

**X. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT/LABOR RELATIONS
SECTION (OFM/LRS)**

AND

WASHINGTON PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION (WPEA)

**Washington State Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) Laboratory Safety
Inspections for FY26**

This MOU sets forth the WSDA's acknowledgements and agreements regarding the Yakima Chemical and Hop Lab Independent Safety Inspection:

- Employees working in the WSDA Yakima Chemical and Hop Laboratory have unique and significant safety risks associated with their work.
- WSDA is aware from employees that recent critical incidents in the laboratory have undermined employee confidence in laboratory safety protocols.
- WSDA agrees with WPEA and WSDA employees that safety in the laboratory is of paramount importance, as is employee confidence in the sufficiency of safety protocols.
- Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026, the Yakima Chemical and Hop Lab will coordinate to have an independent safety evaluation of the Lab and its safety protocols conducted by a ~~qualified outside party.~~ The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) Safety and Health Program.
 - ~~○ The qualified outside party will be selected by WSDA based on cost and availability.~~
 - ~~○ The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Safety and Health Program is considered a qualified outside party.~~
- The final report and any recommendations from the independent safety evaluation will be shared by WSDA with WPEA.

- Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026, special UMCC meetings focused on WSDA laboratories and laboratory-related issues, including safety concerns can be scheduled once every six months, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by WSDA and WPEA.

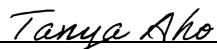
This MOU will expire on June 30, 2026.

Dated [Insert Date]

An electronic signature to this Agreement shall be given effect as if it were an original signature.

For the Employer

For the Union



Negotiator Name, Title
OFM/SHR Labor Relations &
Compensation Policy Section



Union Representative Name, Title
Name of Union