

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



April 30, 2020

Contact:

Marcela Salazar | msalazar@skdknick.com | 202-567-1163

Bridget Bartol | bbartol@skdknick.com | 954-594-0689

UNION LOSES ANOTHER MEMBER TO COVID-19, AS POSITIVE CASES DOUBLE AT THE GREELEY JBS PLANT

Colorado's Largest Private Sector Union President Outlines a List of Demands to Protect Workers from the Global Pandemic at the JBS Plant

DENVER – Kim Cordova, President of [UFCW Local 7](#), which represents 3,000 workers at the JBS meat processing plant in Greeley, Colorado, issued the following statement:

“With a heavy heart we announce that another Union member has succumbed to COVID-19, making this the sixth death at the JBS plant. The plant, and by extension the Greeley community, has become a COVID-19 hotspot in Colorado. We have learned that the COVID-19 positive cases of workers at the JBS meat processing plant doubled from 120 to 245.

The uptick in cases in a matter of days shows how serious this crisis is and the dangers that workers are facing every day just trying to do their jobs. That is why we have issued the following list of demands of specific health and safety actions needed to protect essential workers and the national food supply chain:

1. Mandate meatpacking companies to provide the highest level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through access to the federal stockpile.
2. Ensure daily testing of workers and their communities.
3. Provide paid sick and family leave.
4. Ensure workers have access to quality and affordable health care, that includes long-term hospital coverage.

5. Mandate enforceable federal safety standards.
6. Mandate enforceable strong health CDC guidelines.
7. Ensure constant monitoring by federal inspectors to enforce safety standards.
8. Strengthen whistleblower laws for workers.
9. Protect workers' health and safety by ensuring they have access to union representation.
10. All workers receive a death benefit.

Our members share a common goal with JBS, federal, state and local authorities: to ensure that the plant continues to function to protect the food supply chain and to protect jobs, but it must be done in a way that protects the workers so no one else has to die.”

#

[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.