

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA
Civil No. 26-cv-00317-NEB-JFD

WILLIAM LEMA-CASTRO,

Petitioner,

v.

**FEDERAL RESPONDENTS’
RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS**

KRISTI NOEM, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Petitioner filed this petition for a writ of habeas corpus to secure release or a bond hearing in connection with Petitioner’s detention by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”). This petition raises legal and factual issues similar to those in prior habeas petitions this Court has decided. Those issues are currently before the Eighth Circuit on expedited review in *Avila v. Bondi*, No. 25-3248 (8th Cir. docketed Nov. 10, 2025). For purposes of expediting these proceedings, Federal Respondents assert all arguments raised by the government in *Avila*, preserve those arguments for any appeal in this case, and respectfully request that the Court deny Petitioner’s habeas petition. *Cf. Mauro Johnny P.P. v. Lyons*, Case No. 26-cv-204 (LMP/DJF), Order, ECF No. 5 at 2 n.1 (calling abbreviated response “a model example” in the circumstances, as it “preserves the Government’s arguments for appeal while avoiding the effort of filing the same recycled template that this Court has already rejected”).¹

¹ This response is submitted only with respect to the claims of William Lema-Castro, and not any of the other petitioners from what was initially an attempted joint habeas petition but has now been divided into three separate cases.

Merits aside, Federal Respondents have one additional issue to bring to the Court's attention. On January 16, 2026, the Court entered an order directing Federal Respondents not to move Petitioner out of the District of Minnesota until the Court issued a ruling on the petition or, if already moved, to immediately bring Petitioner back. Dkt. 3. Petitioner was transferred to an ICE facility in Texas on January 14, 2026—two days before the Court's order was entered—and ICE is currently working to return him to Minnesota.

Dated: January 17, 2026

DANIEL N. ROSEN
United States Attorney

s/ David W. Fuller

BY: DAVID W. FULLER
Assistant United States Attorney
Attorney ID Number 390922
600 U.S. Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 664-5600
David.fuller@usdoj.gov