



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2023

Mr. Andrew Lorenzen-Strait  
3491 Constellation Drive  
Davidsonville, MD 21035

Dear Mr. Lorenzen-Strait:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) is investigating federal contracts related to housing and supervision of illegal immigrants encountered by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Southwest border. Since President Biden took office, CBP encountered nearly six million aliens at the Southwest border.<sup>1</sup> Reporting suggests that the Biden administration's Department of Homeland Security (Department) released over two million of those aliens into the interior of the United States.<sup>2</sup> The Committee is deeply concerned that such a "catch and release" policy drives continued illegal immigration fueling the crisis at the Southwest border. The Committee is also troubled by allegations related to the Department's management and awarding of contracts necessitated by the border crisis, and the involvement of individuals with special access to the Biden administration in those contracts.

On January 20, 2021, Family Endeavors, Inc. (Endeavors) named you the Senior Director for Migrant Services and Federal Affairs.<sup>3</sup> Immediately preceding your position with Endeavors, you served on the Biden-Harris transition team, and previously was an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) official.<sup>4</sup> In March 2021, just two months after you joined Endeavors, ICE awarded an \$86.9 million sole source contract to Endeavors to provide beds and services in hotels for migrants who illegally crossed the Southwest border.<sup>5</sup> In April 2021, the Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) began an inspection of ICE's sole source contract with Endeavors.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *Nationwide Encounters*, U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters> (last visited Sept. 7, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Andrew R. Arthur, *Biden's Released at Least 2,020,522 Southwest Border Migrants*, CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES, Apr. 17, 2023, <https://cis.org/Arthur/Bidens-Released-Least-2020522-Southwest-Border-Migrants>.

<sup>3</sup> Press Release, Endeavors, Endeavors Names Andrew Lorenzen-Strait as the Senior Director For Migrant Services & Federal Affairs (Jan. 20, 2021) available at <https://endeavors.org/uncategorized/endeavors-names-andrew-lorenzen-strait-as-the-senior-director-for-migrant-services-federal-affairs>.

<sup>4</sup> Anna Giaritelli, *EXCLUSIVE: ICE Gave \$87M No-Bid Contract to Business with Biden Ties, Raising Conflict of Interest Questions*, WASH. EXAM'R, Apr. 7, 2021, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/biden-ice-gave-87m-no-bid-contract-conflict-of-interest>.

<sup>5</sup> DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. OFF. OF INSPECTOR GEN., OIG-22-37, ICE SPENT FUNDS ON UNUSED BEDS, MISSED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND DETENTION STANDARDS WHILE HOUSING MIGRANT FAMILIES IN HOTELS 2 (2022).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

On April 12, 2022, the OIG issued a report, finding that ICE did not adequately justify the need for its sole source contract with Endeavors and spent nearly \$17 million on hotel space and services that went largely unused.<sup>7</sup> The OIG noted that Endeavors sent ICE an unsolicited proposal for housing migrant families.<sup>8</sup> The OIG also found that Endeavors “had no experience providing the services covered by the sole source contract . . .”<sup>9</sup> and that ICE had “no documentation to show that Endeavors had the capability to provide such services . . . .”<sup>10</sup> The OIG’s findings raise important questions about your involvement in the contract proposal.

On August 8, 2023, journalists with Project Veritas released a video of you boasting about your participation in government contracts related to migrant services.<sup>11</sup> Specifically, you refer to the Endeavors contract as a “corrupt bargain.”<sup>12</sup> You further discuss “brokering” a deal that won Cherokee Federal, a team of tribally owned federal contracting companies, a nearly \$2 billion contract with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide services to unaccompanied alien children.<sup>13</sup> In the video, you admit that Cherokee Federal is not equipped to handle the contract.<sup>14</sup> You also admit that while you are publicly involved with the company Deep Water Point & Associates, you hid participation in government contracts through the entities, VerdinPoint and The Tanager Group.<sup>15</sup>

The Committee is also aware that your former colleague at ICE, Ms. Claire Trickler-McNulty, is now the Assistant Director of the Office of Immigration Program Evaluation.<sup>16</sup> In her position, Ms. Trickler-McNulty reviews and approves all contracts involving new detention facilities and Alternatives to Detention programs or decisions to terminate those contracts.<sup>17</sup> According to Committee sources, Ms. Trickler-McNulty previously worked with you in the Custody Programs Office, and you worked together to evaluate ICE contract awards. Your relationship with the current ICE contracting approval official calls into question ICE’s impartiality in contracts.

To assist the Committee’s investigation of potential conflicts of interest in ICE contracts for migrant services, please provide as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2023:

1. All communications, including but not limited to, e-mail, between you and Claire

---

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Project Veritas, YOUTUBE (Aug. 8, 2023), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGgJ-ffUi\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGgJ-ffUi_c).

<sup>12</sup> *See id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Office of Immigr. Program Evaluation, <https://www.ice.gov/leadership/oipe> (last visited Sept. 20, 2023).

<sup>17</sup> Jennie Taer, *ICE Gave Contract-Approval Authority to Officials Who Had Worked for Org Defending Migrants from Deportation*, DAILY CALLER, Sept. 22, 2023, <https://dailycaller.com/2023/09/22/ice-gave-contract-approval-authority-to-official-who-had-worked-for-group-defending-migrants-from-deportation>.

Trickler-McNulty referring or relating to any federal contract involving the Department of Homeland Security or ICE, from November 10, 2020 to the present;

2. All communications, including but not limited to, e-mail, between Claire Trickler-McNulty and any employee, representative, or official from Lorenzen-Strait Consulting Services, LLC, referring or relating to any federal contract involved the Department of Homeland Security or ICE, from April 19, 2019 to the present;
3. All communications between Claire Trickler-McNulty and any employee, representative, or official from VerdinPoint, LLC, referring or relating to any federal contract involved the Department of Homeland Security or ICE, from September 2, 2022 to the present;  
and
4. All communications between Claire Trickler-McNulty and any employee, representative, or official from The Tanager Group or Tanager Government Staffing, LLC, referring or relating to any federal contract involved the Department of Homeland Security or ICE, from September 2, 2022 to the present;

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request.

Additionally, as the Committee considers potential legislation, we find it imperative to interview you about your participation in government contracting for migrant housing and services. Therefore, we request that you contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 to schedule a transcribed interview as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 29, 2023.

Furthermore, the Committee hereby formally requests that you preserve all existing and future records and materials relating to the topics addressed in this letter, including but not limited to, any contracts, services, or consulting work on contracts, involving federal, state, or local governments, and any businesses you are affiliated with that have engaged in or sought contracts with federal, state, or local governments, including but not limited to Lorenzen-Strait Consulting, LLC, Deep Water Point & Associates, VerdinPoint, LLC, The Tanager Group, and Tanager Government Staffing, LLC.

In ensuring compliance with this request, you should construe this preservation notice as an instruction to take all reasonable steps to prevent the destruction or alteration, whether intentionally or negligently, of all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that are or may be responsive to this congressional inquiry. This instruction includes all electronic messages sent using your official and personal accounts or devices, including records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software.

The Committee also formally requests that you exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants who have access to such

Mr. Lorenzen-Strait  
September 26, 2023  
Page 4

records and materials relating to the topics addressed in this letter, to preserve such records and materials. You should also exercise reasonable efforts to identify, recover, and preserve all electronic records which have been deleted or marked for deletion, but are still recoverable. If it is the routine practice of you, an employee, or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production, if requested by the Committee.

Per Rule X of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy and has special oversight of “all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.”

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, M.D.  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security



DAN BISHOP  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight,  
Investigations, and Accountability

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Glenn Ivey, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability