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December 9, 2020

Amanda Price, Records Officer  
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
350 North Redwood Road  
PO Box 146500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500

**Sent via e-mail: [udaf-commissioner@utah.gov](mailto:udaf-commissioner@utah.gov), [kwpehrson@utah.gov](mailto:kwpehrson@utah.gov), [agriculture@utah.gov](mailto:agriculture@utah.gov), [amandaprice@utah.gov](mailto:amandaprice@utah.gov)**

Dear Amanda Price:

On behalf of Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, I write pursuant to the Government Records and Management Act (GRAMA), Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-101 to -901 to request records.

UARC requests the following records:

- **Any agreements, certifications, or correspondence between the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and any other local, state, or federal governmental entity concerning the classification, confidentiality, sharing, or release of records and/or information shared between governmental entities regarding COVID-19 cases and outbreaks on mink farms.**

To be clear, in this GRAMA request, UARC is *only* seeking information contained in records related to discussions or agreements that UDAF had with other governmental entities regarding the classification or confidentiality of information and records shared between agencies. UARC is *not* seeking, in this request, the underlying records themselves. UARC agrees to the withholding or redaction of any non-responsive content or information contained in any records otherwise responsive to this request.

As you may be aware, animal welfare and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are matters of significant and growing public concern. The recent positive cases of SARS-CoV-2 on mink farms in Utah has already garnered substantial media coverage in both the local and national press. Growing evidence of bidirectional transmission of COVID-19 to and from mink and humans is a matter of significant public concern.

Issues relating to COVID-19 are of significant concern to the local media and public. The information UARC sought will shine a light on the conduct of state officials in responding to COVID-19 outbreaks in our state, promoting transparency and preserving accountability.

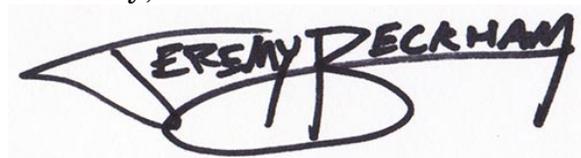
UARC, a non-profit organization, has no private or commercial interest in these records and intends to use these records to enhance public understanding of this important issue and to disseminate information to the news media and the public at large. UARC therefore believes that the release of these records “primarily benefits the public rather than a person” and accordingly requests a waiver of fees. *See* Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-203(4)(a).

If you choose to deny this request for a fee waiver, please inform me of estimated costs prior to processing this request so that UARC may decide whether to proceed or examine our options for appeal. If you deny this request, in whole or in part, please provide a notice of denial. *See* Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-205.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I prefer to receive electronic copies of the requested records, if possible, which can be emailed to me at [jeremy@uarc.io](mailto:jeremy@uarc.io). I look forward to receiving your response, to be sent no later than 10 business following your receipt of this request. *See* Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-204(3)(b).

If I may be of assistance, please reach out using the contact information provided below. Email is preferred.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JEREMY BECKHAM". The signature is written in a stylized, cursive font with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the first name.

Jeremy Beckham, MPA, MPH  
Executive Director  
Utah Animal Rights Coalition  
385-401-4301 (office)  
385-227-7034 (mobile)  
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