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**From:** Hwang, Olivia C - DOA <oliviac.hwang@wisconsin.gov>  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 8:22 AM  
**To:** Rep.Tittl - LEGIS <Rep.Tittl@legis.wisconsin.gov>, Rep.Sortwell - LEGIS <Rep.Sortwell@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** Follow Up

Dear Rep. Tittl and Rep. Sortwell,

I understand from Capitol Police that you chose not to take advantage of the opportunity to maintain your tree display on the first floor of the Rotunda, and as a result the display had to be removed this morning from the ground floor.

As a reminder of what has been previously communicated to you: DOA does not have the authority to approve a display on the ground floor of the rotunda per a policy enacted by the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board (SCERB) in 1978. Additionally, as we have discussed before, the Governor cannot override this statutory authority the legislature has vested in SCERB. These long-standing and consistent permitting rules have been used for over 40 years to ensure a fair and equitable process for freedom of speech exercises in the Capitol, regardless of an individual's political leaning.

I encourage you to touch base with your colleague Rep. Loudenbeck, who chairs SCERB, regarding your desire to display a tree on the ground floor of the Rotunda. Rep. Loudenbeck recently applied for and received a permit for a tree display on the first floor of the Rotunda; she may be interested in partnering with you for a tree display. You also have the right to display a tree or any other holiday decorations in your office or any other space controlled by the legislature such as the Assembly or Senate chambers.

Finally, I hope you will once again consider sharing with your constituents the opportunity to spread holiday cheer by making "Hope" themed holiday decorations which will be distributed to veterans' homes, hospitals, and nursing homes across the state. During this challenging year, the Administration wanted to share the spirit of the holiday season directly with our state's most vulnerable populations, rather than simply having one display that is inaccessible to most Wisconsinites. More information about the "Hope" ornaments is available [here](#).

As always, I wish you both a healthy, safe and joyous Christmas.

Respectfully,  
Olivia Hwang



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