



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

On June 25, 2026, I wrote you regarding questionable large-dollar contracting actions at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).¹ I also remind you that the Department has not responded to our June 9, 2026, letter regarding DHS's luxury jets—including the Gulfstream G700s and the Boeing 737 MAX obtained under former Secretary Noem.² That letter demanded that you take immediate steps to sell those aircraft and recoup taxpayer funds. You have yet to respond to either of those letters. Since then, additional reporting has made clear that DHS's aircraft purchases and related aviation contracts were wasteful, irregular, and potentially corrupt.

Most recently, the New York Times reported that DHS used a no-bid contract to pay \$464 million for ten jets—three luxury aircraft and seven Boeing 737s—from Daedalus Aviation, a company whose CEO previously donated to former Secretary Kristi Noem's political action committee.³ The Times further detailed that five of those planes were acquired on the eve of Noem's departure, at steep markups over recent purchase prices.⁴

In May 2026, DHS announced that the jets would be ready for use within "weeks."⁵ Despite the fact that DHS claimed that they had an urgent need to use these aircraft for deportation, at least one aircraft purchased has a bar, a marble bathroom, and a manta ray skin table.⁶ Today, one of the jets has been leased to the Federal Bureau of Investigation while the rest continue to sit idle with claims by DHS that they will now be used to fly government officials and members of Congress on overseas trips.⁷

¹ Bennie G. Thompson letter to Markwayne Mullin (Jun. 25, 2026).

² James R. Walkinshaw and Bennie G. Thompson Letter to Markwayne Mullin (June 9, 2026).

³ Hamed Aleaziz, David Farenthold, Nicholas Nehamas, Tyler Pager, and Niraj Chokshi, "Kristi Noem's Agency Gave Her Donor a Lucrative Contract Just Before She Left," The New York Times (Oct. 4, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/04/us/politics/kristi-noem-planes-donor.html>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Rene Marsh and Audrey Ash, "DHS says its new deportation planes are almost ready for takeoff. Critics doubt the plan will work," CNN (May 16, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/16/politics/deportation-planes-dhs-fleet-airline>.

⁶ *Supra* n. 2.

⁷ *Id.*

Reports also indicate that you considered backing out of this contract upon your arrival to the Department, but you were advised by White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles that you should not seek to block the purchase.⁸

This abuse and misuse of taxpayer funds at the highest levels of the Trump administration is an outrageous breach of trust.

The Committee's request for a briefing on the aircraft purchases and associated contracts has been met with delays from DHS for nearly a year. Most recently, Department staff suggested that a broader briefing on the WFTCA would be considered DHS's response to our prior inquiry. This is unacceptable. The Committee has specific questions about the aircraft procurements and the award processes that must be answered directly.

Accordingly, please provide the following by November 4, 2026:

- (1) All contracts, task orders, delivery orders, and modifications since January 20, 2025 associated with DHS's purchase, lease, retrofit, storage, operation, or transfer of aircraft (including but not limited to Boeing 737 variants, G650/G700 Gulfstreams, and any VIP-configured 737 MAX). Include contract numbers, vendors, award dates, dollar values, Justifications & Approvals (J&As), Determinations and Findings (D&Fs), and price reasonableness analyses.
- (2) All communications (emails, texts, messages, calendars, call logs, meeting notes) between DHS officials and representatives of Daedalus Aviation and Valkyrie Aviation Holdings Group, or any other Walters-affiliated entity regarding aircraft purchases or aviation support between January 2025 and the present.
- (3) All documents, including communications, related to Secretary Mullin's review of the contract with Daedalus and his decision to proceed with the purchase.
- (4) A status update on the seven Boeing 737s purchased for deportation flights, including airworthiness, basing, crew provisioning plans, intended mission sets, and a timeline for operational use. Provide flight logs to date and a forecast for Fiscal Year 2027.
- (5) A description of any plans to lease or transfer DHS aircraft to other departments or agencies, the statutory authorities relied upon, and any cost-sharing or reimbursement arrangements.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

⁸ *Id.*

Secretary Mullin
Page 3

cc: The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security