

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Byron Donalds  
U.S. Representative  
19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Florida  
1710 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Donalds,

On behalf of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Darren Weekly, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you and your Chief of Staff to discuss the critical issues facing our county and our nation. The need for strong, decisive leadership has never been more apparent, and we are grateful for your commitment to addressing these important matters.

We also want to commend you for your steadfast dedication to securing our borders and enforcing immigration laws. The work your office has done to bolster border security and help remove criminal illegal aliens from our communities is both necessary and urgent. As you know, this is not just a policy issue—it is a matter of public safety and the protection of American citizens. We stand with you in your efforts to secure our borders and will continue to support meaningful solutions to strengthen our immigration enforcement.

Equally important is the discussion we had on empowering local law enforcement to play a more significant role in immigration enforcement. Specifically, transforming detainer warrants into criminal federal warrants would be a common-sense reform that would provide local officers with the tools they need to better serve their communities. In addition, allowing certain local law enforcement officials to assist in deportation efforts through federally authorized channels would also be a critical step forward. We urge you to prioritize these reforms and work with your colleagues to pass legislation that would enable local law enforcement to more effectively uphold federal immigration laws.

We also deeply appreciate your attention to Douglas County's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of provisions in Title 24 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, particularly Articles 76.6 and 76.7. These state laws prevent local and state law enforcement from engaging in vital immigration enforcement duties, such as arresting or detaining individuals for civil immigration violations and sharing critical information with federal authorities. We are committed to seeing these unconstitutional provisions overturned through litigation, and we ask for your continued support to protect the ability of local law enforcement to cooperate in enforcing federal immigration law.

As highlighted in the January 17th letter from Representatives Evans, Crank, and Boebert to Governor Jared Polis, these laws "prevent public safety investigations" by obstructing critical inquiries related to immigration status. It is unacceptable that state and local governments are permitted to hinder federal immigration enforcement, and we are determined to see these

dangerous policies overturned. We urge you to work with your colleagues to pass federal legislation explicitly prohibiting sanctuary policies and ensuring that state and local governments cannot obstruct the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

In addition, we were encouraged by our conversation regarding federal transportation funding. It is concerning that sanctuary cities, which undermine law enforcement and public safety, continue to receive federal resources. We strongly believe that these funds should be redirected to communities that prioritize lawful immigration enforcement and support public safety. These significant transportation and infrastructure investments should be directed toward communities that respect the rule of law.

We also continue to emphasize the importance of reining in federal spending and protecting the financial stability of our nation. As we continue to face increasing demands on our resources, it is essential that we take steps to curb unnecessary federal expenditures, which threaten the long-term fiscal health of the country. That is why we strongly support DOGE and efforts to reduce wasteful spending, and advocate for policies that ensure taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively.

Additionally, we remain deeply committed to protecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. The right to bear arms is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and we oppose efforts that seek to infringe upon this fundamental right. We encourage you to continue your work in defending our Second Amendment freedoms and ensuring that responsible gun ownership remains protected.

Thank you once again for your time, insights, and your unwavering commitment to protecting the safety and rights of American citizens. We look forward to working together with you to advance these critical priorities and ensure a safer, more secure future for Douglas County and our nation.

Sincerely,



Abe Laydon, Chairman



Kevin Van Winkle, Commissioner



George Teal, Commissioner



Darren Weekly, Sheriff