

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Rep. Sharice L. Davids**  
**Kansas Third District**

October 15, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Mullin,

I write to raise grave concerns regarding recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in western Kansas, where sudden enforcement sweeps in Dodge City, Garden City, and Liberal resulted in 104 arrests and immediately paralyzed local agricultural economies, threatened to push grocery prices even higher, and left small businesses shuttered across the region.<sup>1</sup>

I believe in the importance of enforcing federal immigration laws and protecting Kansas families from crime. In this instance, however, I have heard concerns from agriculture and business stakeholders about how these activities were conducted and their impact on communities across the state. Kansans have shared with me several instances of citizens and documented persons being targeted on their way to work or going about their day, and in many cases, local law enforcement was not consulted.

Southwest Kansas is a crucial hub for American agriculture – home to more than 20 percent of the country's daily cattle slaughter.<sup>2</sup> ICE's activities corresponded with an 8.5 percent drop in cattle slaughter week-to-week according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as meatpacking capacity was significantly disrupted.<sup>3</sup> The Kansas Livestock Association stated last month that these operations, "[had] a massive chilling effect on the legal, documented, skilled workers that put beef on the table and keep the cattle supply chain moving.... They are a costly and

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<sup>1</sup> "U.S. Attorney encourages facts, not rumors about Kansas ICE operations," United States Attorney's Office District of Kansas, September 29, 2026, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ks/pr/us-attorney-encourages-facts-not-rumors-about-kansas-ice-operations>.

<sup>2</sup> Chris Clayton, "Beef Processing Disrupted by ICE Action," Progressive Farmer, September 25, 2026, <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/business-inputs/article/2026/09/25/ice-enforcement-hampers-beef-packing>.

<sup>3</sup> Chris Clayton, "Kansas Gov. Apologizes Over ICE Actions," Progressive Farmer, October 6, 2026, <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/article/2026/10/06/kansas-governor-ice-action-costs>.

unnecessary impact to cattle producers already suffering from unwelcome political interference to both the markets as well as the physical supply chain.”<sup>4</sup>

This comes as Americans are struggling with staggeringly high grocery prices – including the price of ground beef jumping 7.9 percent year-to-year – and the smallest cattle herd in decades.<sup>5</sup>

The immigration enforcement efforts also delivered a notable hit to Kansas’ dairy industry, which accounts for more than \$3 billion in economic impact and 11,000 jobs statewide. The Kansas Dairy Association shared that ICE’s activities, “created significant uncertainty and concern among workers, including those who are legally authorized to work in the United States.”

While your agency frames these multi-day September 2026 operations as targeted at individuals with criminal histories, the immediate fallout has inflicted severe collateral damage on southwest Kansas’s economy, national food supply chains, and working families already struggling at the checkout counter. In addition to notable impacts on the agriculture sector, ICE’s activities led to local business closures and school absences.<sup>6 7</sup>

These extreme actions leave Kansans feeling less safe, strain local economies, and disrupt national supply chains. While I continue pushing both parties for common-sense immigration reform – securing our border against violent crime and drug trafficking while supporting our agricultural sector – we need immediate accountability.

I urge you to commit to immigration enforcement that coordinates with local law enforcement, respects legal workers, and does not rely on racial profiling or significant economic disruptions for the sake of headlines or mass panic.

Sincerely,



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

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<sup>4</sup> “Media Statement from the Kansas Livestock Association, Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association and Texas Cattle Feeders Association Regarding the Ongoing ICE Operations in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas,” Kansas Livestock Association, September 24, 2026, <https://www.kla.org/news-center/news-releases/news/details/51102/media-statement-from-the-kansas-livestock-association-oklahoma-cattlemens-association-and-texas-catt>.

<sup>5</sup> Andrew Montequin, “Beef Prices Rise as US Cattle Herd Remains Near Historic Low,” WTTW, September 17, 2026, <https://news.wttw.com/2026/09/17/beef-prices-rise-us-cattle-herd-remains-near-historic-low>.

<sup>6</sup> Calen Moore, “After ICE sweeps Kansas, schools warn families of detentions and a meatpacking plant delays shifts,” KCUR, September 23, 2026, <https://www.kcur.org/2026-09-23/ice-agents-in-kansas-cause-schools-to-warn-families-and-meatpacking-plants-to-delay-shifts>.

<sup>7</sup> Joseph McCarty, Jasmin Adous, “ICE presence in southwest Kansas prompts temporary business closures,” KSN, September 24, 2026, <https://www.ksn.com/news/state-regional/ice-presence-in-southwest-kansas-prompts-temporary-business-closures/>.