

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Democrats are investigating potential corruption, self-dealing, and mismanagement at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under the leadership of former Secretary Kristi Noem; Corey Lewandowski, her special advisor and shadow chief-of-staff; and other DHS officials.¹ Specifically, I write regarding the ultraluxury Boeing 737 BBJ MAX 8 that Valkyrie Aviation Holdings acquired last year from Fertitta Enterprises and reportedly sold to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for at least \$70 million.² Valkyrie Aviation and Fertitta Enterprises are linked to individuals with close ties to senior officials in the Trump Administration, including President Trump himself. We ask for your cooperation in this investigation.

In February 2026, *NBC News* reported that DHS intended to purchase a Boeing 737 BBJ MAX 8, registered with the tail number N471US (serial number 61329), which the department had been leasing since the previous year.³ While the administration has claimed that the jet will

¹ See, e.g., Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ranking Member Rick Larsen, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, Committee on Homeland Security, to the Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security (Mar. 18, 2026) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/joint_letter_to_dhs_os_re_noem_lewandowski.pdf); Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ranking Member Rick Larsen, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, Committee on Homeland Security, to Inspector General Joseph V. Cuffari, Department of Homeland Security (Mar. 18, 2026) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/joint_letter_to_dhs_oig_re_noem_lewandowski.pdf); Letter from Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, Committee on Homeland Security, Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Rick Larsen, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to Secretary Markwayne Mullin, Department of Homeland Security (Apr. 23, 2026) (online at https://democrats-homeland.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-04-23_letter_re_voorhies_fema_contract.pdf).

² See *Kristi Noem's Luxury DHS Jet to be Used by Other Administration Officials*, Washington Post (Apr. 8, 2026) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/04/08/noem-dhs-plane-white-house/); Project on Government Oversight, *Unraveling the Corporate Ties to DHS's "Big, Beautiful Jet"* (Mar. 10, 2026) (online at www.pogo.org/investigates/unraveling-the-corporate-ties-to-dhss-big-beautiful-jet/); See also *Trump Hides Jaw-Dropping True Cost of Buying ICE Barbie's Jet for Melania*, Daily Beast (Apr. 8, 2026) (online at www.thedailybeast.com/trump-hides-jaw-dropping-true-cost-of-buying-ice-barbie-kristi-noems-jet-for-melania).

³ *"No Expense Has Been Spared": Inside a Luxury Jet DHS Wants to Buy for Deportations*, NBC News (Feb. 19, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/no-expense-spared-luxury-jet-dhs-wants-buy).

be used for deportation flights, even ICE officials have noted that its lavish interior features, including a bedroom, showers, kitchen, bar, and four large TVs, are unsuitable for this purpose.⁴ Then-Secretary Noem and Mr. Lewandowski reportedly used this plane for travel, as has First Lady Melania Trump.⁵ In April 2026, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the White House directed DHS to proceed with the \$70 million-plus acquisition of the luxury jet, which is now reserved for the First Lady and “select” Trump Administration officials such as Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff.⁶

Until September 2025, this same ultraluxury jet (serial number 61329) appears to have been owned and operated by Fertitta Enterprises and a number of related entities under tail number N702F.⁷ Members of the Fertitta family are major donors to President Trump’s political operations, beginning as early as 2016.⁸ In October 2025, a representative from Red Rock Resorts, one of Frank J. Fertitta, III and Lorenzo J. Fertitta’s companies, attended a White House dinner to thank donors to the President’s illegal demolition of the East Wing of the White House.⁹

deportations-rcna259425); *First Class Deportations? ICE Wants a \$70M Luxury Boeing 737 MAX*, Simple Flying (Feb. 19, 2026) (online at <https://simpleflying.com/first-class-deportations-ice-wants-a-70m-luxury-boeing-737-max/>); Federal Aviation Administration Registry, *N471US* (accessed Apr. 29, 2026) (online at <https://registry.faa.gov/aircraftinquiry/Search/NNumberResult>).

⁴ “*No Expense Has Been Spared*”: *Inside a Luxury Jet DHS Wants to Buy for Deportations*, NBC News (Feb. 19, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/no-expense-spared-luxury-jet-dhs-wants-buy-deportations-rcna259425).

⁵ *A Pilot Fired Over Kristi Noem’s Missing Blanket and the Constant Chaos Inside DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 12, 2026) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/chaos-kristi-noem-homeland-security-f095ac95); *How the Ice Finally Broke Under Kristi Noem*, Axios (Mar. 5, 2026) (online at www.axios.com/2026/03/06/kristi-noem-dhs-trump-inside-firing).

⁶ *The White House Is Keeping Kristi Noem’s \$70 Million Jet*, Wall Street Journal (Apr. 7, 2026) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/the-white-house-is-keeping-kristi-noems-70-million-jet-547438aa); *Controversial Ex-Homeland Security BBJ Repurposed for White House VIP Missions*, AeroTime (Apr. 15, 2026) (online at www.aerotime.aero/articles/controversial-ex-dhs-bbj-white-house-vip-missions); see also ADS-B Exchange, *N471US*, April 10-12 (online at <https://globe.adsbexchange.com/?icao=a5c6a4&lat=24.503&lon=-80.577&zoom=4.9&showTrace=2026-04-10>) (accessed May 15, 2026).

