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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C., 20536

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella,

I write once again to share my own vehement opposition, and that of my constituents, to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) continued effort to convert the 800,000 square foot warehouse at 10900 Hopewell Road in Williamsport, Maryland into a large-scale detention facility for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The residents of Western and Mountain Maryland have made their disapproval of this project clear. As their Representative in Congress, it is my duty to ensure that their voices are heard, and to demand that the Department's plan be abandoned.

As I have shared in prior correspondence and comment letters, my constituents should not be forced to live with the impacts of such a facility on our environment, our infrastructure, or our community's moral fabric. Furthermore, a project of this scale demands more than the cursory Environmental Assessment that DHS has proposed. The communities that would carry the public safety, infrastructure, and environmental burdens created by this detention facility deserve a comprehensive review and a full Environmental Impact Statement, complete with community input - prior to continued development.

Since the beginning of this Administration, DHS operations have routinely violated the rights of citizens and noncitizens alike. Two American citizens were shot and killed in Minnesota.¹ The number of detainee deaths at ICE facilities in 2025 was the highest in decades and is trending to be even higher in 2026.² In Maryland, a federal judge enjoined the detention practices at ICE's

¹ John Cardinale and Kelley Kosuda, *Examining DHS Use of Force policy after 2 deadly Minneapolis shootings*, KCRA News, January 29, 2026,

<https://www.kcra.com/article/examining-dhs-use-of-force-policy-after-2-deadly-minneapolis-shootings/70162218>

² Akash Pillai, Drishti Pillai, and Samantha Artiga, *Deaths and Health Care Issues in ICE Detention Centers Under the Second Trump Administration*, KFF News, March 26, 2026,

<https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/deaths-and-health-care-issues-in-ice-detention-centers-under-the-second-trump-administration>; *Death Rate in ICE Immigrant Detention Centers More than Doubles Under Trump, Reuters Analysis Finds*, Reuters (June 17, 2026);

Baltimore Holding Rooms after finding that conditions in the facility “woefully fail to comport with the contemporary standards of decency.”³ No community should be forced to host an agency that has shown such blatant disregard for the rule of law and humane treatment of others.

When news of DHS’ plans for this warehouse first came to light, the residents of Washington County immediately began organizing in opposition. Unfortunately, leaders at both the federal and local level have sought to silence dissent. In March, my constituents were given a woefully inadequate 6-day window to prepare and submit their views to the Department.⁴ In addition, when nearly 100 community members went to the Washington County Board of County Commissioners to protest the board’s vote on a resolution supporting DHS and ICE, they were removed without being heard by local leaders.⁵

Despite attempts to ignore resident concerns, I am proud to lead efforts with Team Maryland’s delegation in Congress and in the General Assembly to remain opposed to the establishment of a warehouse detention center in our community. This includes introducing legislation like my *Keep ICE Out of Washington County, Maryland, Act* and other bills aimed at stopping this project introduced in Annapolis.⁶ I also collected constituent comments and shared what I received in my own comment letter.⁷ Additionally, my colleagues and I wrote a joint letter sharing our disapproval.⁸ Finally, a federal judge enjoined further development of the site, finding that the Department rushed through required environmental reviews.⁹

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/death-rate-ice-immigrant-detention-centers-more-than-doubles-under-trump-reuters-2026-06-17>.

³ Federal Court Orders ICE to End Inhumane Conditions for Immigrants in Baltimore’s Courthouse Holding Cells, Amica Ctr. for Immigrant Rts. (Mar. 2026),

<https://amicacenter.org/press-releases/federal-court-orders-ice-to-end-inhumane-conditions-for-immigrants-in-baltimore-courthouse-holding-cells/>

⁴ Julie E. Greene, *Public comment period on proposed ICE facility in Washington County*, Herald-Mail Media, March 2, 2026;

<https://www.heraldmillmedia.com/story/news/local/2026/03/02/dhs-ice-public-comment-period-for-proposed-maryland-ice-facility/88941508007/>

