



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KRISTI NOEM | GOVERNOR

December 19, 2019

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo  
Deputy Assistant Secretary O'Connell  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary O'Connell:

This letter is in reference to Executive Order 13888, "*On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement*." I am grateful for the Trump Administration's consideration of states' rights in determining policies and actions that impact what happens within our own state borders. I appreciate the opportunity and consultation required under this Executive Order.

I take my duty to protect the security, safety, and prosperity of our citizens very seriously. In issuing this letter, I rely on the steps taken by the White House and State Department to ensure the safety of our citizens through strengthened vetting of refugees. These tools provide much-needed assurance about the integrity of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) to the State and to the communities choosing to welcome refugees.

As Governor of South Dakota, I write to consent to initial refugee resettlement and affirm participation in USARP for those South Dakota localities that offer their independent consent, as per the terms of the Executive Order. This consent expires December 31, 2020, and I reserve the right to withdraw this consent at any time.

This consent in no way limits individual localities within South Dakota from exercising their discretion and authority to consent to resettlement in their communities as per the terms of the Executive Order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristi Noem", written over a horizontal line.

Kristi Noem  
Governor

CC: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration  
U.S. Department of State