



The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jodey Arrington
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Arrington, Ranking Member Boyle, Chairman Graham, and Ranking Member Merkley:

Over the last four years, the prior administration opened our country to millions of unvetted illegal aliens, putting the safety and security of Americans at risk. President Trump has promised to seal our borders, protect American communities, and address the significant illegal alien population let into this country over the last four years. In order to accomplish these goals, and keep Americans safe, we need to secure the border in a lasting manner and permanently dismantle the transnational criminal organizations behind the smuggling of fentanyl and other dangerous drugs into our communities.


The Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Justice are committed to working together to complete this mission. Since January 20, 2025, we have achieved incredible results, including plummeting numbers of border encounters, mass arrests of criminal aliens, and the use of military aircraft to increase deportation efforts and other resources to help seal our border.

The mission, however, is only beginning, and there is much more to be done. In order to deliver on President Trump's promises to the American people, our agencies need the resources to succeed. Those needs include:

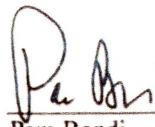
- Law enforcement personnel to seal the border and to find and locate criminal aliens;
- Military personnel, to include Active Duty and State and National Guard, to seal the border in coordination with law enforcement personnel;
- Aircraft and other means of transport to repatriate aliens;
- Materials and labor to build a permanent barrier at our southern border;
- Immigration judges to decide cases in an expeditious manner and clear the significant backlog; and,
- Detention facilities to house illegal aliens until they can be removed.

This moment in history presents a special opportunity. The American people strongly support sealing our borders and returning to a lawful immigration system. Even if the price of some of these measures may seem high, they are nothing when compared to the costs our country is facing in the long term of continuing the status quo.


Sincerely,



Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense



Pam Bondi
Attorney General



Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security