



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

August 19, 2025

Pamela Bondi
Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

I am in receipt of your letter dated August 13, 2025, which purports to notify me that Washington State “has been identified” as a “so-called sanctuary jurisdiction”—on grounds that your letter makes no effort whatsoever to explain.

You refer to unidentified “policies and practices” within Washington State that violate federal law—again, without any explanation. You baselessly invoke federal obstruction, conspiracy, and harboring statutes that carry criminal penalties with prison time. You even threaten that state officials “operating under the color of law, using their official position to obstruct federal immigration enforcement efforts and facilitating or inducing illegal immigration may be subject to criminal charges.”

You are hereby notified that Washington State will not be bullied or intimidated by threats and legally baseless accusations.

In the America that I love and have taught my children to revere, we resolve our differences peacefully through public discourse and, if necessary, through the courts—not by threatening political opponents with imprisonment.

You take a different approach. You threaten me, police officers, state troopers, sheriffs, judges, and other officials with prison time.

Why? Because our state legislature passed a bipartisan law that appropriately and lawfully limits the diversion of our state and local resources to federal immigration enforcement.

Your threat to criminally prosecute state officials embarrasses and disgraces the office of the United States Attorney General.

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Washington State is proud to be a welcoming community that values immigrants' and refugees' contributions to our economy and our cultural fabric. We do so while accounting for and complying with applicable federal law. If you really believe Washington State is in conflict with controlling federal law, you would make some effort to explain that. You did not, because you cannot.

In 2017, I was the first state attorney general to challenge President Trump's efforts to trample our Constitution in court, and I was the first attorney general to defeat him. I, along with my team at the Washington Attorney General's Office, went on to defeat the first Trump Administration 55 times. We were unsuccessful in just three cases.

Given that history, I am prepared to defend Washington from any litigation you wish to pursue. If you choose to challenge me and my state, be advised that we will defeat you and seek all appropriate costs and fees.

You seem to believe that cavalierly threatening criminal prosecution will result in me compromising the values of my state.

Never.

You seek to have Washington State bend the knee to a Trump Administration that, day by day, drags us closer to authoritarianism.

Never.

I am not intimidated by you or the President. I will defend our democracy, the rule of law, and the people of my state.

Always.

Sincerely,


Bob Ferguson
Governor

