

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Duffy, Secretary Hegseth, and Secretary Noem,

We write to you today with urgency concerning the significant impact of the closure of air space in and around El Paso, Texas and Southern New Mexico. In conjunction with on-going operations and activities along the southern border, these unprecedented Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) of airspace for 10 calendar days above the El Paso International Airport and in Southern New Mexico by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) created widespread fear, uncertainty and chaos in the region while disrupting commercial, medical, private, and military aviation activities. This has also resulted in the rapid spreading of misinformation and conspiracy theories.

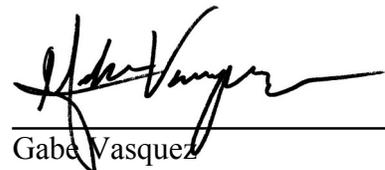
Hours after the execution of the TFRs, the FAA withdrew the restrictions around El Paso and failed to provide any context or description as to the justification for any of their actions. And the TFR in Southern New Mexico remains in place, also without explanation

We are urgently requesting a classified briefing on what occurred, with representatives from your agencies made available to speak to the roles they played, acknowledge where the failed communication occurred, and share the steps you are taking to ensure a future crisis of this nature will not reoccur. Events like this are inexcusable and cause lasting degradation of trust among communities with their local and national leaders. We look forward to the briefing.

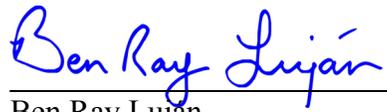
Sincerely,



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator