



State of New Jersey

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MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

February 27, 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 express my strong opposition to the Department of Homeland Security's ("DHS") plan to convert an industrial warehouse in Roxbury Township, New Jersey, into an Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") immigration detention facility to process and detain up to 1,500 individuals.

At the outset, DHS's lack of communication and transparency with Roxbury in its acquisition of the site is inexcusable. The people of Roxbury deserve better than to learn of a plan to place an immigration detention facility in their community through a newspaper article. When Roxbury officials attempted to engage DHS to confirm the existence of such a plan, they received no reply. Despite unanimous opposition by the Roxbury Township Council, it appears that DHS intends to proceed with the project, with little or no concern for Roxbury or the surrounding communities that would be affected by this facility. DHS's failure to engage with Roxbury residents and address the concerns of Roxbury officials belies the Trump Administration's professed commitment to transparency in government.

Equally troublesome is the size and scope of the Roxbury facility. The current site is an industrial warehouse spanning approximately 470,000 square feet. According to news reports, DHS intends to convert the warehouse into an immigration detention facility that would accommodate up to 1,500 beds, potentially making it the largest such facility in our State. It would impose significant resource demands on Roxbury, a primarily residential community in the northwestern part of the State that shares environmental and public health services with surrounding towns. The placement of a massive immigration detention center in Roxbury raises environmental and quality of life concerns, including increased wastewater and trash, increased

strain on municipal services, and increased traffic in the vicinity of the site and the surrounding area, as well as concerns about potential conflicts with state and local building codes and zoning laws. We are unaware of any steps that DHS has taken to assess the disruption to residents or the environmental impact of a detention center in Roxbury.

This facility would also siphon away what would otherwise be a viable economic opportunity for Roxbury and the entire State. New Jersey's warehouse and distribution sector is a critical engine of economic growth, contributing nearly \$300 billion annually in business activity and directly or indirectly supporting more than 1.35 million jobs in the State. The industry generates over \$112 billion in personal income and more than \$33 billion in tax revenue.

Finally, the Roxbury immigration detention facility will not make New Jerseyans safer. Across the country, federal immigration officers have trampled on basic liberties and engaged in unconscionable acts of violence against law-abiding Americans. These acts of violence have left Americans severely injured and, in some cases, resulted in their deaths. ICE agents have repeatedly violated the constitutional rights of citizens and non-citizens alike. I have no reason to believe that DHS will treat the people of New Jersey any differently should it expand its presence in our State.

I am also gravely concerned about ICE's treatment of the individuals in its custody. An industrial warehouse—even if retrofitted—is not suitable for human confinement. The deplorable conditions of ICE detention facilities throughout the country, including the Elizabeth Detention Center and Delaney Hall, are well-documented. Such conditions, which include undrinkable water, spoiled food, overcrowding, and a lack of medical care, are an affront to the values that New Jerseyans hold dear.

In short, DHS's treatment of human beings—citizen and non-citizen alike—reflects a chilling disregard for both human life and the rule of law. New Jersey will not be complicit in this.

New Jersey will assess all options to protect the community's infrastructure, public safety, health, and long-term economic stability. This includes ensuring DHS complies with all applicable laws, including but not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Immigration and Nationality Act. If DHS fails to do so, New Jersey will not hesitate to protect the interests of Roxbury residents and our communities using every tool at our disposal.

Sincerely,



Mikie Sherrill
Governor