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Work on a \$16 billion rail tunnel under the Hudson River would be forced to shut down Feb. 6 and thousands would be laid off if federal funding isn't released, officials said. PHOTOS BY JULIAN LESHAY GUADALUPE/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Judge blocks new DHS policy

Noem added restrictions on lawmakers' oversight

Nicholas Katzban

NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A federal judge has temporarily blocked the Department of Homeland Security from enforcing an internal policy requiring seven days' prior notice from members of Congress seeking to tour immigrant detention centers.

In her ruling on the request for temporary relief, U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb said the congressional delegation that filed the claim has "shown a likelihood of success" on the grounds that the department's efforts violate a key provision of the 2024 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, according to a copy of the Feb. 2 court order.

"Today, yet again, a federal court has denied the Trump-Vance administration's attempt to keep their cruelty out of public view," said Skye Perryman, president of Democracy Forward, a nonprofit providing legal counsel to the 13 members of Congress who challenged the policy in federal court.

DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for public affairs, did not respond to a request for comment on Cobb's order.

The directive in question was issued by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Jan. 8, advising immigration enforcement staff to turn away all congressional delegations that did not provide notice of their intent to tour a detention center at least one

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Trump vs. tunnel

Gateway agency sues administration over cutting funding for project

Colleen Wilson

NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

The agency overseeing the largest federally funded infrastructure project in the country is suing the Trump administration for withholding more than \$205 million needed to keep construction going on a \$16 billion rail tunnel project beneath the Hudson River.

The Gateway Development Commission, the bistate agency overseeing this program, filed a complaint in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims on Feb. 2 seek-

ing an "expedited" court decision and payment of "improperly withheld amounts and other damages caused by the suspension of funding," according to the lawsuit.

The Transportation Department "committed approximately \$15 billion in federal assistance for the (Hudson Tunnel Project) – approximately 90% of total project costs," the lawsuit said. "Relying on those commitments, GDC has advanced planning, design, procurement and construction across an

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Gateway Development Commission CEO Thomas Prendergast, shown in July, said the suit is aimed at holding the government to its contractual obligations so the work can continue.

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My name is Cortina – no, not that Cortina



Matt Cortina

Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK – NJ

I'm still not used to seeing my name on TV. Much less several times a day, every

day.

But with steady ads for the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, I'm constantly doing double takes and saying, very dumbly and often to myself, "Wait, that's my name." When my kids say the same thing, I am doubly surprised – not only that their name is the Olympics, too, but that *their last name is also mine*.

I can be shockingly stupid sometimes.

In my defense, it's not a common surname. It's the 20,028th-most-common last name in the world, apparently, mostly found in Mexico; however, the densest population of Cortinas is in Andorra.

Who knew? Either way, it's not popular in the United States, and that line of

my family is from Italy, anyway.

For most of my life, my last name has been unique, and anyone uttering those syllables was unequivocally summoning me. If your last name is Kim or Green or Meyers, I can't imagine you're all too surprised when you see it on TV or if someone else has it.

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