

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 12, 2026

Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Mullin,

It has come to our attention that the Department of Homeland Security (“Department” or “DHS”) is effectively running an in-house private jet service for Trump administration officials with a slew of new luxury jets and other airplanes it has acquired and begun providing to officials over the last year. This includes providing jet services not only for DHS officials like yourself, but also for White House Border Czar Tom Homan, other administration officials, members of the first family, and even the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Kash Patel. In total, DHS has acquired 12 new aircraft, including 5 extravagant new luxury jets, using funds provided in the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA). These jets were acquired and provided for officials’ use, even though no authorization was ever provided by Congress to buy any airplanes, much less to support executive travel.¹

The Department’s purchase of these airplanes to shuttle administration officials around the globe demonstrates a remarkable disregard for American taxpayers who work hard and expect government officials to responsibly manage their tax dollars, not burn them on extravagant luxury jets. These acquisitions also raise serious legal concerns, as Congress has not provided the necessary legal authorization for DHS to purchase these planes, much less run a private jet service for government executives.²

Over the last year, Republicans in Congress have, on a party-line basis, delivered the Department a remarkable windfall totaling over a quarter of a *trillion* dollars outside of the annual appropriations process. Republicans first approved \$190 billion for DHS in the OBBBA last summer. Then, after refusing to enact basic reforms to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Border Patrol following rampant abuses, including the killings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti, they voted to deliver DHS another \$70 billion in funding this summer,³ which was largely earmarked for ICE and Border Patrol and came with no strings attached.

¹ See 31 U.S.C. § 1343(d), which states: “An appropriation (except an appropriation for the armed forces) is available to buy, maintain, or operate an aircraft only if the appropriation specifically authorizes the purchase, maintenance, or operation.”

² Murphy, Chris. Letter to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. 3 Mar. 2026, https://www.murphy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/murphy_gao_letter_33.pdf.

³ “Roll Call Vote 119th Congress - 2nd Session.” *U.S. Senate: U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes 119th Congress - 2nd Session*, United States Senate, 23 June 2026, www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote1192/vote_119_2_00163.htm

But instead of using the staggering amount of funding provided to DHS to actually improve the lives of Americans by requiring basic compliance with the Fourth Amendment, acquiring and deploying body-worn cameras to every law enforcement officer in the field, mandating minimum officer identification, or properly training new hires, this administration has lit taxpayer dollars on fire by acquiring new and unnecessary planes to jet Trump officials around in extreme luxury that the vast majority of Americans will never experience.

For example, in the midst of last fall's government shutdown, your predecessor spent nearly \$200 million of OBBBA funds provided for the Coast Guard to acquire:

- **Two Gulfstream 700 luxury business jets**, a model Gulfstream describes as “the pinnacle of business aviation excellence,” which boasts “the most spacious cabin in the industry.”⁴ The jets were acquired despite the fact that DHS already owns two Gulfstream jets to support executive travel and despite the fact that DHS had never raised the need for any additional jets in any of its annual budget requests. The Department stole money that should have been used to support modernization of the Coast Guard's fleet, meet operational needs, and improve military readiness to instead purchase two new luxury jets to shuttle the DHS Secretary and Deputy Secretary around the globe.

DHS also spent OBBBA funds provided for ICE to acquire 10 additional aircraft. To justify the purchases, DHS previously claimed they would all be used to support removal operations in some way.⁵ Now, it says these planes are being used for the following purposes:

- **Two Gulfstream G650 luxury business jets**, ultra-long-range aircraft that seat up to 15 passengers. One of the G650s has already been leased to the FBI for 12 months to support Director Patel's travel—despite the fact that the FBI already has its own jets to support the Director's travel. The other G650 is currently being retrofitted for deployment to support Border Czar Homan and undisclosed DHS officials' travel, according to the Department.
- **One Boeing 737-8 MAX business jet**, a modified ultra-luxury jet that DHS acquired fully equipped with a bedroom and other luxury amenities like a shower, kitchen, bar, and flatscreen TVs—amenities that even Air Force Two lacks. Despite these features, DHS claimed the jet would “serve dual missions—both as ICE deportation flights and for cabinet-level travel.”⁶ Now, DHS has informed us the bedroom is being removed, and the plane will remain in ICE's ownership but be loaned to the Department of Defense (DOD)

⁴ “G700 – Gulfstream Aerospace,” *Industry Flagship*, Gulfstream, www.gulfstream.com/en/aircraft/gulfstream-g700/. Accessed 5 Aug. 2026

⁵ References to DHS assertion does not mean it was lawful even if that was the purpose. See: Murphy, Chris. Letter to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. 3 Mar. 2026, https://www.murphy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/murphy_gao_letter_33.pdf.

