

February 26, 2021

Tom Teigen, Director
Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
6705 Puget Park Drive
Snohomish, WA 98296

Re: *Foundation for Sustainable Community DBA Farmer Frog*

Mr. Teigen:

We represent Foundation for Sustainable Community DBA Farmer Frog (“Farmer Frog”). This letter serves as notice to you to cease and desist your threats to force or relocate Farmer Frog from its leased property (“Premises”). You have not cited any valid legal authority that allows you to make such threats.

After a review of the three letters you sent to Farmer Frog, it is clear that you have not even complied with your own obligations under the Lease or the subsequent amendments. If you believe Farmer Frog is in violation of the Lease, the onus is on you to provide clear written notice to my Client specifically articulating such alleged breach, with an opportunity to cure. Without such notice, as here, you have no right to demand, threaten, or in any way suggest that my client relocate or vacate the Premises.

Mr. Tiegen, your actions and threats have caused grave concern to countless Washingtonians, including the citizens of Snohomish County for which you have a specific charge to serve. In your January 22, 2021, you recognized and applauded Farmer Frog’s use of the Premises to distribute food to communities. You expressed Snohomish County’s commitment to partner with my Client to support food banks. (Please note that my Client serves more than just Snohomish County food banks; it serves Tribal governments and Tribal communities, governments and government agencies, veterans, senior communities, single parent households, communities in quarantine, lower income housing communities, faith based organizations, food banks, food drives, community based organizations, pop-up events, and more). Yet, in the very same letter you threatened to limit the use of the same Premises that is used to accomplish the goal of food distribution. We simply cannot understand how Snohomish County can be committed to providing support to food banks, but limit the space from which that food distribution is being provided.

But even more disturbing is the fact that Snohomish County is targeting a food distribution program it *knows* overwhelmingly benefits minority and underrepresented communities – Black, Indigenous, People of Color. This begs the question: why is Snohomish County in such an urgent need to stop food distribution at this site in the middle of an unprecedented global pandemic? My client recently

February 26, 2021

Page 2

discovered that the County's goal for this property is more space to park horse trailers and additional parking. **Is Snohomish County really going to claim that ensuring enough available parking spaces is more important than feeding black and brown children across the state? How does this square with the County's stated diversity goals?**

Please note that should Snohomish County continue its threatening, coercive, and discriminatory behavior, it will open itself up to several causes of action, including but not limited Breach of Contract, Breach of Good Faith and Fair Dealing, Tortious Interference of a Business Expectancy, and Violation of the Washington Law Against Discrimination. Should Farmer Frog prevail on any one of these claims, Snohomish County will have to pay my client significant damages and, in most cases, attorneys' fees – which I can assure you will be substantial.

Mr. Tiegen, I urge to your reconsider your approach to this matter. My Client is open to working with you in reaching an amicable solution. However, your threats of shutting them down by 5:00 p.m. today is not a helpful start to a constructive conversation.

Very truly yours,



Sumeer Singla
(206) 233-2924
ssingla@williamskastner.com

Cc: Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office
David Somers, Snohomish County Executive