

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Caleb Vitello
Acting Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Acting Secretary Vitello:

On behalf of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, I would like to thank you and your team for taking the time to meet with me and discuss our shared priorities for immigration enforcement and public safety. We greatly appreciate the Trump administration's leadership in securing our borders and enforcing our deportation laws, which are vital to the safety of American communities. ICE's work in removing criminal illegal aliens from our communities is not only necessary but urgent. We stand with the President, ICE and the Department of Homeland Security in this fight and look forward to collaborating on meaningful solutions to effectively enforce our immigration laws.

We were particularly encouraged by our conversation about empowering local law enforcement to assist in deportation efforts without facing legal challenges. We believe that transforming detainer warrants into criminal federal warrants would be a straightforward and commonsense reform that would provide local officers with the necessary tools to enforce the law and protect our communities. Additionally, we discussed the potential benefits of granting limited federal authorization to certain local law enforcement officials to assist in deportation efforts. We urge you to prioritize these reforms and work with your colleagues to pass legislation that simplifies and strengthens local law enforcement's role in upholding federal immigration laws.

We also appreciate the opportunity to discuss local governments partnering with ICE to ensure violent criminals are arrested and detained. By strengthening collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and ICE, we can more effectively target and remove dangerous criminals from our communities. This partnership is essential to improving public safety and ensuring that violent offenders are held accountable. We believe expanding these collaborations is a critical component of a comprehensive strategy to address criminal illegal immigration.

We also greatly appreciate your attention to the ongoing issues surrounding Douglas County's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of provisions in Title 24 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, specifically Articles 76.6 and 76.7. These state laws prevent local and state law enforcement from engaging in critical immigration enforcement duties, including arresting or detaining individuals for civil immigration violations, sharing personal identifying information with federal authorities, and entering into agreements with federal agencies to enforce immigration law. We are committed to seeing these unconstitutional provisions overturned through litigation, and we strongly urge you to continue supporting efforts to protect the ability of local law enforcement to assist in federal immigration enforcement.

As highlighted in the January 17th letter from Representatives Evans, Crank, and Boebert to Governor Polis, these laws "prevent public safety investigations" by obstructing critical inquiries where immigration status is relevant. It is unacceptable that state and local governments are allowed to undermine federal immigration enforcement, and we remain committed to eliminating these dangerous policies.

Once again, thank you for your time, insights, and unwavering commitment to the safety and security of American citizens. We look forward to continuing our work together on these critical issues to help create a safer, more secure future for Douglas County and our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abe Laydon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Abe Laydon, Chairman
Douglas County Board of Commissioners