



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2025

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

The Honorable Todd M. Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20536

Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

I write to express grave concern about the use of chemical crowd-control munitions against protestors gathered at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility on South Macadam Avenue in Portland, Oregon throughout the weekend of October 4, 2025.

On September 28, 2025, Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a memo federalizing 200 troops from the Oregon National Guard—an unnecessary, unwanted, and unlawful action. Fearing the worst, Oregonians took to the streets to protest the federal government’s invasion of our neighborhoods. In response, federal law enforcement brutalized demonstrators at the Macadam ICE facility, causing disorder in a circular ploy to justify deploying military domestically against now and future protesters.

I see this direct assault of First Amendment rights for what it is: a provocation meant to provide cover for President Trump’s authoritarian power grab. I call on you to immediately end such provocations to protect Oregonian’s constitutional rights—and our democracy as we know it.

I expect an immediate response to this urgent inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maxine Dexter'.

Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress