

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20258

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write to congratulate you on your confirmation to lead the Department of Homeland Security. The past four years of inaction by the Biden-Harris administration to address the crisis at America's borders has only exacerbated the issue and threatened the safety of every American, particularly those who live near our borders. This ongoing crisis has impacted families across America, but we are encouraged to see President Trump's administration take swift action to address it.

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), drug seizures for FYTD 2025 have surpassed 3,500 pounds. Currently, if this trend continues, CBP is on track to seize more drugs along the Northern border in FY 2025 than in FY 2024. On January 22, 2025, *CBS News* reported that Canadian police in Toronto seized over 1,840 pounds of cocaine with "ties to the Jalisco New Generation Cartel."<sup>1</sup> President Trump has also recognized the growing threat posed by "Mexican cartels operating fentanyl and nitazene synthesis labs in Canada"<sup>2</sup> and has been quick to call on the Canadian government to take immediate action to increase domestic enforcement.

In addition to increased drug seizures along the Northern border, CBP encounters have also increased. According to CBP's Northern Land Border Encounters data, there has been over an 81% increase in total encounters at the Northern border from FY 2022 to FY 2024. More concerning, encounters involving unaccompanied or single minors rose by more than 262% during the same period. These increased encounters are also accompanied by two arrests on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> by the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) in Michigan. In Sault Sainte Marie, USBP agents "apprehended a Venezuelan Tren de Agua gang member"<sup>3</sup> and in Gibraltar "agents along with law enforcement partners arrested Melquiades Salgado-Garza, a leader of hitmen with the Gulf cartel."<sup>4</sup>

Given the Trump administration's commitment to secure our borders, we would like to extend an invitation for you to visit Michigan. Michigan plays a significant role in tackling the illicit drug trafficking and illegal crossings we see at our northern border. As you likely know, in the fall of 2025, Michigan will open another port of entry between the U.S. and Canada at the Gordie Howe International Bridge. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how Congress, and Michigan, can assist in securing our Northern border to protect the safety and security of the American people.

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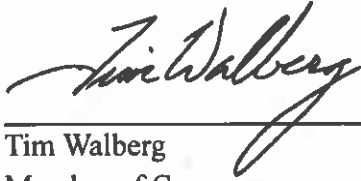
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cocaine-seized-toronto-record-jalisco-cartel/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/07/2025-02406/imposing-duties-to-address-the-flow-of-illicit-drugs-across-our-northern-border>

<sup>3</sup> <https://x.com/USBPChief/status/1886852225567236196>

<sup>4</sup> <https://x.com/USBPChiefDTM/status/1888317191067431060>

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



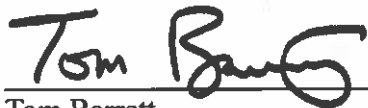
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