Thank you. I want to spend my time today speaking to our friends in Mexico. Leaders like Governor Patricio Martinez, and President Vicente Fox are our friends.

They are men of honor, and they understand that leadership means standing by your word. In 1944, the Republic of Mexico entered into an agreement with the United States to share water from the Rio Grande - the Rio Bravo.

That agreement represented what was best about the people of the Mexico and the people of the United States, especially Texans. It represented our strong relations - our mutual trust and respect borne out of common interests and common cultures.

Today those bonds of trust and respect are strained, because the great nation of Mexico is not living up to its word.

Governor Martinez and President Fox need to know that Texans are hurting. We have lost a billion dollars in economic activity because of Mexico's failure to deliver promised water.

We have lost more than a half-million acres of irrigated crops because of Mexico's failure to deliver promised water. And many of our farm families have lost hope because of Mexico's failure to deliver promised water.

I have talked with President Fox about this water crisis.

I have talked with Governor Yarrington of Tamaulipas, with Governor Canales of Nuevo Leon, with Governor Martinez-Martinez of Coahuila, with Minister Castaneda, with President Bush, Secretary Colin Powell and Secretary Ann Veneman.

I will continue to talk with anyone who will listen, but it's about time to stop the talking and get the water flowing.

There are solutions. Water is available in more than a dozen upstream reservoirs on Rio Grande tributaries. That's how Mexico can irrigate crops in Chihuahua instead of living up to its treaty obligations.

Since 1992, Mexico has kept all water that fell above the Luis Leon Dam on the Rio Conchos, and Mexico's current debt is more than 1.4 million acre feet of water.

If Mexico would combine transfers of water from the Amistad/Falcon system with deliveries from upstream reservoirs - including water from non-Treaty streams and storage - I believe Mexico could immediately begin delivering some of the water it owes.

Mexico could also access the 647,000 acre feet the Treaty requires by the end of the irrigation season in late August.

I know this is a tough political issue in Mexico, but it must be resolved. Failure to do so not only affects Texans but Mexicans as well, especially communities in Tamaulipas.
Mexico must develop a plan to meet their Treaty obligations by satisfying the balance of the water deficit by the end of September of this year.

The U.S. and Mexico must develop a comprehensive plan to ensure Mexico's future compliance through either the IBWC or the formation of the joint advisory council as agreed to by President Bush & President Fox last September.

Texas has recently embarked on the creation of a statewide water plan emphasizing better management and conservation of water.

The United States and Mexico should start similar efforts, working more closely to improve drought response and management of the entire Rio Grande basin.

Texas would be more than willing to share our water management experience and technologies to help get the job done.

I will remind our friends that we have tough political issues here in the United States as well.

In recent years leaders in Texas and in our national government have stood up for U.S.-Mexico relations against those seeking to gain politically by tearing those relations apart.

I was the first statewide official in Texas to stand up for NAFTA in the early 1990s. It was not always a popular position.

More recently, President Bush stood up to those who would blame Mexico and immigration for America's woes.

George W. Bush and Rick Perry and Susan Combs and those of us here today stood up against those who would ignore NAFTA, close our borders, stop cross-border trucking and slam the door on free and fair trade between our great nations.

We know that the United States and Mexico share more than a common border, we share a common future, "un destino comun".

President Fox and Governor Martinez - I ask you to stand up for better US-Mexico ties. We cannot let this water crisis undermine our relationship.

"Necesitamos confianza y amistad!"

Mr. President, "entrega nuestra agua!" Governor Martinez, please send us our water!