



October 15, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

On October 9, 2025, airports across the country were asked to play blatantly partisan videos at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints regarding shutdown staffing and delays at your direction. Federal law clearly prohibits using federal funding for partisan political activities as a violation of Section 715 of P.L. 118-47, and the requirement that airports play these videos is also likely a violation of the Hatch Act and the Anti-Lobbying Act.<sup>1</sup> At a time when federal employees, including TSA agents, are being asked to work without pay this outwardly political act was not just a violation of law but an insult to the thousands of TSA employees serving in your department. We write to demand that you immediately remove these videos and provide information about the resources that were used to create and disseminate them.

According to reports, you have directed airports around the country to play a “public service video” from the Department of Homeland Security that accuses Democrats in Congress of not funding the government.<sup>2</sup> This appears to be a flagrant violation of Sec. 715, which states, “No part of any funds appropriated in this or any other act shall be used by an agency of the executive to branch ... for the preparation, distribution or use of any ... film presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before the Congress, except in presentation to the Congress itself.”<sup>3</sup> The video is also wrong: we have voted seven times in the last two months to provide funding for the government and lower health care costs for Americans around the country, but the Republican-controlled Senate has repeatedly rejected the measure.

This video is just the latest in a series of violations of Sec. 715 by the Trump Administration. As we reminded OMB Director Russ Vought in an October 7, 2025 letter, “Spirited public debate has its place, but agency resources, including websites or emails, should not be used to send overtly political, and in this case, misleading messages, to the American people.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 715 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, P.L. 118-47, 138 Stat. 460; 5 U.S.C. §7323; 18 U.S.C. §1913.

<sup>2</sup> Michael Bartiromo, “DHS blames Democrats for shutdown in video to be shown at TSA checkpoints,” *Nexstar*, October 10, 2025, <https://www.abc27.com/national/dhs-blames-democrats-for-shutdown-in-video-to-be-shown-at-tsa-checkpoints/>.

<sup>3</sup> Section 715 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024.

You must immediately remove these videos from all TSA checkpoints and cease illegally using federal funds for partisan political messaging. Additionally, we request the following information to help us examine the extent to which your actions violated federal law and misused federal funds:

1. Provide a complete breakdown of the cost of creating and disseminating the video, including:
  - a. The cost of production, editing, filming, and circulation;
  - b. What funding sources were used to cover the costs;
  - c. Who approved their use; and
  - d. When the use of these funds was approved.
2. Who in the Trump Administration was consulted on the decision to create the video?
3. Were outside consultants or other individuals not employed by the Department of Homeland Security involved in the decision to create the video or the production and/or dissemination of the video? If so, please list those individuals and organizations, and how much they were paid for their work.

We will be monitoring your compliance with federal law.

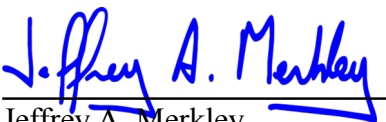
Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

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<sup>4</sup> Senators Jack Reed and Jeff Merkley, et al., to Russ Vought, October 7, 2025, <https://www.reed.senate.gov/news/releases/us-senators-call-for-removal-of-political-propaganda-from-federal-agency-web-sites-and-communication-channels>.



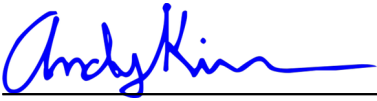
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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



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Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



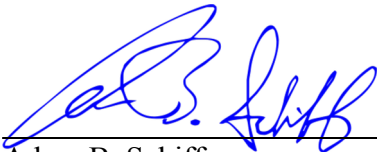
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Andy Kim  
United States Senator



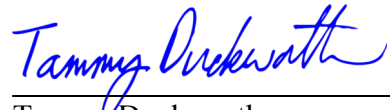
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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



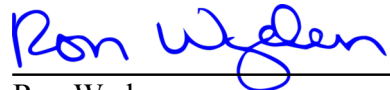
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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



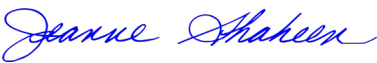
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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



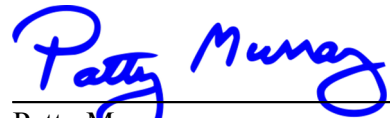
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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



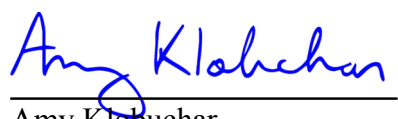
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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar

United States Senator