



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Wes Moore

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

I write to specify my concerns regarding the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's apparent plans to house a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in the Hagerstown area of Washington County, Maryland. My understanding, based primarily on media reports, is that the Trump Administration has acquired the nearly 54-acre warehouse property to support ICE detention and deportation operations.

First, federal occupation of the property—originally designed as a commercial distribution site during COVID—presents a significant loss of economic opportunity, not only for western Maryland but for the entire state. Warehouse facilities in Washington County—including support for manufacturing, logistics, and distribution across the region—contribute significantly to our local and state economies, supporting about 4,000 jobs, hundreds of millions in wages, and more than \$450 million in combined capital investment. Continuing to build upon our economic progress here is vital.

Concerns about local resource strain are directly tied to detrimental economic impacts. Washington County manages sewer access to the site, while the City of Hagerstown manages water access. Local residents and businesses are already contending with water and sewage systems that are approaching capacity. And the potential draw on law enforcement and emergency medical services resources in a rural area like Washington County poses a significant risk to public safety.

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Second, there has been a troubling lack of transparency in the process to acquire this site. As you well know, Maryland is home to more than 60 federal agencies and more than 20 major military and federal installations including Joint Base Andrews, Fort Meade, the National Institutes of Health and the Goddard Space Flight Center. We take great pride in our close collaboration between local, State and federal entities. Our strong partnerships have historically enabled us to ensure stability in our communities.

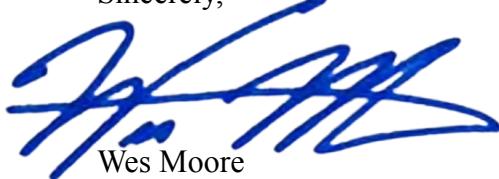
We are extremely disappointed in the myriad ways that the Trump Administration continues to sacrifice federal-local collaboration. The administration has already cut more than 25,000 jobs from Maryland's economy, sought to rip away our fair and rightful designation as home of the FBI headquarters, and denied FEMA assistance to flood victims who are residents of this region. These actions serve only to hurt Marylanders.

Third, I have grave concerns about any holding facility that denies basic human needs and dignity. Public safety is my top priority and we must protect the public by upholding all Constitutional rights.

I am directing State agency heads to assess all available actions to protect the community's infrastructure, public safety, health, and long-term economic stability—including review of permitting requirements; water and sewer demands; hazardous waste disposal; and the availability of emergency medical services, among other considerations. We are also working closely with our Attorney General, Anthony Brown, who is reviewing the purchase to ensure full compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.

As I have consistently stated, Maryland remains committed to partnering with the Trump Administration to improve the well-being of our people—whether that is enhancing economic opportunity, strengthening local infrastructure, or holding violent offenders accountable. We urge the administration to move past unilateral actions and join us in a transparent and collaborative effort to enhance the safety and well-being of Marylanders.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of the name Wes Moore.

Wes Moore
Governor of the State of Maryland