

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Mullin,

During your testimony before the House Committee on Homeland Security regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request, you asked, "Why do I need to sell them?" in reference to the two Gulfstream G700 luxury jets and the Boeing 737 MAX obtained during Secretary Noem's tenure.

The answer is simple: the credibility of your promise to clean house after the corrupt and scandal-plagued Noem-Lewandowski era and your commitment to be the "best possible steward of taxpayer dollars" depends on it. These purchases of top-of-the-line luxury jets was profligate, fiscally irresponsible, and a slap in the face to the hardworking Americans who paid for them. If you are serious about restoring integrity to DHS, you cannot continue enjoying the most visible symbols of that era's excess, self-dealing, and contempt for American taxpayers.

The so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which you voted for in the Senate, has increased the deficit by \$3.4 trillion,¹ resulted in 3.5 million Americans losing their food assistance,² and will cause 10 million people to lose their health insurance.³ Due to President Trump's dangerous and expensive war in Iran, the national average price of gas has increased by 43% which means American families have now paid \$350 more per household for gas since the start of the war.⁴ We recognize that \$350 might not seem like much to someone riding in a \$70 million taxpayer-funded Gulfstream, but to hardworking Americans, it is real money. While families struggle to put food on their dinner tables, you are deficit riding in a luxury jet to Oklahoma to spend long weekends at home, miles away from the agency you were appointed to lead.

In addition, few episodes better captured the culture of the Noem-Lewandowski period than its treatment of the United States Coast Guard—the only uniformed service within DHS. From the firing of senior Coast Guard leadership and the seizure of the Commandant's residence, to diverting resources away from operational needs while spending hundreds of millions on luxury aircraft, the message to our service members is clear: their sacrifices matter less than the political ambitions and personal comforts of DHS leadership, including yours.

¹ Congressional Budget Office. (2025, July 21). Estimated budgetary effects of Public Law 119-21, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to Title II of H. Con. Res. 14, relative to CBO's January 2025 baseline. <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61570>

² Nova, A. (2026, May 30). SNAP food stamps: What changes are in the "Big Beautiful Bill"? CNBC. <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/05/30/snap-food-stamps-big-beautiful-bill.html>

³ American Hospital Association. (2025, July 21). CBO projects OBBBA to increase uninsured by 10 million, federal deficit by \$3.4 trillion. AHA News. <https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2025-07-21-cbo-projects-obbba-increase-uninsured-10-million-federal-deficit-34-trillion>

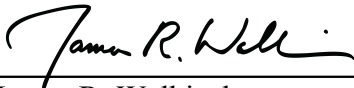
⁴ Joint Economic Committee Democrats. (n.d.). [Americans Have Paid \$43 Billion More for Gas as Bessent Dismisses Rising Costs as a "Blip"]. United States Senate Joint Economic Committee. <https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/democrats/press-releases?ID=9D230177-C13A-44BC-A52F-D192EB4A8057>

While the Coast Guard struggled with aging aircraft, crumbling infrastructure, workforce shortages, and quality-of-life challenges, DHS found money during a government shutdown for two luxury Gulfstream G700s and a Boeing 737 MAX. These aircraft became flying monuments to a culture of waste, vanity, and misplaced priorities. That is why your refusal to sell them matters.

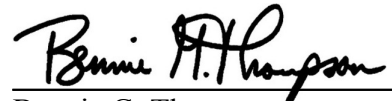
We understand the statutory requirements for the Secretary of Homeland Security to have access to aircraft with secure communications capabilities and heightened security. We are not suggesting you fly coach and have no objection to you flying in a government plane. However, the Gulfstream G550, purchased by DHS in 2022, more than meets the statutory and practical requirements. By selling the luxury Gulfstream G700s and 737 MAX, you could recoup more than \$100 million for the taxpayer and take the first of many needed steps to restore the reputation of the once-proud agency you lead.

These jets represent profligate waste, disdain for the American taxpayer, and contempt for the Department of Homeland Security whose budget was raided while Department leadership pursued a lavish jet-setting lifestyle.

Sincerely,



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security