



# Arizona State Legislature

September 10, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Dear Secretary Noem,

We would like to begin by expressing our deepest thanks to President Trump and the entire administration for securing our southern border. In all our years serving the people of Arizona, never have we seen such an abject failure of the federal government in protecting its citizens on the southern border as we did during the past four years under the Biden administration. We are extremely thankful that sanity has been restored and that protecting American citizens is now front and center in Washington.

With the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill (H.R.1), we understand Congress has authorized \$10 billion for you, Madam Secretary, to reimburse States for costs they incurred for protecting the border during the Biden administration. We respectfully request your consideration in reimbursing Arizona for costs it incurred protecting its border during that time.

In 2021, millions of illegal immigrants began crossing the border. Because the Biden administration refused to secure the southern border, many states acted on their own, providing resources and manpower to police the southern border. Texas, having the largest border with Mexico, provided a robust response through Operation Lone Star. But Texas was not alone, and the State of Arizona allocated significant resources to protect its border.

In 2021 and 2022, Republicans in the Arizona Legislature, in conjunction with our Republican Governor, created the Border Security Fund (A.R.S. 26-105) and appropriated \$599 million to address the immediate crisis and secure the border (Laws 2021 Chapter 408, Laws 2022 Chapter 313, and Laws 2022 Chapter 334). Since then,

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most of these monies have been expended, most visibly on implementing President Trump's vision of a southern border wall.

Concurrently, Arizona's annual budgets from 2021 to 2025 included ongoing appropriations to our Arizona Department of Public Safety and local sheriffs for border related enforcement, totaling \$145 million over those 5 years.

Last year, Arizona voters overwhelmingly supported the "Secure the Border Act" referred to the ballot by the Arizona Legislature following Democrat Governor Katie Hobbs' veto of the measure. We are aware that this year, Governor Hobbs is now requesting reimbursement for border related expenses. We would like to point out that in anticipation of the H.R.1 passing, the Legislature included in its annual budget the requirement that any monies received by the State will be deposited into the State General Fund and will be subject to the Republican Legislature's control (Laws 2025 Chapter 233, Sec. 139).

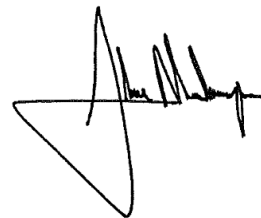
Lastly, and most importantly, receiving reimbursement for these expenses will be helpful to the Legislature as it works to build off H.R.1 and provide tax relief for Arizonans. Each year, Arizona updates its income tax code to changes made by the President and Congress. This upcoming year, the Legislature is interested in conforming to those tax changes to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing this letter and this request. And thank you again to President Trump and the entire administration for securing the southern border. We stand ready to answer any questions you may have with respect to our letter and provide any details you may require in your review of our request.

Respectfully,



Warren Petersen  
*President of the Arizona State Senate*



Steve B. Montenegro  
*Speaker of the House LD 29*