

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King JR Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Honorable Todd Lyons
Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

February 24, 2026

Dear Sec. Noem and Director Lyons,

We write to express our profound concern regarding the reports of a letter contract with the GEO Group to operate a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility in Hudson, Colorado. As ICE agents continue to terrorize our communities, illegally detain U.S. citizens, and skirt congressional oversight of existing facilities, we strongly oppose the expansion of ICE detention beds in Colorado.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit demonstrate that ICE issued a letter contract for the GEO Group for \$39,042,069 for six months of services for the so-called Big Horn Facility in Hudson. The letter contract was dated December 1, 2025, with all terms and pricing redacted. Additionally, ICE redacted more than 100 pages of documents purporting to justify why they should award a sole-source contract to the GEO Group for the Hudson facility without full and open competition. The operation of the Big Horn Facility for ICE detention would dramatically expand their detention capacity in the state, reportedly increasing the available detention beds from 1,532 at the Aurora GEO Detention Facility to more than 2,700 beds across the state.

We are deeply concerned that this expansion will lead to decreased oversight, reduced access to legal representation for detained individuals, and increased geographical barriers for visitors. The GEO Group and ICE have a demonstrated history of blocking Congressional oversight of the Aurora GEO Detention Facility by refusing Members of Congress access to the facility, withholding answers to oversight questions, and failing to respond to congressional casework inquiries. There is no reason to believe that these illegal actions will not be continued in the Big Horn Facility.

Additionally, immigration advocates across the state have raised concerns that locating a new facility in Hudson, which is significantly more remote and less accessible than the Aurora facility, will result in additional barriers to legal representation, advocates, and family members visiting the facility to meet with detained individuals. The Hudson location lacks comparable

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access to public transportation, is farther from legal service providers and advocacy organizations, and would impose added travel time and costs on attorneys and family members seeking to visit or meet with those detained. These obstacles risk delaying legal proceedings, limiting access to counsel, and undermining detainees' ability to maintain communication with family members. Given these concerns, we therefore seek clarity into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) decision to authorize such a facility and what actions it will take to ensure those detained in the facility will have equal and adequate access to legal representation as their cases remain ongoing.

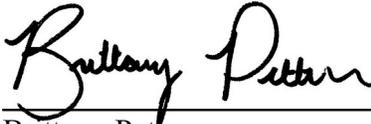
We strongly oppose the use of the Big Horn Detention Center as an ICE detention facility, and we urge DHS to immediately abandon plans to expand detention capacity in Colorado. Additionally, we request your response to the following oversight questions by March 13th, 2026:

1. Did the GEO Group receive a \$39,042,069 six-month contract for the Big Horn Detention Facility when no individuals were detained at this facility? Please provide an itemized statement as to how that \$39,042,069 was spent.
2. Please confirm the number of beds you expect the Big Horn Facility to hold.
3. What steps will the Department of Homeland Security take to share its plans for the new facility with relevant local leaders, community members, advocacy groups, and other relevant partners?
4. What steps will be taken to ensure that the Big Horn Facility will consistently meet adequate health and safety standards, as required by the Performance- Based National Detention Standards 2008, the Performance-Based National Detention Standards 2011, the National Detention Standards 2019, and the Family Residential Standards?
5. What steps will DHS take to ensure that the new facility will respond appropriately to congressional oversight as required under Pub. L. No. 118-47, div. C, tit. V 527 (a), 138 Stat 460, 619, and affirmed by Case No. 25-cv-2463?
6. How will DHS ensure that detainees within the Big Horn Facility maintain adequate access to family visitation and meetings with relevant counsel and representatives?
7. Are there any other contracts with the GEO Group for ICE Department of Homeland Security detention facilities in Colorado?
8. Have there been any discussions with local or county governments on the opening of Big Horn? Have the Weld County Health Department and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment been made aware of their inspection duties?

Sincerely,

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Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator