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April 3, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

We write to extend our sincere gratitude for your steadfast work to implement President Trump's mandate to secure our southern border.

Under your leadership, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has arrested over 14,000 convicted illegal criminals within the first 50 days, many of which were known cartel and gang members.<sup>1</sup> Our nation is witnessing the lowest number of apprehensions at the southern border in over 15 years, sending a clear message to dangerous criminals that they are no longer welcome to come into the U.S.<sup>2</sup> Your aggressive action to secure and safeguard our border has made our neighborhoods safer. As members of the Idaho delegation, we look forward to working together to provide the resources you need to maintain this historic border security.

The open border crisis fueled by the Biden administration allowed illicit drugs to flow into our country and devastate American families. In the absence of federal resources, many of which were cut by radical Democrats, Idaho stepped up. Idaho deployed our state law enforcement personnel to the southern border to assist the States of Texas and Arizona and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to stem the tidal wave of illegal crossings, curb human trafficking, and intercept illicit drugs.<sup>3</sup>

Idaho has taken significant action within the state to target drugs and illicit narcotics and protect our communities. The Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program has played a pivotal role in disrupting drug trafficking throughout Idaho by partnering with local law enforcement who understand the specific needs of our state.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/03/13/ice-arrests-first-50-days-trump-administration>

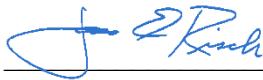
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/25/single-day-border-apprehensions-hit-15-year-low-under-president-trump>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gov.idaho.gov/pressrelease/state-police-troopers-return-from-mission-to-the-u-s-mexico-border/>

As a northern border state, Idaho recognizes the economic benefits of a secure port of entry. The Biden administration's refusal to return the hours of operation at the Porthill Port of Entry at the U.S.-Canada border to pre-COVID levels significantly handicapped communities in North Idaho. We look forward to working with you on this issue to ensure Idaho businesses can thrive.<sup>4</sup>

As we strive to achieve President Trump's America First agenda, we stand ready to provide resources to advance your efforts and keep Idaho safe.

Sincerely,



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James E. Risch  
United States Senator



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Mike Simpson  
United States Representative



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Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



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Russ Fulcher  
United States Representative

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2024/4/risch-to-cbp-return-porthill-to-pre-pandemic-hours>