



DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Enlightening the Community

Congresswoman Simon demands investigation into Trump’s abuse of emergency powers for coal export

U.S. Rep. Lateefah Simon (D-CA-12) joined California senators and other members of the California delegation to Congress to call on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the Trump administration’s use of the Defense Production Act and other taxpayer funds to support coal projects, including the proposed coal export terminal in West Oakland.

Defense Production Act funding is for national defense emergencies, such as authorizing private car companies to build parts for tanks or ships.

Since President Donald Trump’s June 4 announcement of \$75 million in funding for the Oakland Bulk and Oversized Terminal, Simon has opposed and worked to stop the proposed coal terminal.

She filed an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2027 Energy and Water Appropriations bill that would have prohibited funding for the proposed Oakland coal export terminal project; however, House Republicans blocked the amendment.

Last week, in a letter to the GAO Acting Comptroller General Orice Williams Brown, Simon and her colleagues questioned the Department of Energy’s plan to use up to \$425 million in DPA funds to support coal-fired power plants and construct the West Gateway Terminal Project in Oakland.

This terminal project would primarily serve foreign commercial markets, rather than meet national emergency needs.

“The Defense Production Act was intended to scale up domestic industrial capabilities to meet urgent military or national emergency needs; therefore, its invocation to construct a commercial, civilian export facility intended primarily to serve foreign commercial markets raises profound statutory, legal, and fiscal questions,” wrote the lawmakers, which included Senators Alex Padilla (D) and Adam

Schiff (D), Jared Huffman (D-CA-02), ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee and Reps. John Garamendi (D-CA-08) and Ro Khanna (D-CA-17).

“We do not believe this satisfies the statutory definition of ‘national defense’ or ‘critical infrastructure protection’ under the DPA and that there is no legally sufficient, data-driven nexus between civilian coal exports and immediate U.S. military readiness or critical infrastructure defense,” the lawmakers’ letter said. DPA funds are intended for U.S. national security and defense readiness. The Trump administration is instead diverting these funds to support a commercial export project that primarily benefits private industries and foreign markets in East Asia.

“Congress has never appropriated funds to the DOE’s DPA account with the intent of propping up a dying industry or financing a purely commercial project,” continued the lawmakers. “We are deeply concerned that DOE has improperly diverted funds from accounts intended by Congress for the critical modernization and resilience support of our nation’s grid to instead finance a commercial fossil fuel export project.”

Simon and colleagues also raised concerns that the Trump administration has improperly diverted funds designated for critical grid modernization and may be using emergency authorities to circumvent local environmental protections.

“With no clear national security nexus, we question whether the DOE utilized emergency DPA authorities with the intent of preempting or subverting valid local health ordinances and environmental regulations. If so, this would be a gross departure from the intent of the DPA,” concluded the lawmakers.

First lawsuit filed against Chipotle Mexican Grill in multistate Salmonella outbreak

PRNewswire/ -- OFT Food Safety & Injury Lawyers and Nicolet Law have filed the first lawsuit against Chipotle Mexican Grill arising from the 2026 multistate Salmonella outbreak. The lawsuit has been filed in Minnesota federal court, the state where the Plaintiff lives and one of the states hardest hit by the outbreak. A copy of the Complaint (Case No. 26-cv-03514) is available upon request.

The Plaintiff is Minnesota resident Kristen Behne, who fell ill days after consuming a burrito bowl. The bacteria infected her blood, a potentially lethal complication of Salmonella poisoning, according to the Complaint.

In the wake of the outbreak, Chipotle indicated that jalapenos were the likely vehicle for the outbreak strain of Salmonella but has not yet identified the supplier.

OFT Lawyer Ryan Osterholm has called on Chipotle to tell the public what it knows of the source and scope of the outbreak. “Chipotle says it has linked the

source of contamination to jalapenos but has not disclosed where those jalapenos came from, where they were sold, or how many consumers have been impacted,” Osterholm said. “Last time we sued Chipotle, they said they would reinvent how it traced its products from farm to fork. If they did what they said they were going to, now is the time to prove it. If you want the public to trust you, you’ve got to come clean. Transparency and trust go hand in hand,” he said in a recent interview.

According to Osterholm, “This outbreak could be massive. The fact that there are already hundreds of people sickened in multiple states indicates that the total case count is much higher. If you ate at Chipotle and have symptoms, you should seek medical care. Salmonella can be extremely serious,” Osterholm said.

So far, FDA reports that the outbreak sickened 212 people in multiple states. Those numbers, however, are expected to increase as the investigation goes on.

LPN charged with theft of controlled substances

LANSING - This month, Maniya Miller, License Practical Nurse, 26, of Detroit, was arraigned before Judge Suzanne Faunce of the 37th District Court in Centerline for allegedly stealing and possessing controlled substances from a Centerline nursing home patient in 2024 and falsifying medical records to cover up her reported theft, announced Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel.

Miller has been charged with: One count of Larceny in a Building, a 4-year felony; One count of Falsifying Medical Records, a 4-year felony; and one count of Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance, a 4-year felony.

Following the allegations, the Centerline facility terminated Miller’s employment and immediately contacted law

enforcement and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Miller was given a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond and is next due in the 37th District Court before Judge John Chmura for a Probable Cause Conference on August 19.

“Nurses play such a critical role in caring for our most vulnerable residents,” said Attorney General Nessel. “Jeopardizing patient health and safety by stealing medication is unacceptable. My office will investigate and prosecute these offenses to the full extent of the law.”

This matter is being handled by the Department of Attorney General’s Health Care Fraud Division (HCFD), with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General.

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