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## ANOTHER LOCAL 7 MEMBER DIES TODAY AS JBS THREATENS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST UNION FOR ENSURING SAFETY OF ITS WORKERS AT GREELEY PLANT

*Despite Threats, Colorado's Largest Private Sector Union Will Continue to Work with JBS & Government Health Authorities to Ensure a Safe Work Environment for its 3,000 Members at the Greeley Plant*

**DENVER** – On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Kim Cordova, President of [UFCW Local 7](#), which represents 3,000 workers at the JBS meat processing plant in Greeley, Colorado, received a [Cease and Desist letter from JBS](#) for the union's efforts in ensuring workplace safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of today, April 26<sup>th</sup>, five JBS employees have died from COVID-19, including four UFCW Local 7 members, Way Ler, who passed away today, and Saul Longoria Sanchez, Eduardo Conchas de la Cruz, and Tibursio Rivera López, who were not provided masks or safety guidelines such as social distancing. According to Weld County, over 120 JBS employees been confirmed COVID-19 positive, 74 of whom are UFCW Local 7 members.

In response to the Cease and Desist letter – threatening to stifle the Union's voice, and those of its members, as well as pursuing claims for unfounded, speculative, and unrecoverable damages – UFCW Local 7 has responded with a letter to JBS on April 25<sup>th</sup>, rebutting false arguments and misstatements.

**Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, issued the following statement on the JBS Cease and Desist letter to UFCW Local 7:**

“UFCW Local 7, our members, JBS and federal, state and local government have one common goal: to ensure that the JBS plant in Greeley is a safe place to work so it can resume business. However, all workers have not been tested for COVID-19, which contradicts a Public Health Order and despite promises by many government officials, such as from [Vice President Mike Pence stating he would ensure tests flow to the plant](#), Governor Jared Polis and Senator Cory Gardner.

By renegeing on this promise and opening the JBS plant up last week despite not testing every worker, Weld County will continue to be a COVID-19 hot spot in Colorado since many workers could be presently infected and asymptomatic, spreading coronavirus in the plant and the community.

UFCW Local 7 recognizes that the JBS plant is an important employer in the Greeley community and many of our families depend on the company's success, but we will not stop advocating for the health, safety and wellbeing of our members. We owe it to the memory of our fallen members – Way Ler, who passed away today, and Saul Longoria Sanchez, Eduardo Conchas de la Cruz, and Tibursio Rivera López– to continue to seek additional safety measures at the JBS plant so no other family has to go through what these families are enduring.

The Union's advocacy for the safety, health and wellbeing of our members during an unprecedented global pandemic is part of our job and our Constitution and we will aggressively defend any attempts to stifle our right to do so.”

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*[Local 7](#), the largest Union in Colorado is affiliated with United Food and Commercial Workers International Union which represents over 1.3 million workers in the United States and Canada, and is one of the largest private sector Unions in North America. UFCW members work in a wide range of industries, including retail food, food processing, agriculture, retail sales, and health care.*