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December 15, 2020

Office of General Counsel
Utah State University
1465 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-1465

**Sent via e-mail: legal@usu.edu, mica.mckinney@usu.edu,
tom.baldwin@usu.edu, uvdl@usu.edu**

Dear Utah State University:

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:

- **All documents related to investigations of possible or confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) outbreaks on Utah mink farms. This includes records and reports of the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and any internal or external correspondence related to this subject matter, including correspondence from and to fur farms, fur farming industry organizations, Washington State University, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (March 2020 – Present).**

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. If electronic communications or productions of records are not possible, they may be mailed to the PO Box address at the top of this request.

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 stylized with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the first part of the name.

Jeremy Beckham, MPA, MPH
Executive Director
Utah Animal Rights Coalition
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