

STATE OF NEBRASKA Office of the Attorney General

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DOUGLAS J. PETERSON ATTORNEY GENERAL

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January 31, 2020

Via email at <u>kohl@harringtonfilms.com</u> Kohl Harrington Harrington Films 29201 Heathercliff Road #1205 Malibu, CA 90265

RE: File No. 20-R-102; Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Kohl Harrington, Petitioner

Dear Mr. Harrington:

We are writing in response to your correspondence received by this office on January 16, 2020, in which you sought to appeal the denial by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture ("Department") of your public records request dated January 9, 2020. We considered your correspondence to be a petition for review under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.03(1)(b) of the Nebraska Public Records Statutes, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-712 through 84-712.09 (2014, Cum. Supp. 2018, Supp. 2019) ("NPRS"). Your request specifically sought "all email records from Steve Wellman for the month of November 2019 pertaining to key word; AAFCO." The Department denied your request, withholding two responsive emails under the exception to disclosure in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(7) ("Personal information in records regarding personnel of public bodies other than salaries and routine directory information[.]").

Our office contacted Department officials upon receipt of your petition, who subsequently provided us the emails at issue. Following review and discussion, Department officials agreed to make those emails available to you, with minor redactions for strictly personal information, e.g., home addresses, cell phone numbers. It is our understanding that the Department will be providing these emails to you early next week.

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When we receive petitions under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.03(1)(b), our focus is to ensure that citizens and other interested persons have not been improperly denied access to public records. Since you will be receiving the public records at issue, no further action by this office is warranted, and we are closing this file.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS J. PETERSON Attorney General

Leslie S. Donley Assistant Attorney General

c: Robert Storant

49-2378-30