

Mr. Charles Jenkins, Jr.  
Publix Super Markets Corporate Office  
PO Box 407  
Lakeland, FL 33802-0407

July 20, 2007

Dear Mr. Jenkins,

We write you today as members of the Alliance for Fair Food, to encourage Publix to take a leadership role in ending forced labor, poverty wages and other human rights abuses faced by farmworkers harvesting tomatoes for the fast-food industry.

The Alliance for Fair Food is a broad network of human rights, religious, student and grassroots organizations that work with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a farmworker organization in Florida, to promote principles and practices of socially responsible purchasing in the corporate food industry that advance and ensure the human rights of farmworkers.

There is a human rights crisis in Florida's tomato fields and the situation of the farmworkers who harvest your company's tomatoes is as urgent as it is appalling. The good news is that there is a proven model for change. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers has reached agreements with both McDonald's and Yum! Brands to work together to improve conditions and wages in the fields. The CIW-McDonald's agreement, cemented on April 9, 2007, guarantees a penny more per pound to workers harvesting tomatoes for McDonald's, a code of conduct based on the principle of worker participation, and a collaborative effort to develop a third party mechanism for monitoring conditions in the fields. It builds upon the agreement reached by the CIW and Yum! Brands in March of 2005 to make similar changes in Taco Bell's supply chain. **We now turn with expectation to your company for leadership in expanding the precedents established by the CIW, McDonald's, and Yum Brands throughout the fast-food industry.**

It is vitally important that your company take an active role in advancing human rights and fair wages for farmworkers because your company's low-cost, high volume tomato purchasing practices help to create conditions in the fields where sub-poverty wages and other human rights abuses flourish. Through these purchasing practices, fast-food companies and supermarkets such as yours greatly profit from and are responsible for farmworker poverty and abuses. However, your company also has the power to rectify conditions and wages in your supply chain by working with the CIW to implement socially responsible purchasing practices, such as those exemplified by McDonald's and Yum! Brands.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is internationally recognized, human rights award-winning farmworker organization based in Immokalee, FL. It has organized more than 3,500 farmworkers, assisted the US Department of Justice and FBI in investigating and prosecuting cases of modern-day slavery, and has worked creatively and effectively with both Yum! Brands and McDonald's. Working with the CIW will enable your company to ensure to your consumers that your company's tomatoes are not picked by farmworkers who are exploited or enslaved, but instead that your company is part of the movement for fair food.



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At the table are a proven model, the expertise of the CIW, and a tremendous opportunity to join two major fast-food corporations in advancing fair food. We urge you to meet as soon as possible with the CIW to discuss how your company can become a leader in socially responsible practices that ensure the human rights of farmworkers in your supply chain.

Sincerely,

**Alliance for Fair Food Founding Committee**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights  
National Social and Economic Rights Initiative  
Student Farmworker Alliance  
Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida

**Faith**

Executive Council, The Episcopal Church  
General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries  
Church World Service  
Pax Christi USA  
Sojourners  
National Farm Worker Ministries  
Interfaith Worker Justice  
Tikkun Community/ Network of Spiritual Progressives  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice, Social Action Committee  
Buddhist Peace Fellowship  
Agricultural Missions, Inc.  
Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida  
Catholic Diocese of Venice, Office of Peace and Justice  
First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Gainesville, FL  
Workers Interfaith Network (WIN)  
Brother David Andrews, CSC  
Arnold Nelson, Jr. President, Disciples Home Missions of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the (U.S.A.)

**Human Rights**

Amnesty International USA  
Global Rights  
Oxfam America  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
School of the Americas Watch  
U.S. Human Rights Network  
Campaign for Labor Rights  
International Federation for Human Rights

**Labor**

The American Federation of Labor- Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

American Rights at Work  
International Labor Rights Forum  
United Workers Association

### **Student & Youth**

United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS)  
Student Labor Action Project (SLAP)  
United Students for Fair Trade  
Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)  
Student Action with Farmworkers  
Student/Farmworker Alliance of Central Michigan University

### **Community & Other**

World Hunger Year  
Family Farm Defenders  
California Institute for Rural Studies  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA)  
Workers Solidarity Alliance  
Rainforest Action Network  
Other Worlds Collaborative  
Just Harvest from Food to Fork  
South Central Farmers Cooperative  
Catalyst Project  
Centro Hispano "Cuzcatlán"  
McKinney Neighborhood Outreach  
Minnesota Immigrants' Rights Action Coalition (MIRAc)  
Witness for Peace Upper Midwest  
Fair Food New York City  
Lawrence Fair Food



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