

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Ron Estes
U.S. Representative
4th Congressional District of Kansas
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Estes,

On behalf of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Darren Weekly, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to meet with you and your Chief of Staff to discuss the critical issues impacting our county and the nation. Your thoughtful attention to these pressing matters is deeply appreciated, and we value your commitment to addressing them with urgency and resolve.

We were particularly pleased to engage with you regarding aerospace given your role as Chairman of the House Aerospace Caucus. This industry is vital to both Colorado and the nation. As you know, Colorado is a hub for the aerospace sector, with over 400 aerospace companies calling the state home. The state's aerospace industry continues to expand, supporting tens of thousands of high-skilled, high-paying jobs, and it is a major driver of scientific advancement, economic growth, and national defense. The continued success of this industry is crucial for ensuring America's global leadership in space exploration and technological innovation. We encourage your ongoing support of policies that promote the growth of the aerospace industry to secure the future of this essential sector.

Additionally, we want to commend you for your steadfast dedication to border security. The work your office is doing to fortify our borders and help remove dangerous, criminal illegal immigrants from our communities is not only necessary but urgent. Protecting American citizens and securing our nation's borders is a matter of public safety, and we stand fully behind your efforts to prioritize this issue.

The discussion surrounding empowering local law enforcement to assist in deportation efforts was equally important. Transforming detainer warrants into criminal federal warrants would be a simple but significant reform to help local officers contribute to immigration enforcement without facing legal barriers. Additionally, providing limited federal authorization to specific local law enforcement officials to assist in deportation efforts would further strengthen their ability to enforce the law. We urge you to continue advocating for such reforms that enhance the ability of local law enforcement to support federal immigration policies effectively.

We also greatly appreciate your attention to Douglas County's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of key provisions in Title 24 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, particularly Articles 76.6 and 76.7. These laws prevent local law enforcement from carrying out essential immigration enforcement duties, such as arresting individuals for civil immigration violations, sharing non-public personal identifying information with federal authorities, and entering into

agreements with federal agencies to assist in enforcing immigration laws. These unconstitutional state laws undermine the integrity of our immigration system, and we are committed to challenging them in court to restore local law enforcement's ability to help support federal immigration enforcement.

As highlighted in the January 17th letter from Representatives Evans, Crank, and Boebert to Governor Jared Polis, these laws "prevent public safety investigations" and impede the ability of law enforcement to fully address cases where immigration status is relevant. We cannot allow state and local governments to block federal immigration enforcement laws, and we remain committed to overturning these dangerous policies. We strongly encourage you to collaborate with your colleagues to enact federal legislation that would prevent states and local governments from enacting sanctuary policies that obstruct federal immigration enforcement.

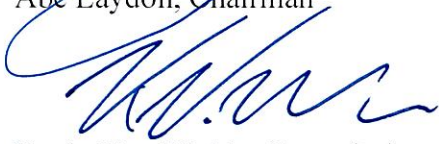
Finally, we appreciated our discussion on federal transportation funding. It is unacceptable that sanctuary cities continue to receive federal funds when they actively hinder law enforcement efforts. These resources should be redirected to communities that prioritize public safety and uphold the rule of law. We look forward to working with you and your office to advocate for this important issue and ensure that federal transportation funding is directed where it can do the most good—supporting communities that follow the law and prioritize the safety of their citizens.

Once again, thank you for your time, your invaluable insights, and your unwavering dedication to the safety and security of American citizens. We look forward to continuing our work with you and your team to advance these crucial issues and build a safer, stronger future for Douglas County and our country.

Sincerely,



Abe Laydon, Chairman



Kevin Van Winkle, Commissioner



George Teal, Commissioner



Darren Weekly, Sheriff