⁶ Ainsley, Julia. “‘No Expense Has Been Spared’: Inside a Luxury Jet DHS Wants to Buy for Deportations.” *NBCNews.Com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 19 Feb. 2026, www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/no-expense-spared-luxury-jet-dhs-wants-buy-deportations-rcna259425.

to fly undisclosed cabinet-level officials. It has also been reported the jet will be used to fly the First Lady around.⁷

- **Seven Boeing 737s**, a commercial aircraft that can seat upwards of 200 passengers. DHS claims four of these aircraft will be used to support Congressional Delegations (CODELs) but has not provided information on why it is necessary or a permissible use of funds for DHS to purchase these aircraft. DHS states three of the aircraft will soon support ICE deportation flights. Top former DHS officials and industry experts have noted that these acquisitions waste tax dollars,⁸ and we remain alarmed by how ICE may use these planes to support the administration's lawless immigration enforcement campaign. One aviation industry executive said that: "It's hard to see this as anything but a waste of public money."⁹

The American people deserve a full accounting of this gross misuse of their tax dollars, and Congress needs more information to conduct sorely-needed oversight and to appropriately craft this coming year's funding bill for the Department. The misuse of these funds also merits investigation by DHS's Inspector General, and we have copied him on this letter to make him aware of our concerns.

Instead of extending tax credits to lower Americans' health care costs or investing to help families afford child care and housing, Republicans in Congress chose to make historic cuts to health care and nutrition assistance in order to cut taxes for the ultra-rich and provide DHS with more money for immigration enforcement than the budget of nearly every military in the world. We fought Republicans' backward legislation to supercharge DHS's budget, but we believe every lawmaker should at minimum agree that Americans' tax dollars should not be wasted on lavish new jets to shuttle DHS officials, the FBI director, and an undisclosed number of other Trump officials and family members around the globe in extraordinary comfort.

DHS has repeatedly noted that as Secretary you are focused on being "the best possible steward of taxpayer dollars."¹⁰ Accordingly, we ask that you furnish the information requested below, and we hope that you will sell off these unnecessary luxury jets and airplanes acquired by DHS

⁷ Hackman, Michelle, and Josh Dawsey. "The White House Is Keeping Kristi Noem's \$70 Million Jet." *The Wall Street Journal: Politics*, The Wall Street Journal, 7 Apr. 2026, www.wsj.com/politics/policy/the-white-house-is-keeping-kristi-noems-70-million-jet-547438aa.

⁸ LeVine, Marianne, and Jacob Bogage. "DHS Inks Contract to Create Its Own Fleet of 737 Jets for Deportations - The Washington Post." *The Washington Post*, The Washington Post, 10 Dec. 2025, www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/12/10/dhs-deport-boeing-contract/.

Marsh, René, and Audrey Ash. "DHS Says Its New Deportation Planes Are Almost Ready for Takeoff. Critics Doubt the Plan Will Work | CNN Politics." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 16 May 2026, www.cnn.com/2026/05/16/politics/deportation-planes-dhs-fleet-airline.

⁹ "DHS Says Its New Deportation Planes Are Almost Ready for Takeoff. Critics Doubt the Plan Will Work | CNN Politics."

¹⁰ Ainsley, Julia, and Laura Strickler. "Ice Eyes Selling Mega-Warehouses Purchased for Mass Detention." *NBCNews.Com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 30 May 2026, www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/ice-eyes-selling-mega-warehouses-purchased-mass-detention-rca347592.

"DHS Says Its New Deportation Planes Are Almost Ready for Takeoff. Critics Doubt the Plan Will Work" Ngo, Madeleine. "Homeland Security Expands Deportation Fleet with High-End Jets." *The New York Times*, The New York Times Company, 16 Apr. 2026, www.nytimes.com/2026/04/17/us/politics/homeland-security-gulfstream.html.

and return the funding to American taxpayers. We would be happy to work with you and our colleagues in Congress to return those dollars to the Treasury and put them to better use making sure Americans can afford health care, rent, and groceries.

Please provide the following by August 26, 2026:

- Contract details for the purchase of each plane;
- Contracts for any/all retrofitting and missionization of each plane;
- Cost analysis for the operations and maintenance of each plane for the life cycle of the plane;
- Flight logs to date, including the names and titles of passengers, origination, destination, and purpose of travel;
- A copy of the lease agreement with the FBI for the G650 jet;
- A copy of the loan agreement with DOD for the Boeing 737-8 MAX business jet; and
- The legal justifications for the purchase, operation, and maintenance, as well as planned uses, of these aircraft.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate



Christopher S. Murphy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

cc: Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
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