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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

We write regarding allegations that Corey Lewandowski, who until recently served as a Special Government Employee (SGE) and chief advisor at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), repeatedly solicited personal payments from government contractors in exchange for favorable contract decisions.<sup>1</sup> If true, this conduct constitutes a blatant abuse of public trust and a violation of federal bribery and procurement integrity laws and regulations.<sup>2</sup>

Recent reporting describes a troubling pattern of alleged pay-to-play conduct by Mr. Lewandowski. According to the report, in one instance, during the presidential transition, Mr. Lewandowski reportedly told the founder of the GEO Group, a major private prison company that runs detention facilities for DHS, that he would need to be paid in exchange for protecting and growing the GEO Group's DHS contracts. When the GEO Group declined, Mr. Lewandowski reportedly ordered that no further contracts be awarded to the company.<sup>3</sup> The report further alleges that a marketing firm abandoned plans to pursue DHS contracts after being told by representatives of Salus Worldwide Solutions, whose CEO has close ties to the Trump Administration,<sup>4</sup> that hiring a consultant tied to Mr. Lewandowski was a condition of being selected for the work.<sup>5</sup>

These allegations are particularly troubling due to Mr. Lewandowski's designation as an SGE, a status that enables individuals to consult for the government on a temporary, unpaid basis while

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<sup>1</sup> Julia Ainsley, Matt Dixon, et al., "Some DHS contractors told White House officials they were asked to pay Corey Lewandowski," *NBC News*, Mar. 19, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/dhs-contractors-told-white-house-officials-asked-pay-corey-lewandowski-rcna263744>.

<sup>2</sup> *E.g.*, 18 U.S.C. § 201, 48 CFR § 3; 41 U.S.C. §§ 8701-8707; 18 U.S.C. § 208 (prohibiting special government employees from personally and substantially participating in any particular matter that would have a direct and predictable effect on the employee's financial interests).

<sup>3</sup> Ainsley, Dixon, et al., "Some DHS contractors told White House officials they were asked to pay Corey Lewandowski."

<sup>4</sup> Isaac Arnsdorf, "DHS fast-tracked \$1 billion contract to pro-Trump donor's company," *The Washington Post*, Dec. 17, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/12/17/dhs-contract-trump-donor/>.

<sup>5</sup> Ainsley, Dixon, et al., "Some DHS contractors told White House officials they were asked to pay Corey Lewandowski."

still on the payroll of private companies.<sup>6</sup> SGEs are subject to many of the same conflict of interest laws as all other federal employees.<sup>7</sup> To further prevent conflicts of interest among SGEs, Congress set a maximum period of service of 130 days per year—a restriction Mr. Lewandowski appears to have violated.<sup>8</sup> While then-Secretary Noem testified under oath before Congress on March 3, 2026, that Mr. Lewandowski had no role in approving DHS contracts, there are numerous reports indicating that this not true.<sup>9</sup> For example, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that, at Mr. Lewandowski’s urging, DHS moved away from long-term contracts in favor of new contracts, most of which were subject to then-Secretary Noem’s \$100,000 approval policy.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, publicly available evidence suggests that, as part of this policy, Mr. Lewandowski reviewed all DHS contracts worth more than \$100,000 before then-Secretary Noem’s final approval.<sup>11</sup> If true, Mr. Lewandowski was directly involved with contracts or other transactions to the very same companies from whom he may have directly or indirectly received financial compensation.

Federal law is unambiguous: it is illegal for any public official to corruptly demand or accept anything of value in exchange for being influenced in the performance of any official act.<sup>12</sup> In light of these serious allegations, we request that DHS preserve and provide the following documents and information, and provide a briefing to our staff, by April 13, 2026:

1. All documents and communications regarding Mr. Lewandowski, including, but not limited to, all financial disclosures and recusals due to conflicts of interest;
2. All documents and communications regarding Mr. Lewandowski’s involvement in DHS operations, decisions related to contracts or other transactions, and personnel decisions, including, but not limited to, routing sheets bearing his name, title, or nicknames, policies concerning routing requests through Mr. Lewandowski, and decisions related to contracts or other transactions regarding the GEO Group, Inc. and Salus Worldwide Solutions;
3. All communications, including social media messages, Signal chats, and other official and personal communications, between Mr. Lewandowski and all DHS employees, contractors, and advisors regarding personnel decisions, decisions related to contracts or other transactions, and other DHS operations; and

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<sup>6</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 202(a); Sean Craig, “Corey Lewandowski Gets a Job In, of All Places, Kristi Noem’s DHS,” *Daily Beast*, Feb. 12, 2025, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/corey-lewandowski-gets-a-job-in-of-all-places-kristi-noems-dhs/>.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Office of Government Ethics, A Summary of Ethical Requirements Applicable to SGEs, DO-00-003, Feb. 15, 2000, [https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/News+Releases/5E9A1888068E7CDE852585BA005BED9D/\\$FILE/DO-00-003-2.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/News+Releases/5E9A1888068E7CDE852585BA005BED9D/$FILE/DO-00-003-2.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Marc Caputo, Brittany Gibson, et al., “Lewandowski back for another year as DHS’s part-time power broker,” *Axios*, Jan. 23, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/01/23/corey-lewandowski-kristi-noem-homeland-security>.

<sup>9</sup> Joshua Kaplan and Justin Elliott, “Kristi Noem Mised Congress About Top Aide’s Role in DHS Contracts,” *ProPublica*, Mar. 4, 2026, [www.propublica.org/article/kristi-noem-dhs-mised-senate-judiciary-corey-lewandowski-contracts](http://www.propublica.org/article/kristi-noem-dhs-mised-senate-judiciary-corey-lewandowski-contracts).

<sup>10</sup> Michelle Hackman, Josh Dawsey, et al., “A Pilot Fired Over Kristi Noem’s Missing Blanket and the Constant Chaos Inside DHS,” *Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 12, 2026, [www.wsj.com/politics/policy/chaos-kristi-noem-homeland-security-f095ac95](http://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/chaos-kristi-noem-homeland-security-f095ac95).

<sup>11</sup> Ainsley, Dixon, et al., “Some DHS contractors told White House officials they were asked to pay Corey Lewandowski.”

<sup>12</sup> 18 U.S.C § 201

4. All documents and communications related to the internal policy change requiring former Secretary Noem's approval for contracts and other transactions valued above \$100,000, including any delegation of that authority or inclusion of other individuals in the approval process.

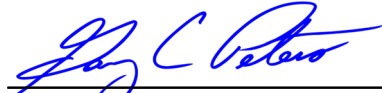
It is essential that the public maintains full confidence in the integrity of federal spending, ensuring that all contracts are awarded through a competitive, merit-based process that upholds the highest ethical standards, rather than personal influence. We expect your full cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,



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Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator



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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Permanent  
Subcommittee on  
Investigations



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John Fetterman  
United States Senator



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Andy Kim  
United States Senator



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Elissa Slotkin

United States Senator