⁵ Kate Amara and Greg Ng, *Washington County commissioners adopt resolution to support DHS, ICE amid protests in Hagerstown*, WBAL News, February 10, 2026;

<https://www.wbal.com/article/washington-county-dhs-ice-resolution-hagerstown-detention-center/70300009>

⁶ Press Release, Office of Congresswoman April McClain Delaney, *Congresswoman McClain Delaney Introduces Legislation to Block ICE’s Detention Warehouse in Washington County*, Tuesday, February 10, 2026,

<https://mcclaindelaney.house.gov/media/press-releases/congresswoman-mcclain-delaney-introduces-legislation-block-ices-detention>.

⁷ Letter from April McClain Delaney, Member of Congress, to Kristi Noem, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, and Todd Lyons, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Mar. 5, 2026);

<https://mcclaindelaney.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/mcclaindelaney.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/amd-dhs-letter-03-05-2026.pdf>.

⁸ Letter from Members of Maryland’s Congressional Delegation to Kristi Noem, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, and Todd Lyons, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Mar. 5, 2026);

https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/md_delegation_comment_letter_on_washington_county_ice_warehouse_facility.pdf.

⁹ *Statement from Attorney General Brown on the Court’s Order to Halt Construction and Operation of Unlawful ICE Detention Facility in Washington County*, Off. of the Attorney General of Maryland (2026),

<https://oag.maryland.gov/News/Pages/Statement-from-Attorney-General-Brown-on-the-Court%E2%80%99s-Order-to-Halt-Construction-and-Operation-of-Unlawful-ICE-Detention-Fac.aspx>.

Due to the Administration's renewed efforts to house detainees in a warehouse unfit for human habitation in Western Maryland under a new Environmental Assessment, I have *again* solicited input from my constituents on the proposal. My most recent community survey received nearly 2000 responses, 80% of which voiced opposition to this project. While the Department may wish to ignore the residents of Maryland's Sixth District, we will not be silenced.

The comments below are representative of the thousands provided by my constituents.

A Hagerstown resident is concerned about the financial strain this project would place on the community:

"This detention facility does not belong in Washington County, Md. It will cause increased fees for residents by increasing water/ sewer bills. These bills are already high. It could possibly cause environmental problems in the form of increased pollution from having 1500 people in a warehouse not designed for this use. Also I do not support Trump's plan to get rid of immigrants. It was supposed to be to get rid of 'only the worst criminals' but has turned into a way of getting rid of people Trump and the Republican Party don't like. I personally know someone who was deported as she is definitely not a 'dangerous criminal.' She had owned a business for over 20 years before she was deported."

Concerned about disregard for human rights, impact on tax dollars, infrastructure strains, proximity to schools and homes, and water or sewer issues, a Boonsboro resident commented:

"My tax dollars should be going toward helping families, not tearing them apart and sending people away because they dared to believe in the American Dream. The people to be detained here include those who arrived here after escaping unlivable conditions due to famine, uncontrolled criminal activity, targeting by an authoritarian government, or human rights abuses. Other detainees are on the path to citizenship or are citizens. The vast majority are law-abiding workers who contribute to our economic and cultural vitality. The first immigrants to this continent were welcomed by the people who resided here then. We should continue to do the same."

A Frederick resident is concerned about human rights, strains on infrastructure, impact on tax dollars, and proximity to schools:

"I am a public school teacher. My students, whose parents are documented or otherwise, should not be afraid to come to school. My students should not be disappearing from the rosters because an innocent parent was detained and good families have to return to the parents' country of birth to beg for their release. ICE is ripping our communities apart, violating our constitutional rights, and acting in opposition to every ideal for which America stands. They are attacking the undocumented with no criminal records, documented, immigrants, and citizens alike. This is atrocious. People are being beaten, tortured, starved, and murdered. People are dying in detention from preventable illnesses. People are being denied treatment for serious illnesses. This sounds more like the

countries that we have fought, throughout my entire life, specifically because of these violations. My parents, aunts and uncles, fought in World War II, or worked at home in the defense industry. I know well of their sacrifices to save our precious democracy, wherever it was in danger across the world. We are living through the very antithesis of that spirit. In my seventh decade, I do not recognize our country anymore. And that breaks my heart.”

A resident of Frederick is concerned about human rights, strains on taxes and infrastructure, and the proximity of the facility to schools:

“As an infectious disease physician, in ADDITION to all the above, I am concerned about overcrowding and poor sanitation resulting in promotion of communicable infectious diseases which is a serious concern both for the occupants and the community. Too many people, too crowded, with poor medical facilities. Sounds concentration camp like, not something the US should be associated with or promoting.”

One constituent from Middletown is concerned about the mistreatment endemic to these facilities:

“Humans who have committed the misdemeanor of being in the United States illegally do not deserve the cruel and unusual punishment of detention of unknown duration in a warehouse. Marylanders cannot trust the current leadership of ICE to develop and manage a large-scale facility for housing people, as the frequent whistleblower reports around the nation prove. In 2026 it is a known fact, not a political viewpoint, that we have human beings dying in ICE warehouses at a rate not seen in years, we have human beings failing to receive proper medical care in ICE warehouses, failing to receive safe and fresh food in ICE warehouses, innocent children failing to receive education and support in ICE warehouses. What does this sound like to you? To this average Marylander, it sounds like an ICE detention warehouse is akin to a Nazi concentration camp. Until ICE leadership can restore the public's trust, it cannot be allowed to manage construction and environmental compliance for development of a human storage warehouse. Just the words ‘human storage warehouse’ is chilling to me as a Marylander and should be chilling to all Americans. This ICE warehouse will be a disaster in the state of Maryland on multiple fronts to include our precious environment, the damage to which will be irreversible, and will be looked upon by future generations of Marylanders as a human rights violation, an embarrassment, and a shameful reminder of when our federal government willfully abandoned Constitutional rights, such as the right to due process that all people illegally on American soil have, in favor of abject cruelty and intentional maliciousness.”

A Frederick County resident is concerned about ICE’s aggressive actions to pursue this warehouse stated:

“DHS launching a new environmental review doesn’t make this project any more acceptable — it only underscores how aggressively ICE is still trying to force a massive detention complex into Washington County despite overwhelming community opposition,

serious environmental risks, and the complete mismatch between this industrial-scale proposal and the character, infrastructure, and values of the region. A 1,500-bed detention warehouse and a 750,000-gallon water tank would strain local systems, threaten nearby wells, and permanently alter the landscape, all while expanding a detention model that Marylanders have repeatedly rejected as inhumane and unnecessary. No amount of procedural paperwork changes the fundamental truth: this facility is the wrong project in the wrong place, and the community has every right to continue fighting it.”

A Germantown resident, concerned with human rights, strains on infrastructure, impact on tax dollars, and proximity to schools, stated:

“Treating people like cattle is inhumane. These are people with families and friends that care about them, and should be treated with dignity and respect. This is the bare minimum that I would expect of my government, to not round up and deport people that have lived and worked and contributed to their communities expecting almost nothing in return. The US has a long, awful history of mistreating immigrants and could turn around that history today by blocking the building of these concentration camps. Instead of another violation of human rights we could instead stand up and say no more. I expect more of the people making these decisions and hope the right one will be made.”

One resident from Keedysville succinctly stated:

“People are not freight and should not be housed in buildings designed for packages.”

I again urge you to listen to the will of the community in Washington County, across the Sixth District, and throughout Maryland to stop the development of this warehouse. My constituents do not support this facility that would undoubtedly harm the local environment, strain already limited resources, and further tarnish the values on which our communities stand.

On a personal note, I believe that these warehouses represent a grave threat to American ideals. The tragic, preventable deaths that have occurred at the hands of DHS officials have undermined trust in our institutions and have failed to meet our values. As the Representative for Maryland’s Sixth District, I will take all steps necessary to ensure that fundamental constitutional and human rights are protected throughout the nation.

Sincerely,



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress