



# News Release

## Comptroller Lierman Submits Formal Comment Opposing Proposed ICE Detention Facility in Washington County

*The concerns center on the facility's burden on Washington County infrastructure, the loss of tax revenue, and the potential threat it poses to millions of Marylanders*

**ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 1, 2026)** — **Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman** today submitted a formal comment to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Acting Director David J. Venturella, in response to an open public comment period on the proposed action to convert a warehouse property in Washington County into an ICE detention facility. In her comments, the Comptroller expressed strong opposition to the proposed conversion of this warehouse property, citing significant fiscal, economic, and community concerns.

Comptroller Lierman outlined three primary concerns with the proposed facility: the financial burden the facility would place on existing Washington County infrastructure; the loss of state and local tax revenue resulting from federal ownership of the property; and the potential impact the facility would have on Maryland communities and the state's overall economy.

The Comptroller's comment notes that the proposed facility, which could house approximately 1,500 detainees, is neither zoned for nor suitable for human habitation, and highlights the financial consequences of converting the privately owned warehouse

into a federally owned facility. Because federal property is exempt from state and local property taxes, the conversion would eliminate more than \$1.2 million in annual tax revenue.

In addition to the fiscal impacts, Comptroller Lierman emphasized the importance of Maryland's immigrant communities to the state's continued prosperity. Immigrants comprise nearly 17 percent of Maryland's population and more than 21 percent of its labor force, making significant contributions to local businesses, communities, and the state's economy.

"As Maryland's chief fiscal officer, my responsibility is to protect taxpayers and support investments that make our state more equitable, more resilient, and more prosperous," said **Comptroller Brooke Lierman**. "This proposed detention center does the opposite. It would place additional financial strain on Washington County's infrastructure, reduce critical local and state tax revenue, and undermine the long-term economic vitality of one of Maryland's fastest-growing regions."

A copy of the Comptroller's formal comment submitted to DHS is available [here](#).

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### **Media Contacts**

#### **Renesha Alphonso**

ralphonso@marylandtaxes.gov

240-426-6826 (cell)

#### **Adam Abadir**

aabadir@marylandtaxes.gov

667-408-0768 (cell)

Comptroller of Maryland, 80 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, United States