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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 21, 2025

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Kash Patel  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Secretary Noem and Director Patel:

I write to demand answers regarding an operation executed by multiple federal law enforcement agencies, including Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and FBI at a local business, Bro-Tex, Inc., on Tuesday morning, November 18, 2025, in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

I want to express my deep concerns regarding reports of violence carried out by federal agents, including citizens being thrown to the ground, sprayed with chemicals and injured by speeding law enforcement vehicles leaving the scene. Let me make clear that peaceful demonstrators have a constitutionally protected right to engage in lawful protest. The right to free speech and peaceful assembly is a cornerstone of our democracy. Protestors, regardless of whether their views align with the actions of their government, must be allowed to freely and peacefully express their opinions without fear of retaliation or escalatory violence that is disproportionate in response. Any infringement upon these rights undermines public trust in our democratic institutions and erodes the very freedoms that federal agencies are sworn to protect.

I request a full accounting of the events that took place at Bro-Tex, Inc., by your two offices, providing answers to the following questions by December 19, 2025:

- What was the nature of the investigation that led to the raid at Bro-Tex?
- Of those 14 people who were arrested and detained, what are their nationalities, including immigration status and any criminal records of those individuals if any?
- Was there any court search warrant for those individuals who were sought and detained? If so, provide a copy to my office.
- Why were federal agents masked and for what reason?

- Why did federal agents use excessive force against demonstrators engaged in lawful and peaceful protest?
- Why Congressional offices, including State and Local governments were not informed of a pending operation?
- What concrete steps will your two agencies be taking to ensure transparency and constitutionally protected rights are upheld in future operations?

It is imperative that federal law enforcement conduct itself in a transparent manner that reflects both the letter and spirit of the U.S. Constitution. The actions and manners conducted by our federal law enforcement that took place at Bro-Tex betray public trust and raise serious questions about the integrity of your agencies' operations. The American people deserve better. I urge you to take immediate action and corrective measures to prevent such violations from occurring again.

I look forward to receiving your prompt and forthright response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty McCollum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress