



PO Box 424 | Everson, WA 98247

Monday, Nov. 17, 2025

To the Office of the Washington State Department of Health (HEAL Act/Environmental Justice),

I am writing to formally inquire into the possible misuse of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) logo in several activist videos produced by the organization We Are Ella. I initiated this inquiry with the WA Attorney General's office and they encouraged me to reach out to the DOH as well.

I initiated this inquiry with the DOH in September and it seems that the inquiry was mishandled and not forwarded to the appropriate department. I am submitting this now directly to your office for a response.

On June 6, 2025, We Are Ella posted a short video on their social media page, which can be viewed at this web address: <https://www.facebook.com/WeAreELLAAOrg/videos/1366468461304593>. The video centers on the perspective of Teodora Martinez, who is a recent candidate for the Port of Sunnyside – District 1 seat. Ms. Martinez claims that her home's well water is contaminated and, without citing evidence, directly accuses local dairies of causing the contamination.

The video does not present any scientific data, citations, or verifiable evidence to support these claims. Instead, it is clearly intended as an activist message designed to generate public outrage and action against this segment of Washington's farming community.

Of particular concern is that the video concludes with the We Are Ella logo, followed immediately by the official Washington State Department of Health logo. This is not the first instance of the organization using the Department of Health's logo in its videos. Other videos produced by We Are Ella have also displayed the Department's logo—for example, on February 28, 2025 (<https://www.facebook.com/WeAreELLAAOrg/videos/550159338188121>) and October 1, 2024 (<https://www.facebook.com/WeAreELLAAOrg/videos/838740071804018>).

This repeated use raises serious questions:

- Did the DOH sponsor, contribute to, or otherwise support the production of these videos?
- Did the DOH approve the use of its official logo in this context?
- Does the DOH endorse the message and claims made in these videos?
- Did DOH funds go to the production of We Are Ella's recent film "The Price of Plenty: Voices of the Yakima Valley"?

If the DOH did not authorize this use of its logo, then its presence may mislead the public into believing that the Department supports the content, message, and accusations contained in the video. If the DOH did authorize it, this raises further concerns about the Department's involvement in a politically charged and factually unsupported campaign against a lawful Washington industry.

I respectfully request your response to the above questions to determine whether the Washington State Department of Health's logo was used with permission and whether any state resources or endorsements were provided for the creation or distribution of these videos/productions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Ben Tindall
Executive Director
Save Family Farming