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March 27, 2026

The Honorable Dr. Sebastian Gorka
Deputy Assistant to the President
Senior Director for Counter Terrorism, National Security Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dr. Gorka:

As Attorneys General of our respective states, we commend President Trump for his creation of the Task Force to Restore American Airspace Sovereignty (Task Force) and the work that you are doing. Specifically, we write to underscore the growing public safety threat that unmanned aerial systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, pose to state and local correctional facilities. As you are aware, drones are being used to smuggle contraband into correctional facilities undermining institutional security, endangering correctional staff, and fueling broader criminal activity both inside and outside prison walls.

State departments of corrections have reported a sharp increase in drone drops over prison grounds. For example, over the past six months, the Georgia Department of Corrections has reported an average of nearly 58 drone incidents per month. These devices are being used to transport narcotics, weapons, cell phones, and other illegal items directly into secure facilities by bypassing traditional perimeter defenses. Law enforcement has recovered everything from marijuana, ecstasy and meth to cell phones, razors, liquor and food items.

This type of illegal activity is happening all over the country and the consequences are severe. The introduction of drugs contributes to addiction, violence, and overdose incidents. Smuggled weapons heighten the risk of assaults and coordinated acts of violence. Contraband cell phones enable incarcerated individuals to continue criminal enterprises, including fraud schemes, witness intimidation, and violent crime.

Despite the seriousness of this threat, state and local law enforcement remain significantly constrained in their ability to respond. Federal law currently limits the authority to detect, track, and mitigate unauthorized drones to a narrow set of federal agencies. As a result, correctional officials—who are on the front lines of this issue—often lack the legal authority and the necessary tools to intervene in real time. The people closest to the threat should not be the least empowered to stop it.

To address this gap, we ask that the Task Force work with federal agencies to grant carefully defined authority to state and local law enforcement to detect, monitor, and mitigate unauthorized drones operating over correctional facilities. This authority should include the ability to use multiple means necessary to disable or intercept drones before they reach the prison. We are committed to partnering with you and serving as a resource in this effort.

We also want to commend the Task Force for developing partnerships between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to work cases related to drone threats. This coordinated approach will improve overall response times and effectiveness. We also support strengthening criminal penalties for individuals who use drones to introduce contraband into correctional facilities and appreciate your commitment to providing federal resources for investigations and prosecutions of offenders involved in the coordination and operation of these illegal drone drops.

If left unaddressed, the misuse of drone technology will continue to erode the safety and integrity of our correctional institutions and continue to pose a significant safety threat to the public at large. State officials must be equipped with all available tools and the appropriate authority to address this modern threat.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to partnering with you to protect the people of our states.

Respectfully,



Christopher M. Carr
Georgia Attorney General



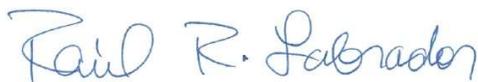
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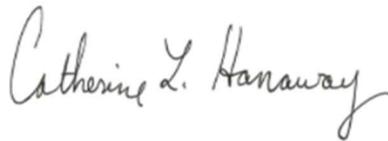
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cc: William K. Marshall III
Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons