

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

March 6, 2025

Stephen Ehikian  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street NW  
Washington, DC 20270

Dear Acting Administrator Ehikian:

I write with deep concern over the Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building in Albany N.Y. appearing on a list of buildings potentially being listed for sale or closure amid cuts by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). On Tuesday, the Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building and over 400 other federal properties were placed on a list of "non-core" properties that the General Services Administration (GSA) said are "designated for disposal." Later that same day, GSA abruptly removed this list, creating chaos and confusion for the people who work in these buildings. The people of the Capital Region and I need answers on your plans for this building, assurances that it will remain open and that the critical services it hosts will continue uninterrupted for the thousands of New Yorkers who rely on them.

The Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building is home to 20 federal government agencies including the Social Security Administration office, a day care for children of federal employees, a U.S. Military Entrance Processing Station, and my Capital Region office. For 50 years, it has been where Capital Region residents interact with the federal government for essential services like assistance with Social Security checks and the IRS or seeking justice in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. This is where new military recruits from the Capital Region are processed for service. Seeing this building on a list of properties "designated for disposal" created panic for Albany's federal workers, who are already seeing the federal workforce slashed by DOGE. The list's sudden removal within hours of first being posted has raised even more questions and caused even more chaos and uncertainty.

Your plans and process for determining the future of the building remain unclear. The GSA is listing the building as a "non-core" property despite the essential services the federal agencies within the building provide on a daily basis. The public has yet to see any cost-benefit studies to justify a potential major sale like this, and many have raised serious concerns that a measure like this would end up costing taxpayers significantly more by forcing federal offices to be leased by a private landlord. To add to the concerns, removing this list with no communication about if or when the list will be re-posted or updated underscores the complete disorganization and inefficiency of a process that potentially impacts jobs and vital services for my constituents. The hard-working federal workers in this building and the communities who rely on their services in New York's Capital Region deserve clarity and certainty.

In an effort to cut through the confusion, I seek answers on the following:

1. What factors led to the Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building's placement on this list of properties "designated for disposal"?

2. Who is making the decisions on this lease, and what involvement does DOGE have in that process?
3. Why was this list taken down so quickly? If so, will the list be updated and what criteria are being used for determining whether a property remains on an updated list?
4. Why did you not follow the standard processes of seeking public input about the loss of a federal building? Please provide any and all cost-benefit analysis studies that have been done relevant to the decision-making process for this property.
5. If the building is sold, is there an alternative plan for the federal offices located in the building? What assurances can be given that existing services in the building will not be disrupted due to a sale of this property?

This building has been integral to the federal government's work in the Capital Region for 50 years, and its abrupt closure and sale would disrupt essential services my constituents rely on. We should not be haphazardly selling America's real estate portfolio and causing chaos and uncertainty for the American people. This process is everything but efficient. I ask for your prompt answers to my questions above and urge you to maintain the Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building in Albany so federal workers can continue to support and serve the Capital Region and all of New York State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Schumer" clearly legible.

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator