

April 15, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

I am writing to express a word of support for the efforts of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to enlist Publix Super Markets to join other major corporations such as Yum Brands, Burger King, Subway and McDonald's in participating in a program to improve the lives of farm workers in Florida.

Like other officials of Christian churches, I have been supportive of the C.I.W. for several years. I have gotten to know this organization and its staff as a part of my ministry in Florida. I have come to know them as persons who have a deep commitment to just treatment of farm workers, and who work with corporate entities to find sensible, practical means to overcome situations which are unjust.

Last month I met with Governor Charlie Crist along with four other officials of Christian churches. I expressed my deep appreciation to Governor Crist for his recent meeting with representatives of the C.I.W. It is my observation that our Governor perceives the C.I.W. as a fine organization which has had a record of major achievement in thwarting slave practices, and which has developed excellent relationships with several major corporations in improving the lives of farm workers and their families.

It is my hope and prayer that the great corporation of Publix, which has had such an exemplary record of public service, will join others in being a part of a program that is a reasonable and good way to address the concerns of farm workers. It is my impression that in the beginning leaders of corporations are leery of meeting with the C.I.W. Then they become aware of the fairness which is in the simple program that the C.I.W. has created to help improve the wages of farm workers, and they also become aware of public support for such fairness. Finally, there seems to be genuine enthusiasm by officers of corporations to be a part of a movement that makes sense and does good.

I would be happy to discuss my knowledge of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers with you or any member of your staff, if you desire.

You will continue to be in my prayers as you carry your responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Whitaker

TWW/jkp