



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

May 22, 2026

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your February 3, 2026 letter to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE does not independently approve adding individuals or entities to the U.S. government's Terrorist Screening Dataset (TSDS). The nomination of known or suspected terrorists to TSDS is coordinated through a whole-of-government process involving multi-agency efforts administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through the Threat Screening Center (TSC) and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). All nominations are centrally reviewed and approved by the FBI and NCTC based on federal criteria derived from statutory definitions of terrorism. ICE respectfully defers to the FBI and the TSC for any additional questions or details related to this process.

During certain protests directed at ICE operations and facilities, some individuals engaged in apparent criminal conduct, including threats against personnel and their families, damage to government property, and obstruction or interference with ICE operations. Consistent with its authorities and obligations, ICE investigates individuals reasonably believed to be involved in, or directly supporting, potential violations of federal law and addresses officer safety and facility security concerns.

ICE employees receive training on proper field operations and are subject to the ICE Code of Conduct, as well as ethical obligations applicable to all federal government employees. For example, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations officers receive Fourth Amendment refresher training at least twice per year that covers, among other topics, disruptive protesters and establishing security perimeters during enforcement actions.

As a law enforcement agency, ICE expects all employees to adhere to the highest standards of professional conduct and to demonstrate integrity and professionalism in all aspects of their work. ICE takes allegations regarding professional misconduct seriously, and the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) investigates incidents and takes appropriate action in circumstances where it is warranted. OPR received information regarding the incident in Portland and referred the incident to the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General (OIG). OIG reviewed and assessed the information and subsequently referred the

complaint back to OPR for investigation. ICE cannot comment on any specifics of an ongoing investigation, including operational planning, decision-making, personnel involvement, or other related matters. Once any investigation is concluded, information may be made available in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

DHS and ICE are fully committed to upholding the Constitution and respecting the First Amendment rights of all individuals, including the right to peacefully assemble and express views through protest. Protecting these fundamental rights is foundational to our constitutional republic, and DHS remains vigilant in safeguarding the rights of all Americans. At the same time, DHS and ICE will continue to protect the men and women responsible for enforcing longstanding U.S. laws, passed by Congress, and holding accountable those who cross the line from protected constitutional freedoms into lawless and violent behavior.

Thank you again for your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the ICE Office of Congressional Relations via email at CongressToICE@ice.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

John Cooper
Assistant Director
Office of Congressional Relations