

**Senator Zach Duckworth**  
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**Senate**

State of Minnesota

January 26, 2026

**The Honorable Kristi Noem**  
**Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

**The Honorable Kash Patel**  
**Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**The Honorable Rodney S. Scott**  
**Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

**The Honorable Todd M. Lyons**  
**Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

**The Honorable Drew Evans**  
**Superintendent of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension**

Dear Secretary Noem, Director Patel, Commissioner Scott, Director Lyons, and Superintendent Evans,

I write to you in the wake of the fatal shooting of Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This tragic incident has deeply unsettled communities across our state and has raised serious questions regarding transparency, accountability, and intergovernmental cooperation. Minnesotans deserve a full and credible accounting of what occurred, and that accounting must be conducted in a manner that inspires public confidence.

First, I respectfully call for an independent, fair, and transparent investigation into this shooting that includes the active involvement of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). The BCA is the state agency traditionally charged with investigating officer-involved shootings in Minnesota. Its participation is essential to ensuring public trust in the investigative process and to maintaining confidence that the facts will be gathered and evaluated impartially. I urge federal authorities to cooperate fully with state investigators by providing timely access to all relevant evidence, forensic materials, witness interviews, and scene documentation. This incident follows another recent federal

law-enforcement-involved fatal shooting in Minneapolis, further underscoring the importance of transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the investigative process.

Second, I urge caution and demonstrated justification regarding the use of the term “domestic terrorist” in public statements related to this case. Under federal law, domestic terrorism is a statutory concept tied to specific conduct and intent, not a label that may be applied absent clear evidentiary findings or judicial determination. At this time, there has been no public adjudication or publicly disclosed evidence demonstrating that Mr. Pretti engaged in conduct meeting the legal definition of domestic terrorism. The premature or unsupported use of such terminology risks prejudicing public understanding of the incident and undermines confidence in the integrity of the investigative process. I therefore respectfully request restraint regarding premature characterizations until the facts are fully established through appropriate legal and investigative channels.

Third, I wish to affirm my support for the lawful enforcement of federal immigration laws, particularly efforts directed at individuals who pose a genuine threat to public safety. Those tasked with enforcing these laws perform difficult and often dangerous work, and they deserve respect for carrying out their duties. At the same time, Minnesotans rightly expect that immigration enforcement operations be conducted in a manner that prioritizes public safety, respects constitutional protections, and minimizes unnecessary risk to civilians and law enforcement officers alike. Recent events underscore the importance of continually reviewing enforcement tactics, training, and oversight to ensure that operations are conducted safely, proportionately, and in a manner consistent with the rule of law.

The people of Minnesota seek answers, accountability, and reassurance that this tragic incident is being examined thoroughly and impartially. I respectfully urge your agencies to work cooperatively, transparently, and in good faith to ensure that this investigation meets those expectations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Duckworth", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

-Zach Duckworth