

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2026

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

The Honorable Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons,

We write to strongly and unequivocally oppose the opening of a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center in Central Florida. We do not need additional ICE facilities to accompany the excessive immigration enforcement within our state that is being used to tear local families apart. Many of our constituents have raised concerns and opposition to the detention center proposal.

Abuse and injustices in Florida at the hands of ICE are well-documented. At the Everglades Detention Center (“Alligator Alcatraz”), there have been numerous reports of pest infestations, poor nutrition, and packing of detainees into crowded cages.¹ Recent reports have exposed ICE agents’ efforts to skirt detention rules by indefinitely rebooking detainees after temporary transport from Orange County Jail to other detention sites.² These actions have raised concerns among many, including multiple federal judges who have ordered the immediate removal of immigrants being held at the Orange County Jail due to this illegal ICE policy. Additionally, U.S. District Judge Byron ordered the release of a local Cuban immigrant who was being detained but is not accused of a crime and has no order of deportation.³ Fundamentally, ICE has stripped immigrants living in our community of their rights and humanity. We will not stand for any furthering of this injustice.

Last month, it was reported that ICE agents were touring an industrial warehouse in Orlando to potentially convert into an ICE detention facility.⁴ In addition to opposing additional ICE enforcement efforts targeting non-criminals and family members, we are gravely concerned about opening an additional ICE detention facility at this location. This building is not zoned for human residence and has inadequate facilities to accommodate waste management and general habitation. We are especially concerned regarding the risks to human life and safety should such a structure be hit with natural disasters. Given the deplorable conditions at other ICE facilities, we find it increasingly difficult to believe that this facility would do more than propagate suffering for the people of Central Florida.

¹ [Rep. Darren Soto: Florida lawmakers allowed into ‘Alligator Alcatraz’ say detainees packed into cages](#)

² [Orlando Sentinel: To dodge federal rule, immigrants moved from Florida jails — and sometimes moved right back](#)

³ [Orlando Sentinel: Federal judges free 2 more migrants from Orange jail, criticize ICE](#)

⁴ [Orlando Sentinel: Potential ICE facility in Orlando: Rickrolls, removed listings and a backlash as a sale appears near](#)

The crackdown on immigration has been a costly effort for our state that has only served to destabilize our communities and cause egregious human rights violations. Our constituents live in fear, including those here legally, and further expansion in Florida will only further harm our constituents and our communities. We vehemently oppose an additional ICE detention facility in Central Florida and believe DHS and ICE should abandon this plan.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress