

March 19, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I write regarding recent reports that U.S. Customs and Border Protection will be transporting migrants from the southwest border to states along the northern border for processing. Any plans to transport migrants further into the country without proper vetting or adjudication of asylum claims should be halted immediately.

The current crisis at our southwest border is a direct result of the actions taken by your Department and by President Biden to undermine the successful programs instituted by the previous administration. On day one this administration sought to institute a pause on deportations, end Migrant Protection Protocols, end construction of the border wall, and request from Congress amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants. These actions were a signal to migrants that America's borders are open, which is reflected in the fact that border apprehensions in February of this year were at a 14-year high for that month.

With respect to news reports that CBP will be transporting migrants to northern border states, presumably including Montana, I would request the following answers:

1. Are the reports accurate?
2. What specific locations will migrants be transported to?
3. What vetting of these individuals will take place prior to transporting them?
4. Will the individuals be tested for COVID-19?
5. After "processing" will they be released into the community?

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to a prompt response to my inquiry.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator