



*Maine State Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002*

February 21, 2020

Senator Susan Collins
One Canal Plaza
Suite 802
Portland, ME 04101

Senator Angus King
227 Main Street
Biddeford, ME 04005

Representative Chellie Pingree
2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 304
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Senators Collins and King and Representative Pingree:

We are writing concerning the announcement that was first reported in the Bangor Daily News on February 14 that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) plans to open a Maine facility in the town of Scarborough to hold people suspected of immigration violations.

As legislators representing this district, we have several concerns regarding this announcement. First and foremost is the need for more transparency regarding the process ICE uses to choose the location and the specific uses a facility like the one being proposed in Scarborough. To date, little to no public information has been forthcoming from ICE, and the information was only uncovered by the BDN via a Freedom of Information Act request.

If the reporting in the BDN is accurate, then the U.S. General Services Administration claims “[T]his space will be low-key and not brightly advertised as an ICE location,” but goes on to further state that ICE authorities will process, fingerprint and detain people suspected of immigration violations there. People apprehended by ICE agents could be kept in onsite holding rooms for hours but would be transported in unmarked vans to an overnight detention facility elsewhere, if necessary.

The proposed facility will not be new construction but will be co-located in a well-established commercial business park. The building will also house a private marketing firm and a federal veterans health agency that has also signed a lease to relocate there. We have concerns regarding the impact such a facility could have on the immediate area.

We ask that you please strongly encourage ICE to conduct public meetings in Scarborough, where ICE will have the opportunity to present its plans for this facility to the general public, and our constituents will have the opportunity to ask questions and get a better understanding of the impact this facility will have on our town.

We would be happy to meet with you and/or your staff to discuss the best paths forward as we collectively work to address the concerns of our common constituents.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Millett
State Senator



Linda Sanborn
State Senator



Shawn Babine
State Representative



Chris Caiazzo
State Representative



Andrew McLean
State Representative