico—the first ever requested under the Agreement—over Mexico's commitments to protect the critically endangered vaquita porpoise, prevent illegal fishing, and stop the trafficking of totoaba.

The CEC determined in April 2022 that the complaint warranted a formal investigation. Two years later, its governing Council authorized the investigation in June 2024. The CEC published its final report on August 18, 2025, four years after the first complaint.

The CEC report documents a clear pattern of lax enforcement that undermines conservation laws and subsidizes unfair fishing practices. Since 2020, Mexico has banned gillnets in the vaquita habitat, yet investigators found that fishermen continue to use this illegal gear at the same rate. Although Mexico also had agreed to install monitoring equipment on vessels in the Upper Gulf by 2023, it had installed by last year only ten of the 850 satellite trackers required for compliance. As Mexico allows fishermen to evade the gillnet ban, the vaquita population continues to dwindle, with only ten believed to remain. CEC presents an unambiguous report, yet USTR has apparently taken no action to rectify this noncompliance.

Mexico's failure to enforce its own laws serves to give it an unfair competitive advantage. Operators ignoring existing laws gain a comparative advantage over American fishermen abiding by U.S. bycatch and marine mammal protection requirements. Mexican fleets illegally operating in the vaquita habitat avoid these costs, then undercut American competitors in the same markets. The vaquita is a small case illustrating a larger, more expensive problem.

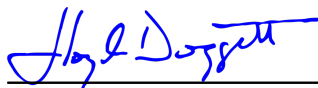
To that end, we ask that you respond to the following:

1. Are the environment consultations USTR opened with Mexico in 2022 still active? When did the two governments last meet on this matter, and at what level?
2. How has USTR used the August 2025 report to urge Mexico to shut down illegal gillnet fishing and interdict totoaba trafficking?
3. When will USTR escalate this issue to a dispute panel and pursue penalties so that Mexico fully enforces its own conservation and fishing laws?
4. In USTR's assessment, is Mexico currently meeting its other USMCA commitments on wildlife trafficking, endangered species, and the protection of marine mammals? If not, which commitments is it failing to meet?

We ask that you respond in writing, and make appropriate staff available for a briefing, no later than thirty days from the date of this letter. Our intent is to build a clear record of what the existing mechanisms under USMCA have and have not produced, to better inform efforts to strengthen the USMCA. On that, we are ready to help.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

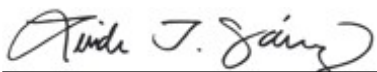
Sincerely,



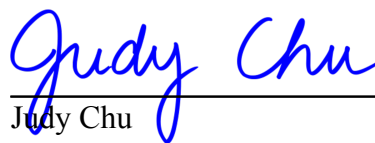
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



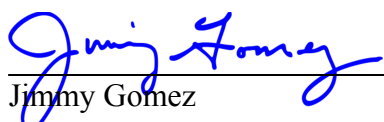
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
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Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



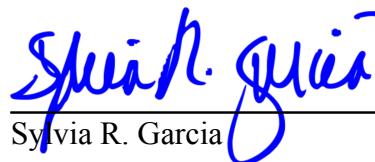
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



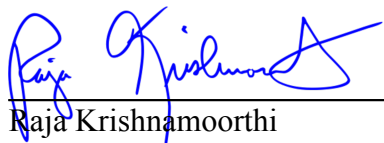
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



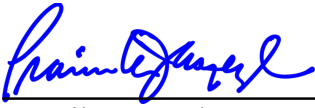
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
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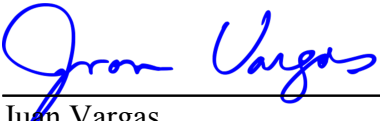
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



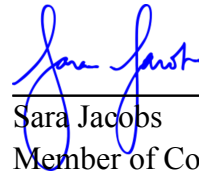
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



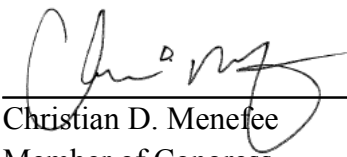
JM Tokuda
Member of Congress



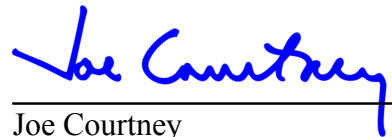
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



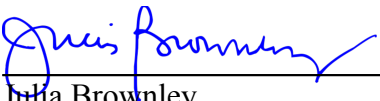
Sara Jacobs
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Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



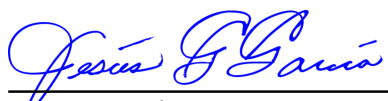
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



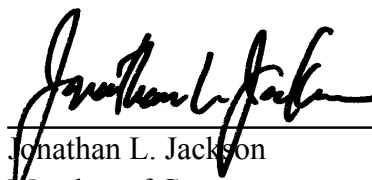
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



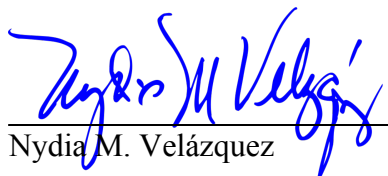
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