

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2020

The Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of the Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

To Acting Secretary Wolf,

We write to demand your immediate resignation as Acting Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Your leadership of this Department has been rife with mismanagement, including inciting xenophobia and recently using federal agents to disrupt lawful, constitutionally protected protests. In particular, we cannot accept the Department's recent use of unidentified federal agents, in military gear, patrolling the city of Portland, Oregon in unmarked vehicles, nor can we accept recent plans to expand this tactic to other American cities.

Since the signing of Executive Order 13933 allowing for the establishment of DHS's Protecting American Communities Task Force (PACT), we have witnessed horrific scenes of federal agents, under your orders, using force to break up peaceful protests while using police-state tactics to scare citizens and force the people of Portland to submit. Now, as the President's Administration is planning to send more agents to other major American cities under the false pretenses of "law and order," you have made clear your willingness to escalate this operation. These actions will only worsen the situation; this has gone far enough.

The right to peaceably assemble and protest is protected by the First Amendment to the US Constitution. Protests have been the cornerstone of change in this country. From the women's suffrage movement, to civil rights, to anti-war protests during Vietnam and Iraq, people have used this inherently American right to effect change. The people of Portland were protesting police brutality, and you responded to them with further brutality. The language and mindset you have been using treats American citizens as enemy combatants. These are authoritarian tactics that go against the bedrock of our democratic principles.

It is our understanding that you have abused your power and position as Secretary of Homeland Security, especially as you have remained in an acting capacity well beyond the limit designated by federal law. It is for these reasons that we demand that you step down as leader of this department. We ask that you respond to this letter within 72 hours.

Sincerely,

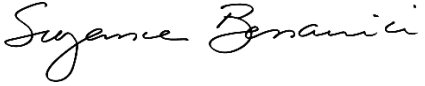


Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Additional Signatories



Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)



Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01)

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20)

Rep. Jared Huffman (CA-02)

Rep. Alan Lowenthal (CA-47)

Rep. Gwen Moore (WI-04)

Rep. Mark Pocan (WI-02)

Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (NJ-10)

Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-08)

Rep. Kathleen M. Rice (NY-04)

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09)

Rep. Albio Sires (NJ-08)

Rep. Norma J. Torres (CA-35)

Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-07)