

RUBEN GALLEGO  
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA  
COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MEMBER, INTELLIGENCE  
AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INDIAN AND RESILIENT AFFAIRS  
WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0307

DC OFFICE:  
1114 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4066

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1601 N 7TH STREET  
SUITE 310  
PHOENIX, AZ 85006-2481  
(602) 256-0551

Mitch Fehr  
President,  
Riverview, LLP  
26406 470th Avenue  
Morris, MN 56267

April 12, 2024

Dear Mr. Fehr:

I write to request that you improve your water resource management in Arizona. As a leader in agriculture, Riverview has the potential to also be a leader in Arizona's vital water conservation efforts.

I appreciate that Riverview is one of the leading employers and biggest growers in the Willcox Basin. I have been vocal about the need to maintain a domestic supply chain for food staples such as dairy and meat. Food security is national security.

However, as you know, Arizona's water supply has been threatened for decades by prolonged drought in the Southwest United States. Although the area occupied by your facilities falls outside of the Active Management Areas and Irrigation Non-expansion Areas established under the Arizona Groundwater Management Act, water scarcity is still a prevailing issue. Therefore, I am concerned by reports of increasing numbers of dried-up wells in the areas surrounding your operations.

To that end, I request that your company pursue all available options to increase water efficiency in Arizona. I have been proud to lead Congressional efforts around smart water technologies that detect leaks, identify water loss, examine pipeline integrity, and more. I encourage you to pursue any possible improvements in your system in order to maintain water supply longevity not only for your operations, but those in your area. I also request that you answer the following questions:

- What concrete steps is Riverview taking to conserve water throughout its Arizona operations?
- How is Riverview working with state and local authorities on water conservation solutions?
- What do you say to the residents of Cochise County who have publicly expressed concern over what they view as the farm's uncontrolled use of water?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.myheraldreview.com/news/cochise\\_county/mayes-hears-concerns-from-residents-in-thirsty-willcox-and-douglas-basin/article\\_e9ead10c-d58c-11ee-874d-bfb1e7b48ae9.html](https://www.myheraldreview.com/news/cochise_county/mayes-hears-concerns-from-residents-in-thirsty-willcox-and-douglas-basin/article_e9ead10c-d58c-11ee-874d-bfb1e7b48ae9.html)

Arizona's agricultural community has been on the forefront of water conservation and innovation for decades. I encourage you to prioritize efficient groundwater use in your facilities moving forward. The water supply and long-term growth of the region may depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben Gallego". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue color.

Ruben Gallego  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS