



OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 6, 2026

Dear Lehigh County Industrial Property Owners:

As you may be aware, federal authorities have recently purchased warehouse facilities in nearby communities for the purpose of detaining immigrants. We, the undersigned, are committed to doing everything within our power to ensure that no future immigration detention centers will be established here. In that spirit, we write to urge you to refrain from selling or leasing any industrial or warehouse space for use as an immigration detention facility by the federal government. ICE detention facilities have a well-documented history of serious human rights concerns, including inadequate medical care, allegations of abuse, and deaths in custody; a reprehensible record of cruelty. The establishment of such a facility in Lehigh County would stand in direct opposition to the values of dignity, humanity, and mutual respect that define our region.

Lehigh County's history has been shaped and strengthened by immigrants, and our future depends on remaining a community that is welcoming, inclusive, and grounded in respect for human life. While local officials work to ensure that land use aligns with our regional priorities, goals, and values, federal authority can supersede local zoning, making partnership with the business community essential. We encourage businesses to consider that their relationships and long-term interests in Lehigh County extend well beyond any single transaction. Community trust and public perception are critical to successful development, and decisions made today could have a direct impact on those relationships. We ask that you weigh the value of the partnerships you have built here and act in a way that preserves them moving forward. By choosing not to participate in the expansion of immigration detention, you would be affirming the shared values that make the Lehigh Valley a place we are proud to call home.

Thank you for standing up for our values and ensuring the county is safe for all our residents.

Sincerely,

Lehigh County Officials

Josh Siegel, County Executive, Lehigh County
Mark Pinsley, County Controller, Lehigh County
Geoff Brace, Chair, Lehigh County Board of Commissioners
Shelia Alvarado, Vice Chair, Lehigh County Board of Commissioners
Jon Irons, County Commissioner, Lehigh County
Zach Cole-Borghi, County Commissioner, Lehigh County

City of Allentown

Matt Tuerk, Mayor, City of Allentown

City of Bethlehem

Hillary Kwiatek, City Council Member, City of Bethlehem

Rachel Leon, City Council Member, City of Bethlehem

East Penn School District

Rita Perez, School Board Director

Melissa Stiavelli, School Board Director

Gabrielle Klotz, School Board Director

William Whitney, School Board Director

Parkland School District

Marisa Ziegler, School Board Director

Chris Pirrotta, School Board Director

Jon Macklin, School Board Director

Alyssa Beckwith, School Board Director

Southern Lehigh School District

Dr. Kimberly Jaramillo, School Board Director

Chris Sykora, School Board Director

Luis Melecio, School Board Director

Lower Macungie Township

Stefanie Rafes, Township Commissioner

Melissa Bosak, Township Commissioner

South Whitehall Township

Sharon Fehlinger-Ricker, Township Commissioner

Glenn Guanowsky, Township Commissioner