⁷ See Planespotters.net, *N471US United States Department of Homeland Security Boeing 737-8 BBJ* (online at www.planespotters.net/airframe/boeing-737-max-8-n471us-united-states-department-of-homeland-security/r1pyyo) (accessed April 27, 2026); Scramble, *Boeing 737 Construction nr/Lin nr 61329/6843* (online at https://scramble.nl/database/civil/details/B737_9914) (accessed May 15, 2026).

⁸ *Trump Puts on Full-Court Press for Big-Time Donors – and Nabs More than a Few*, Politico (Jan. 30, 2024) (online at www.politico.com/news/2024/01/30/trump-big-donors-00138498); *Here Are the Billionaires Who Donated to Donald Trump’s 2020 Presidential Campaign*, Forbes (Feb. 19, 2021) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/michelatindera/2021/02/19/here-are-the-billionaires-who-donated-to-donald-trumps-2020-presidential-campaign); Federal Election Commission, *Amended Schedule A (FEC Form 3X) Filing Page 428*, FEC-1155103 (Apr. 5, 2017) (online at <https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?201704059052017762>); Federal Election Commission, *Amended Schedule A (FEC Form 3X) Filing Page 192*, FEC-1379353 (online at <https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?202001319185598224>); see UNITE HERE, *Fertitta Money Watch* (online at www.fertittamoneywatch.org) (accessed May 14, 2026).

⁹ *Trump Looks to Cement His Architectural Legacy as Democrats Bristle*, CBS News (Oct. 17, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-looks-to-cement-his-architectural-legacy-as-democrats-bristle).

In September 2025, this specific luxury jet was acquired by Valkyrie Aviation Holdings and operated by Daedalus Aviation for use by DHS officials.¹⁰ Both of these companies are linked to William A. Walters, III, a pro-Noem donor who secured an almost \$1 billion DHS contract under suspicious circumstances during then-Secretary Noem and Mr. Lewandowski's tenure at DHS.¹¹ The terms of DHS's leasing arrangement with Mr. Walters's companies have not been disclosed, nor has the amount Valkyrie paid Fertitta Enterprises for the plane.

As part of Committee Democrats' ongoing investigation into corruption at DHS, I request the following documents no later than June 4, 2026:

1. All contract materials concerning the listing and sale of the luxury jet (serial number 61329) from 2024 to present, including all accompanying emails and other internal and external communications;
2. All internal records related to the value of the luxury jet (serial number 61329) at the time of acquisition through the time of sale;
3. All records and communications concerning Fertitta Enterprises's and any related individual or entities' interactions with then-Secretary Noem, Mr. Lewandowski, Dr. Walters, Valkyrie Aviation Holdings, Daedalus Aviation, Salus Worldwide, DHS, ICE, the White House, and any other representative of the Trump Administration, Trump Organization, or Trump campaign regarding procurement of the luxury jet;
4. A list of all entities engaged, contracted, or otherwise contacted in connection to any engagement between Fertitta Enterprises and DHS;
5. All communications concerning contracting between any representatives of Fertitta Enterprises or any related entity or individual and then-Secretary Noem, Mr. Lewandowski, Dr. Walters, and all persons affiliated with Mr. Lewandowski, Dr. Walters, or DHS; and

¹⁰ See Federal Aviation Administration Registry, *N471US* (accessed Apr. 29, 2026) (online at <https://registry.faa.gov/aircraftinquiry/Search/NNumberResult>); Project on Government Oversight, *Unraveling the Corporate Ties to DHS's "Big, Beautiful Jet"* (Mar. 10, 2026) (online at www.pogo.org/investigates/unraveling-the-corporate-ties-to-dhss-big-beautiful-jet).

¹¹ See *How a New Firm with DHS Ties Won a \$915 Million Contract to Help Immigrants "Self-Deport"*, Mother Jones (Oct. 10, 2025) (online at www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/10/dhs-ice-self-deportation-contract-salus-worldwide-solutions-csi-aviation); Project on Government Oversight, *Unraveling the Corporate Ties to DHS's "Big, Beautiful Jet"* (Mar. 10, 2026) (online at www.pogo.org/investigates/unraveling-the-corporate-ties-to-dhss-big-beautiful-jet); Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to Salus Worldwide Solutions Corp. (Apr. 2, 2026) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-04-02garciatosalusworldwiderelewandowski.pdf>).

6. A list of all current and former members of the current Trump Administration, members of President Trump's family, and members of the Trump Organization that had flown on the jet prior to its acquisition by Valkyrie Aviation Holdings.

Additionally, I request written responses to the following no later than June 4, 2026:

1. What was the cost of the luxury jet when it was acquired?
2. What was the fair market value of the luxury jet when it was sold in 2025, and how was such fair market value determined?
3. What was the asking price for the luxury jet when it was first listed for sale?
4. What was the price paid by the purchaser of the luxury jet when it was sold to Valkyrie Aviation Holdings in 2025, and who were the entities (including third parties) involved in any discussions around the sale?
5. Did Fertitta Enterprises, any related entities or individuals, or any representative of Fertitta Enterprises or its related entities or individuals receive a request for anything of value from Mr. Lewandowski or any person affiliated with Mr. Lewandowski in exchange for favorable treatment?
6. Did Fertitta Enterprises, any related entities or individuals, or any representative of Fertitta Enterprises or its related entities or individuals offer or deliver anything of value from Mr. Lewandowski or any person affiliated with Mr. Lewandowski in exchange for favorable treatment?

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman