



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
*DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH*  
*PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820*  
*(360) 236-3000 • 711 Washington Relay Service*

February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Eric Thomas, Legislative Auditor  
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee  
106 11th Ave SW Suite 2500  
PO Box 40910  
Olympia, WA 98504-0910  
[eric.thomas@leg.wa.gov](mailto:eric.thomas@leg.wa.gov)

Re: DOH RESPONSE TO ESD's JLARC H2A PROGRAM AUDIT REPORT FINDINGS

Dear Eric Thomas:

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's report titled "ESD Administration of the H-2A Temporary Worker Visa Program".

The Department of Health (DOH) supports Employment Security Department's (ESD) plan to work with DOH, Labor and Industries (L&I), and Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to address interagency coordination for field checks. DOH is committed to working together on an inter-agency agreement with a goal of implementation set for November 30, 2024.

State statute requires that ESD coordinates with DOH, L&I, and WSDA in the execution of field checks. ESD should provide the Legislature a plan for extending that interagency coordination to include DOH and WSDA as required by state statute. The plan should have clear timelines, measurable progress benchmarks, and achievable outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Jenks".

Lauren Jenks CHES, MPH  
Assistant Secretary of Environmental Public Health Division

cc: Joe Laxson, Policy Director, EPH, DOH

February 29, 2024

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Todd Phillips, Director OEHS, EPH, DOH

Kelly Cooper, Director of Policy and Legislative Relations, DOH

Jill Satran, Senior Research Analyst, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

Ryan McCord, Audit Coordinator, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee