

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA  
Civil No. 0:26-cv-00894-KMM-LIB

VINAY BODEPUDI,

Petitioner,

v.

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

KRISTI NOEM, *et al.*,

Respondents.

This habeas petition has become moot. Petitioner challenges his immigration detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but the agency already released him from custody—in Minnesota—on February 1, 2026.

The Federal Respondents' undersigned counsel notified Petitioner's counsel of this development yesterday. Today, Petitioner's counsel confirmed released but would not agree to dismiss the petition unless the government paid Petitioner's attorneys' fees.<sup>1</sup> An award of fees would not be proper under the Equal Access to Justice Act because Petitioner does not qualify as a "prevailing party," and any award of monetary reimbursement or compensation would be well outside the scope of relief available in habeas corpus actions. Nor does a party's desire for attorneys' fees make an otherwise moot case or controversy justiciable. Thus, this case is moot and should be dismissed.

---

<sup>1</sup> Petitioner did not raise any exceptions to the mootness doctrine—only the issue of attorneys' fees. To the extent Petitioner uses his reply to raise an exception, then the Federal Respondents respectfully request the opportunity to file a substantive sur-reply on a non-emergency timeline.

DANIEL N. ROSEN  
United States Attorney

*s/ Trevor Brown*

BY: TREVOR C. BROWN  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Attorney ID Number 0396820  
600 U.S. Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
(612) 664-5600  
trevor.brown@usdoj.gov