February 5, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem                    Mr. Tom Homan
Secretary                                     The White House
U.S. Department of Homeland Security          1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528                        Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Secretary Noem and Mr. Homan,

We write to you as elected leaders who represent Oregon communities that are fearful and
morally opposed to the tactics that federal officers are deploying in Oregon and across the
country.

Whenever law enforcement uses lethal force, there must be a full, fair investigation and
accountability at the highest legal standard. The administration's blatant disregard for the facts
on the ground in recent incidents in Minneapolis, coupled with increasingly aggressive tactics
and rhetoric against people exercising their First Amendment rights, compromises the integrity
of the current investigations. The situation erodes public trust and normalizes an environment
where it seems acceptable to harm people who disagree with what the government is attempting
to do. This is in direct opposition to the civil liberties and freedoms on which this country was
founded.

We demand an immediate halt to federal immigration enforcement actions in Oregon until
thorough investigations of use of force incidents in Minneapolis, in Portland, and all other use of
force incidents by federal agents are thoroughly investigated and those involved are held
accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

State, county, and city law enforcement are on the front lines of keeping communities safe. They
provide essential services and have built trust with the people they serve. That trust has been
critical to reducing crime and violence across the state. But we are seeing firsthand the fear
created by the administration's immigration enforcement tactics. That fear is deepened when
local law enforcement is shut out of federal investigations and treated as obstacles rather than
partners in addressing real crime.

The actions of your officers are not making our communities safer. Parents are afraid to take
their children to school. Families are avoiding health care. People are scared to go to work or
even go to the store for essentials, let alone support a range of small businesses. The actions of
your officers, especially the use of lethal force, are damaging local economies and hurting the
people we are responsible for protecting and serving.

We will firmly uphold Oregon's Sanctuary Law, protections that have been in place for decades and strengthened over time with bipartisan agreement, and we will defend local resolutions that complement and expand on state law.  Lawful immigration enforcement is the work of the federal government, and our resources will continue to be prioritized to solve actual problems and address local criminal activity.

Our message to our immigrant and refugee communities is unequivocal: We stand with you. You belong here.  Our message to your administration is equally clear: Current practices must change immediately.

Sincerely,

Governor Kotek

TJ Bailey, Mayor of Falls City

Lisa Batey, Mayor of Milwaukie

Lacey Beaty, Mayor of Beaverton

Craig Berdie, Mayor of Yachats

Rory Bialostosky, Mayor of West Linn

Paul Blackburn, Mayor of Hood River

Joe Buck, Mayor of Lake Oswego

Angelica Ceja, Mayor of Aumsville

Jeffrey Dalin, Mayor of Cornelius

Ed Fitch, Mayor of Redmond

Sean Fitzpatrick, Mayor of Astoria

Annette Frank, Mayor of Dayton

Tonya Graham, Mayor of Ashland

Ki-Yang Hu, Mayor of Tigard

Jan Kaplan, Mayor of Newport

Melanie Kebler, Mayor of Bend

Kaarin Knudson, Mayor of Eugene

Cecelia Koontz, Mayor of Monmouth

Frank Lonergan, Mayor of Woodburn

Denyse McGriff, Mayor of Oregon City

Christopher McMorran, Mayor of Philomath

Shawn O'Neil, Mayor of Wilsonville

Beach Pace, Mayor of Hillsboro

Jairo Rios-Campos, Mayor of Wood Village

Travis Stovall, Mayor of Gresham

Jim Trett, Mayor of Detroit

Susan Wahlke, Mayor of Lincoln City

Linda Watkins, Mayor of Carlton

Malynda Wenzl, Mayor of Forest Grove

Keith Wilson, Mayor of Portland

Steve Wright, Mayor of Seaside