

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

We write, once again, to demand that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) immediately withdraw its agents out of the streets of Portland, Oregon, and stop inflicting violence on the American people.

Over the weekend, federal forces deployed by the Trump administration to Portland unleashed harmful chemical munitions and life-threatening projectiles without restraint on Oregonians exercising their First Amendment rights in broad daylight. DHS agents indiscriminately launched tear gas, pepper balls, rubber bullets, and flash-bang grenades into a peaceful and planned gathering of labor groups including nurses, teachers, and their families. We and our constituents watched in horror as federal agents aggressively tear-gassed children and elderly members of the community. The chemicals and projectiles used by your agents also threatened the health and safety of nearby residents. These people presented no threat, violated no law, and posed no danger to federal agents. Attacking our communities is not law enforcement: it is a blatant suppression of people's constitutional rights. No lawful justification exists for such reckless and excessive use of force. We firmly oppose the actions of federal agents using excessive force against the very people they are sworn to protect and serve, and so should you.

Your department's continued violent suppression of free speech has led directly to the murder of two U.S. citizens in broad daylight in Minneapolis, and the reckless conduct of federal agents has led to the deaths of countless immigrants in DHS custody. We have every reason to believe your continued lawless, paramilitary operations on our streets will be deadly for Oregonians. This administration lacks any legal basis to continue its failed campaign of inciting violence in our communities, whether in Oregon, Minnesota, or anywhere else in America. Your violence has already wounded and killed too many people in U.S. cities. Therefore as elected representatives who swore the same oath you did to uphold the Constitution, we demand you immediately end using excessive force against our communities and withdraw your federal agents from Oregon.

The Oregon congressional delegation will use every tool at our disposal to protect all community members, who deserve to feel and be safe. No one in our community should live in fear of federal agents attacking them on their streets as punishment for exercising their constitutional rights. We will do everything in our power to defend the rights of Oregonians, including our immigrant communities, and we will work with our state and local community leaders, and partners across the nation, to continue peacefully countering the Trump administration's lawless abuse of power.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Andrea Salinas

Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Maxine Dexter

Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress

Janelle S. Bynum

Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress