

February 17, 2026

President Barr and Commissioners Cline, Harvey, Leatherman, and Wagner:

At your meetings on February 3 and 10, 2026, Commissioner Leatherman received copies of twenty questions related to the conversion of a warehouse in Washington County into an I.C.E. processing/detention center. I am confident that he shared the questions with each of you.

The proclamation passed on February 10 seems to answer six of those questions; please see the attached list and let me know if any answers are incorrect.

On behalf of Washington County Indivisible and the signatories below, I'm writing to urge you to answer the remaining fourteen questions as soon as possible in a public setting. I think you'll agree, the fourteen unanswered questions are not political, not based on morality or legality, but are process-related and seek facts about the I.C.E. facility's impact on Washington County.

Ideally, you will arrange a format allowing additional questions from the public since the fourteen remaining questions represent only a small portion of what's being asked by the community. The questions we ask you to address are attached to this letter. We look forward to your response.

## **TWENTY (20) QUESTIONS About the I.C.E. Warehouse Conversion for WC Commissioners:**

1. What does the County know? Tell us! We want transparency!
2. Will the County hold a public informational meeting to address questions?
3. ~~Do YOU, as an individual, support an ICE facility coming to the county? Where do you stand? For or Against?~~ **Based on the Resolution, we assume the answer is FOR.**
4. ~~Does the BOCC support an ICE facility coming to the county? Where does the board stand? For or Against?~~ **Based on the Resolution, we assume the answer is FOR.**
5. ~~Will you, as an individual commissioner, support the BOCC making a resolution in opposition?~~ **Based on the Resolution, we assume the answer is NO.**
6. ~~Will you, as an individual commissioner, support the BOCC writing a letter to Sec. Noem in opposition?~~ **Based on the Resolution, we assume the answer is NO.**
7. What will be the impact on emergency services and local law enforcement?
8. ~~Will the county *enable* the conversion by treating it like a normal economic development project?~~ **Based on the Resolution, we assume the answer is YES.**
9. ~~Will the county act to prevent/slow the warehouse conversion by enforcing permitting, codes, zoning and anything else in its power?~~ **Based on the Resolution, we assume the answer is NO.**
10. What is the County's involvement in the water and sewage allocation process for the I.C.E. facility?
11. Can the County limit or stop any additional water/sewage allocation for the facility?
12. Can the current water and waste pipes handle the anticipated volume?
13. How will increasing the water allocation for the warehouse impact nearby homes, businesses, fire hydrant pressure, and future development in the area?
14. Who pays if infrastructure improvements are necessary outside of the facility's property?
15. Can the wastewater treatment plant handle the increased volume?
16. Must any wells be drilled on site be approved through the County and the County's health department?
17. How much tax revenue will the County lose as a result of the sale to the federal government?
18. Does the County require or expect the feds to interact with it on any steps in the conversion process, and if so, what are those steps?
19. Is the County just waiting to see what happens next or are you preparing proactively?
20. Has the County or any individual commissioner contacted or been contacted by state or federal elected officials about this? If so, what was discussed?