

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2022

Tae D. Johnson
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Acting Director Johnson,

We were extremely disappointed to learn that the North Lake Correctional Facility's contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) would not be renewed, resulting in the prison closing this September. At a time when illegal border crossings are at an all-time high, and illegal immigration is running rampant, it is truly incomprehensible for President Biden's January 2021 executive order instructing the Attorney General to not renew contracts with privately operated criminal detention facilities to still be in place.

This misplaced Executive Order will be directly responsible for nearly 300 people in Lake County, Michigan losing their jobs, a disastrous result for these hundreds of Michigan residents and their families. It is clear to us that the Biden Administration is more concerned with reducing prison populations than providing economic security, enforcing laws, and protecting our communities.

Just this past fiscal year the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) had the highest number of border encounters on record for any fiscal year. Additionally, roughly 10,000 migrants with criminal convictions were arrested as they attempted to illegally cross our Southern Border. Finally, CBP seized over twice as much fentanyl in FY21 (over 10,000 pounds) than it did in the previous fiscal year, which was enough to kill the entire U.S. population over seven times.

Given these facts and recent reports that ICE detention capacity is limited¹, we request a briefing from you on what steps are needed to convert the North Lake Correctional Facility from a BOP Prison to an ICE Detention Center. It is vitally important for the Midwest region to have the capacity and facilities to keep our communities safe and dangerous criminals off the street. The North Lake Correctional Facility could be extremely useful to ICE to accomplish these goals. We look forward to a prompt response to our briefing request.

Sincerely,



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/jun/11/court-strikes-down-mayorkas-limits-ice-enforcement/>

cc:

Merrick Garland, Attorney General of the United States
Alejandro Mayorkas, United States Secretary of Homeland Security
Michael Carvajal, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons