May 4, 2020

Sisters and Brothers working at JBS:

On April 28, 2020, President Trump issued an Executive Order that invokes the Defense Production Act to mandate that meatpacking plants stay open to prevent any further supply shortages but does not directly mandate any worker safety standards.

We are asking elected State and Federal leaders to put aside politics and protect you by doing the following:

1. Designate frontline workers as first responders to ensure priority access to daily testing for you and your community, and the highest level of personal protective equipment.
2. Mandate clear and enforceable guidelines to ensure that every employer lives up to the highest safety standards you deserve.
3. Enforce physical distancing.
4. Provide full paid sick leave.
5. Ensure that plants are constantly monitored by federal inspectors to enforce safety standards.
6. Protect worker health and safety rights by ensuring access to representation.

It is imperative that you contact your Union Representatives to report any safety issues in the plant immediately. In addition, please report any inappropriate behavior by management such as bullying or acts of intimidation forcing workers to report to work sick. Do not hesitate to contact our office.

Your union contract is still in effect so if you feel that your rights under the law or contract are being violated please contact us immediately. We also need your help identifying any of your coworkers who are in the hospital or are in need of help receiving either sick pay or their short-term disability.

These are extraordinary times, however rest assured that we are in this together and your union will continue to fight for the protections you deserve.

In Solidarity,

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