



**Fiscal Year 2017  
Appropriations Wins**

**Congressman Henry Cuellar  
28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, TX**

# **Fiscal Year 2017 HOUSE Appropriations Wins**

## AGRICULTURE

1. Focus StrikeForce Initiatives on persistent poverty counties.

*“StrikeForce Initiative.-The Committee appreciates the Department’s efforts to target assistance to at-risk communities through the StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity. USDA, in collaboration with public and private partners, helps rural counties experiencing chronic poverty improve economic opportunities and quality of life for local residents. The Committee encourages USDA to place special emphasis on persistent poverty counties and continue to utilize a strategy of partnering public resources with local expertise to grow rural economies and create jobs in these poverty-stricken areas.”*

2. \$53 million for Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program grants for Colonias, Native Americans, and Alaskan Native Villages.

*“\$53,000,000 for Grants for Colonias, Native Americans, and Alaskan Native Villages under Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account”*

3. \$30 million for Rural Community Facilities Program Grants. At least 10% of these grants are set aside for persistent poverty areas.

*“30,000,000 for Rural Community Facilities Program Grants”*

4. Language directing certain grant programs to set aside funding for areas that have 20 percent of the population living in poverty.

*“Persistent Poverty Areas.- The bill directs certain RD programs, including the Section 502 Single Family Housing Direct Loan Program, Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, Rural Community Facilities Program, Rural Business Program Account, Rural Cooperative Developments Grants, Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program, and the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, to provide at least 10 percent of the amounts provided to persistent poverty counties, defined as those areas that have 20 percent of their population living in poverty over the past 30 years.”*