



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

February 14, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write to demand documentation of some of your many abuses of power.

A February 12, 2026, *Wall Street Journal* article states that your close associate and “chief adviser,” Corey Lewandowski, “fired a U.S. Coast Guard pilot after [your] blanket was left behind on a plane”—only to reinstate the pilot soon after because no one else was available to fly you home.<sup>1</sup> The same article documents your mismanagement of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spending and contracts, withholding of disaster aid funding, unethical use of Coast Guard jets and housing, retaliation against perceived rivals, bullying of employees, and well-known inappropriate romantic relationship with Mr. Lewandowski.<sup>2</sup> The article also discusses Mr. Lewandowski’s significant conflicts of interest as he directs contracting and personnel actions while remaining a private-sector employee, as well as his attempts to procure a government-issued badge and firearm.<sup>3</sup>

These reports indicate you control the Department with a level of conceit, capriciousness, and cruelty rivaling the Queen of Hearts. You are unfit to lead, and you should resign immediately. In any event, we intend to hold you accountable. We demand that you or your successor provide the following no later than February 27, 2026:

1. Copies of all documents related to the incident in which your blanket was left on a plane, including documentation of all personnel actions taken since the incident against any DHS employee present on the plane, any incident report, and any written communications related to the incident, including emails, texts, and messages on internal communications platforms.

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<sup>1</sup> Michelle Hackman, et. al., “A Pilot Fired Over Kristi Noem’s Missing Blanket and the Constant Chaos Inside DHS,” WALL STREET JOURNAL (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/chaos-kristi-noem-homeland-security-f095ac95>.

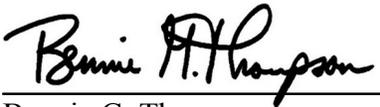
<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

2. Documentation of your daily travel and lodging since January 20, 2025, including the following:
  - a. Flight logs of each flight taken, to include identification of the aircraft used, the flight crew and passengers on each flight, the cost to the government of operating each flight, and proof of any reimbursements made to the government.
  - b. Documentation of your lodging, including hotel and housing costs to the government and proof of any reimbursements or rent paid to the government.
3. Copies of all financial disclosures filed by Mr. Lewandowski.
4. Documentation of Mr. Lewandowski's hourly logs of time spent in government service since January 20, 2025.
5. Documentation of any issuance to Mr. Lewandowski of a government-issued badge or firearm, to include the name of the deciding authority, the date of issuance, and a justification for issuance.

We hope you found your blankie and get the help you clearly need.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland  
Security



Shri Thanedar  
Ranking Member  
Oversight, Investigations, and  
Accountability  
Subcommittee

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