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October 21, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th St SW
Washington D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Noem,

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has asked airports across the country, including Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) in Michigan, to broadcast a video at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints. The video depicts you, in your official capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security, assigning blame to the Democratic party for the federal government shutdown. The video is deeply concerning as it appears to be a partisan message, which is not allowed with federal resources

The Hatch Act explicitly prohibits federal employees from engaging in certain political activities to ensure federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion. Under the Hatch Act, it is also illegal to utilize government resources to benefit or disparage any political party. Legal experts are currently reviewing whether the video is a violation of the Hatch Act, and it's likely to be challenged in the courts.

Likewise, many airports across the country are refusing to broadcast the video due to it violating local policies and state laws barring the use of public assets for political purposes and messaging. At DTW, signs have been posted informing travelers that the TSA-controlled video does not reflect the views of the Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), which manages the airport, and that WCAA does not engage in partisan politics.¹ Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, John F. Kennedy International Airport, and Charlotte Douglas International are among the growing number of airports declining to air the message.

TSA employees are a backbone of the U.S. aviation system. They serve on the frontlines keeping Americans safe, ensuring security at our airports, and keeping our aviation system running. Yet due to the ongoing government shutdown, they are all working without pay. Despite this, they have remained committed to serving the American public and other travelers who depend on them

¹ <https://www.wilx.com/2025/10/16/detroit-airport-installs-signage-addressing-partisan-tsa-video/>

for their safety. We should be entirely focused on supporting these dedicated men and women during this difficult time, not inserting political content that only undermines their important mission.

I urge you to remove this video from public viewing at DTW and other federal security checkpoints and instead focus on helping the federal workers who show up every day to keep Americans safe. Passenger safety and their overall travel experience at airports should be our guiding light in the airport, not messaging on partisan politics.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. I hope your agency will recognize the importance of maintaining impartiality and supporting frontline workers and passengers during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress