

September 3, 2025

WA Governor Bob Ferguson
WA Attorney General Nick Brown
Yakima County Sheriff Robert Udell
DHS Investigations AK/WA/OR/ID SAC Colin Jackson
ICE AK/OR/WA Field Office Director, Drew Bostock
ATF Seattle Field Division SAC Jonathan Blais
US Marshal Eastern WA Chief Deputy Gavin Duffy
WA DOH Secretary Dennis Worsham
FBI Seattle Field Office SAC Richard Collodi
DOJ Eastern WA US Attorney Peter Serrano

RE: Cross-Jurisdiction Criminal Enterprise Ring

Honorable Colleagues,

This letter is to alert you to a dangerous and violent criminal enterprise exposed by the good and faithful work of Yakima Health District employees and a request for immediate coordination to remove this threat from our communities.

In early 2025 the Yakima Health District Environmental Health team began regularly encountering illegal food vendors. Encounters meant to enforce basic food safety requirements quickly turned violent. Law enforcement must now accompany YHD employees to visit these sites. Furthermore, through routine training sessions scheduled across local and state jurisdictions, it was discovered that Yakima County was not the only public health entity to uncover this escalating threat to public safety.

Major highlights are as follows:

- YHD began making contact with the unlicensed vendors (UV) back in February 2025 and encounters continue many times each day across Yakima County.
- YHD would confirm there was no valid permit on file and close the UV and have food products denatured/destroyed that were found to be outside of food safety compliance.
- After several (~8-10) contacts the UV began to become more hostile and aggressive. One even picked up a knife and began yelling at YHD staff.
- YHD then involved YPD to join in on making contacts with the UV.
- After several attempts with YPD the UV still kept coming back to operate.

- YHD, YPD, and City of Yakima Code Compliance conducted an emphasis patrol on May 24th from 5pm-10pm and contacted 5 different vendors. 2 of which were repeat offenders, Mr. Tacos and Tacos Vane. The individuals working those two stands were cited under the City of Yakima Municipal Code (Penalty of \$500 for each individual).
- They were operating less than 48 hours later.
- YHD has had communications with King, Thurston, Pierce, Benton, Franklin Counties here in Washington. Additionally, we've been told and/or have confirmed that Portland, OR (Multnomah County), Maricopa County, Arizona, and Southern Nevada (Las Vegas area) are experiencing the same issue.
- Most of the cities and counties dealing with this issue have been able to track the vehicles used in this operation to individuals in California. However, the workers of these stands will not give accurate information to make contact with the individuals (believed to be the organizers) in California.
- Now we are seeing more of these vendors using U-Haul rental vans instead of the white cargo vans previously used.

The massive influx of illegal aliens in the months preceding February 2025 have brought untold dangerous criminals into our communities to commit organized crime against our residents and visitors. We have great concern these criminals are also human trafficking the individuals who are forced to provide these illegal services.

We urgently request that your offices coordinate with each other, local Law Enforcement and your respective peers in the western United States to determine a course of action to address this issue. We recognize that a Public Health Board is not a typical criminal enterprise referral source, but we are convinced by the preponderance of evidence provided to us by Yakima Health District employees that they have encountered a very real threat to our communities, state and nation. Their safety and that of our citizens must be protected and preserved. We respectfully await your response and questions.

In service,

Yakima Health District Board of Health Members

SIGNATURE AND DATE

Patricia Byers, City Representative & Board Chair

Name | Title

Patricia Byers

Patricia Byers (Sep 3, 2025 15:44:09 PDT)

Signature

09/03/2025

Date

LaDon Linde, Commissioner & Vice Chair

Name | Title

LaDon Linde

LaDon Linde (Sep 4, 2025 11:05:29 PDT)

Signature

09/04/2025

Date

Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

Name | Title

Amanda McKinney

Amanda McKinney (Sep 2, 2025 11:06:00 PDT)

Signature

09/02/2025

Date

Kyle Curtis, Commissioner

Name | Title

Kyle Curtis

Signature

09/02/2025

Date

Edie Dibble, Citizen Representative

Name | Title

Edie Dibble

Edie Dibble (Sep 2, 2025 11:18:54 PDT)

Signature

09/02/2025

Date

Daylene Ackerman, Citizen Representative

Name | Title

Daylene Ackerman

Daylene Ackerman (Sep 3, 2025 12:44:11 PDT)

Signature

09/03/2025

Date

Yakima County Board of Health

SIGNATURE AND DATE

Dr. Dave Atteberry, Citizen Representative

Name | Title



Signature

09/02/2025

Date

Alicia Stromme Tobin, Citizen Representative

Name | Title



[Alicia Stromme Tobin \(Sep 2, 2025 19:56:15 PDT\)](#)

Signature

09/02/2025

Date

Katherine Saluskin, Tribal Representative

Name | Title



Signature

09/03/2025

Date

Lupita Carrillo, City Representative

Name | Title



[Lupita Carrillo \(Sep 9, 2025 14:36:37 PDT\)](#)

Signature

09/09/2025

Date

Cc:

Yakima County Prosecutor, Joseph Brusic

Yakima County Commissioners, Amanda McKinney, LaDon Linde, Kyle Curtis

Yakima Valley Council of Governments Interim Director, Jim Restucci