

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
• RANKING MEMBER-SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY  
• SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY  
• SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
• SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
• JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY

635 NORTH FIRST STREET  
SUITE B  
SAN JOSE, CA 95112  
(408) 271-8700

1401 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3072

LOFGREN.HOUSE.GOV

CHAIR, CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC  
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON VIETNAM

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**ZOE LOFGREN**  
19TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

January 24, 2017

The Honorable General John F. Kelly  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I applaud your lifetime of distinguished service to the United States military, and your role as Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command South. As you assume leadership of the Department of Homeland Security and its immigration agencies, I look forward to working with you on measures that honor and protect our history as an immigrant nation.

I am writing to express my concern regarding recent news reports that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers are denying entry to the United States based on an individual's political and/or religious affiliation. In particular, multiple news outlets have reported that several Canadians were denied entry after they expressed interest in attending the recent Women's March on Washington and the Presidential Inauguration.<sup>1</sup> CBP agents reportedly asked travelers whether they were "pro or anti-Trump," then refused their admission, stating that the travelers would have received entry had they politically supported President Trump. CBP officers reportedly denied another set of peaceful Canadians after questioning not only their political beliefs, but whether they practiced Islam.

Denying entry to peaceful men and women on a political or religious basis does nothing to protect our security and everything to undermine our core national principles. There is no legal basis for denying an individual for a political or religious reason pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act. I ask that you conduct a thorough review of border inspection and admission practices so as to prevent unlawful and un-American political or religious tests from determining who may come into

---

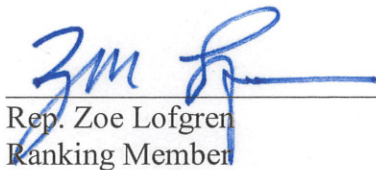
<sup>1</sup> Marina von Stackelberg, "Sudbury, Ont. Couple heading to U.S. for Women's March detained, questioned at border," *CBC News*, (Jan. 23, 2017) available at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/sudbury-woman-us-border-1.3944672>; Nina Golgowski, "Anti-Trump Protestors Say U.S. Denied Them Entry at Canada Border," *The Huffington Post*, (Jan. 22, 2017) available at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/canadians-denied-us-entry\\_us\\_5884c0fee4b070d8cad32015](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/canadians-denied-us-entry_us_5884c0fee4b070d8cad32015); Kayla Rodgers, Faith Robinson, and Madison Park, "Canadians say they were turned away at US border on way to Women's March" *CNN.com* (Jan. 21, 2017) available at: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/21/us/canadians-rejected-border-womens-march/>; The Canadian Press, "Canadian Denied Entry To U.S. To Attend Women's March," *The Huffington Post* (Jan. 21, 2017) available at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2017/01/21/canadian-us-border\\_n\\_14306832.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2017/01/21/canadian-us-border_n_14306832.html); Catie L'Heureux, "U.S. Border Agents Rejected Some Canadians Headed to the Women's March," *NY Magazine* (Jan. 21, 2017) available at: <http://nymag.com/thecut/2017/01/womens-march-canadian-protesters-denied-u-s-entry.html>.

our country. If this is reflective of a change in policy within the Department, I urge you to reverse course. If this is merely the actions of a few rogue officers, I encourage you to discipline such action and ensure that it does not occur again.

We must maintain an immigration system that is fair, impartial, and worthy of the United States' bedrock commitment to freedom of religious belief and political opinion. Draconian restrictions that discriminate against political opinion or religion run contrary to our nation's character, and harken us back to the dark days of McCarthy-style witch hunts.

Moving forward, we may not see eye to eye on all immigration matters, but I am sure we can agree on the need to protect our country's core values. I welcome your future collaboration, appreciate your attention to this important matter, and await your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zoe Lofgren", is written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security  
Committee on the Judiciary