

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 21, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

I write on behalf of local leaders to elevate concerns regarding reported plans to open a large-scale Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Social Circle, Georgia, a small community of about 5,000 people. Public reports suggest that ICE has developed a draft Request for Information (RFI) for a prospective facility in Social Circle, which would be one of seven warehouses nationwide holding 5,000 to 10,000 immigrant detainees to be staged for deportation.¹

Social Circle residents and city leaders have repeatedly voiced strong opposition to ICE's reported proposal.² According to Mayor David Keener, he and the City Council "unequivocally do not support an ICE detention facility in Social Circle or the surrounding areas. The proposed facility is not right for Social Circle, and the citizens of Social Circle do not support it." Public reports further indicate that the City has evaluated its law enforcement, water, sewer, and other capacity and concluded that they are not able to support a facility of the scale projected.³ Public reporting also highlights City leadership's concern that the warehouse most likely to be used for the project is "just 4,000 feet away" from a local elementary school.⁴

The City's official public statement on the matter underscores the substantial issues with the proposal:

¹ Douglas MacMillan et al., *ICE documents reveal plan to hold 80,000 immigrants in warehouses*, N.Y. Times (Dec. 24, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/12/24/ice-immigrants-detention-warehouses-deportation-trump/>.

² Dan Raby, *Social Circle officials opposing reported ICE proposal to turn warehouse into immigrant detention center*, CBS News (Jan. 2, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/atlanta/news/social-circle-officials-opposing-reported-ice-proposal-to-turn-warehouse-into-immigrant-detention-center/>.

³ Brittany Kleinpeter, *Mayor pushes back against reports of future ICE facility as 'not right for Social Circle'*, WSB-TV 2 (Jan. 2, 2026), <https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/walton-county/mayor-pushes-back-against-reports-future-ice-facility-not-right-social-circle/6RL6JLUQWNGPNDICLVWQB24LLM/>.

⁴ Lautauro Grinspan, *Local officials blindsided by reported plan to detain migrants in warehouse*, Atl. Journal-Constitution (Jan. 3, 2026), <https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/01/local-officials-blindsided-by-reported-plan-to-detain-migrants-in-warehouse/>.

A key reason that such a facility is infeasible is because the City does not have the water and sewer infrastructure to support this type of facility. Current capacity limitations would not support a development of the size described in media reports. This proposal could result in an effective tripling of the City's population that is hovering right around 5,000 citizens.

In addition to the lack of water and sewer capacity, there is not a site within the City that will provide a safe distance from homes, businesses, and schools. The City will not tolerate a failure in security.⁵

Moreover, City and county officials have reported challenges getting answers from ICE about the prospective facility. The City's official statement emphasizes, "The City of Social Circle has not been informed of any proposed detention facility," and "[t]o date, no representative of the federal government, ICE, or the property owner has contacted the city in any way, nor has the City received an application related to detention operations."

I urge the Department to carefully consider the significant concerns raised by Social Circle's leaders and citizens regarding the proposed ICE facility. I further urge the Department to promptly engage the City's leadership to ensure that its citizens receive critical information regarding the proposed facility and its potential impacts on their community.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

⁵ *City of Social Circle Statement Regarding Reports of a Proposed ICE Detention Facility*, Social Circle, Ga. (Dec. 31, 2025), <https://www.socialcirclega.gov/Home/Components/News/News/215/16>.