April 4, 2020

UFCW Local 7 Sisters and Brothers,

I write to update you about the meeting I had with the Governor’s Policy Advisors yesterday. The Governor agreed to amend the HELP Rule and add Food Processing Workers. If you have tested positive or show signs of COVID-19 symptoms, Mission Foods will now have to pay you for 4 days of paid leave. Please see the below rule:

The Colorado HELP Rules were adopted as temporary or emergency rules on March 11, 2020. The Rules then were amended on March 26, 2020, to modify Rule 3.1 to add coverage for:

(A) an additional industry category, “retail establishments that sell groceries”; and

(B) not just those “being tested” for COVID-19 (as in the original rules), but also those “under instructions from a health care provider to quarantine or isolate due to a risk of having COVID-19.”

The Rules now are being amended on April 3, 2020, to modify Rule 3.1 further to add coverage for:

(C) an additional industry category, “food and beverage manufacturing.”

These rules will remain in effect for the longer of (a) 30 days after adoption, or (b) the duration of the State of Disaster Emergency declared by the Governor, up to a maximum of 120 days after the adoption of these temporary rules.

A Doctors note is not required to receive the paid leave. We are also working with various community groups and faith leaders to help us push the company to provide additional paid leave, PPE, and hazard pay.

Although the Governor has agreed to add these benefits to our Food Processing Workers, he has not agreed to allow us to service inside of the plant. We have demanded that he allow us to be in the plant to check on the safety of our members, line speeds, and to enforce the contract. We will continue to fight to get inside the plant, but rest assured that we are fighting on the outside. Please continue to contact our office, Sarah Negrette or Ramon Zuniga. We are addressing all issues that are brought to our attention. If you are not receiving text messages, please contact our office and provide your cell phone number and we will add you to the text blast.

We need your help with identifying workers who may be out due to COVID-19 related issues. Please contact us so we can reach out to them. We are also posting communications on our social media. Please follow us on Facebook: UFCWLocal7R, Twitter: @UFCW_7, and Instagram: UFCW_LOCAL_7 for updates.

In Solidarity,

Kim C. Cordova
UFCW Local 7 President
UFCW International Vice President