



PO Box 424 | Everson, WA 98247

Tuesday, April 21, 2025

Dear Ms. Baker,

Thank you for your response and for addressing the questions raised in my original complaint. I appreciate the clarification provided though I have several concerns regarding both the response and the actions that were taken or perhaps not taken by the Department.

First, the videos in question that include the Department of Health logo remain publicly available on We Are ELLA's Facebook page.

- The June 6, 2025, video posted by We Are Ella on their social media page (which fell within the grant timeframe): <https://www.facebook.com/WeAreELLAOrg/videos/1366468461304593>. As indicated originally, the video centers on the perspective of Teodora Martinez, 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.
- February 28, 2025 (<https://www.facebook.com/WeAreELLAOrg/videos/550159338188121>) This video, featuring the DOH logo, highlights We Are ELLA's Lobby Day at the state capitol. The RCW 42.17A.635 directly prohibits public funds from being "used directly or indirectly for lobbying."
- October 1, 2024 (<https://www.facebook.com/WeAreELLAOrg/videos/838740071804018>) This is the only video in the initial complaint that would seem to fall into the community storytelling category that the grant prescribes.

Yet, the fact that all of these videos remain intact and in their original location directly conflicts with the statement that DOH "confirmed the logo was removed from the impacted videos last summer." These posts do not appear to be partial remnants or "traces"—they remain fully intact and completely accessible.

Given that this issue was raised with your agency in November, it is difficult to understand how this situation was considered resolved. This raises serious concerns about the verification process used by DOH to confirm compliance by grantees, as well as whether any actually meaningful corrective action was ever fully carried out.

Second, your response notes that DOH has "worked diligently" with We Are ELLA and that they have been "responsive." However, the continued public availability of this content suggests that either the requested changes were not fully implemented or that compliance has not been enforced. This points to a broader gap between stated policy and actual enforcement.

Third, while I appreciate the clarification that DOH did not provide editorial oversight or necessarily endorse the content, your response confirms that grant-funded materials contributed to content (and that DOH fully understood that it would be) used in We Are ELLA's broader media efforts, including the documentary referenced. Regardless of whether the film itself was a formal deliverable, this indicates that the state knowingly funded and supported content now being used for unscientific and manipulative anti-agricultural messaging.

This raises legitimate concerns about how grant-funded materials are allowed to be repurposed and whether sufficient guardrails are in place to prevent the appearance of state endorsement or affiliation with this activity. When agency branding is used without approval and remains publicly visible promoting a political figure and political activism, without any actual removal enforcement, that's a significant problem.

More broadly, the Department's response relies heavily on assurances that actions were taken, but provides little detail on enforcement mechanisms or consequences for noncompliance. The absence of clear accountability measures raises additional questions about how DOH ensures its policies are upheld when violations occur.

Given these concerns, I would greatly appreciate further clarification on the following questions:

- What specific steps has DOH taken to verify full removal of unauthorized logo use across all platforms, including social media?
- What enforcement actions or consequences are applied when grantees fail to comply with branding and representation requirements?
- What safeguards are in place to prevent grant-funded materials from being used in ways that could create confusion about agency endorsement?
- Has DOH conducted any follow-up review to ensure continued compliance after initial contact with the organization?
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I appreciate your attention to these questions and look forward to your response.

Ben Tindall
Executive Director
Save Family Farming