

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2026

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

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20032

Dear Secretary Hegseth, Acting Attorney General Blanch, and Secretary Mullin:

We are writing to request immediate interagency action from the Department of War, Justice, and Homeland Security to secure the airspace over the eleven U.S. host cities for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Beginning June 11, the tournament's high-threat environment requires resources beyond current state and local Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) capabilities.

While the Safer Skies Act was a vital step toward securing our domestic airspace, the tournament's unprecedented scale requires us to build upon that foundation immediately. Potential personnel shortages and complex jurisdictional divides between event organizers and host cities risk creating a fragmented environment that requires a unified federal security posture.

We must work towards a stronger and more unified federal operational framework to address the jurisdictional lines between FIFA and the host cities. These gaps can be met by deputizing National Guard members to perform 6 USC § 124n authorities. With its rapid deployability, nationwide scalability, and extensive experience responding to domestic emergencies, the National Guard is uniquely positioned to assist federal and state authorities with C-UAS mitigation and unified coordination for World Cup security.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will bring an unprecedented number of global spectators to our homeland, and the eyes of the world will be on the United States. Ensuring the safety of these events and attendees is a responsibility we must meet with no room for error. Thank you for your service to the country and prompt attention to this concern. We look forward to working together to secure this historic event.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Elijah Crane
Member of Congress