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Growing with **Direction**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Bethany Cox, District 3
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Michelle Clasen, District 5

Jan. 29, 2026

The Honorable Angie Craig
U.S. House of Representatives
2442 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber
U.S. House of Representatives
145 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith
U.S. Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Klobuchar and Smith and Representatives Craig, McCollum, and Stauber,

The County Board is writing to convey the significant and growing concern we are hearing from residents regarding reports on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence and operations in the county. This concern originated from reporting from the Washington Post on Dec. 24, 2025, that a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) document identified the City of Woodbury as a potential site for an ICE detention center with a capacity of up to 1,500 detainees. Local news reports indicate the proposed location is a newly built, vacant warehouse at 11435 Hudson Rd.

In response, hundreds of Washington County residents contacted the County Board and attended public meetings on Jan. 6 and 13 to express deep concerns about this proposal. They cited significant public health and safety risks associated with housing people in a facility not designed for human habitation, including the absence of basic utilities and sanitation.

While the City of Woodbury has received confirmation from DHS that an ICE detention center will not be established at the warehouse, the County Board wishes to clearly express its strong opposition to any effort to establish an immigration detention center in Woodbury or anywhere in Washington County.

Beyond local safety and compatibility concerns, such a facility would place substantial additional strain on county services and funding, including law enforcement, public health, transportation, and other departments, at a time when resources are already stretched to meet state and federal mandates. Federal ownership would also remove the property from the local tax base (\$777,068), further impacting county and municipal finances.

Separately, Washington County has experienced an increased presence of ICE activity in neighborhoods and businesses. While federal immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, residents have raised urgent concerns, including:

- **Violation of State law:** Reports of ICE detaining United States citizens and residents with no criminal background or clear threat to public safety raise serious concerns about unlawful apprehension and detention.
- **Human, Civil, and Constitutional Rights Violations:** Media reports have documented alleged human, civil, and constitutional rights violations in Minnesota and other states.
- **Lack of Transparency:** The lack of meaningful communication from the federal government, including communication with our local law enforcement, is creating confusion and eroding public trust.
- **Fear:** Residents report heightened fear and anxiety, with many afraid to leave their homes for school, work, places of worship, or community activities.

We respectfully request that you:

1. **Ensure that ICE agents comply fully with all federal and state laws.**
2. **Maintain open and regular lines of communication** regarding ICE activity in the county.
3. **Oppose any effort to establish an immigration detention center** in Washington County.
4. **Ensure immediate public disclosure** of information related to any proposed detention facilities.
5. **Advocate for meaningful community engagement** in any federal decision-making process related to proposed facilities.

The people of Washington County deserve safety in their neighborhoods and transparency in their government. Your leadership and oversight are critical to preserving community integrity and ensuring federal accountability.

Thank you for your immediate attention and support on this matter.

Sincerely,



Fran Miron
Commissioner, District 1



Stanley Karwoski
Commissioner, District 2



Bethany Cox
Commissioner, District 3



Karla Bigham
Board Chair, District 4



Michelle Clasen
Commissioner, District 5