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DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 15, 2009

Mr. Thomas Dillon
CEO
The Kroger Company
1014 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Mr. Dillon:

As Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, I am deeply concerned with the difficult conditions facing farmworkers in our state. As you may know, farmworkers earnings are below the poverty level and seven cases of forced labor have been federally prosecuted here in Florida.

As a major purchaser of tomatoes from suppliers in Florida, The Kroger Company is in a most strategic position to help correct these enormous injustices. This can be achieved by entering into an agreement with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, similar to the ones signed by Taco Bell/Yum Brands, McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, Bon Apetit and Whole Foods. Most recently, East Coast, a major purchaser of Florida tomatoes, also entered into solidarity with the above companies.

By entering into an agreement with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, more desirable working conditions can be put into effect. A proper monitoring system involving both your company and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers can go a long way in recognizing the human dignity of the workers. This action would also signal that The Kroger Company wishes to ensure "zero" tolerance for forced labor and human trafficking.

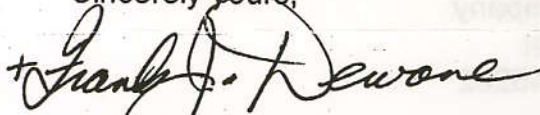
It may be true that you cannot control how your suppliers (or the major tomato growers) treat their workers. On the other hand, Taco Bell/Yum Brands, McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, Bon Apetit, East Coast, and Whole Foods have all agreed that they have tremendous influence over their suppliers, and The Kroger Company can itself improve the wages and provide economic relief for the workers by paying one penny a pound more.

Mr. David Dillon, CEO
Page Two
October 15, 2009

I am confident that you will agree that for far too long, these workers have had to function on the margins of our society. Please join other companies to help correct this situation.

Thanking you for the serious consideration you give to the matter, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

FJD/clc
cc: Neil D. Michaud