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LOCAL 7 PRESIDENT CALLS ON JBS TO COME TO THE TABLE TO DISCUSS PROTECTIONS FOR JBS WORKERS IN GREELEY

*Union Issues Statement After Reports of Work Interruption at JBS Meatpacking Plant in
Colorado*

DENVER – Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7 released the following statement as the Union continues to advocate for fair wages and increased protections for workers during the COVID-19 pandemic:

“As JBS confirmed, there was a brief work interruption at the Greeley plant. Local 7 was not involved and continues to gather the facts as to what occurred.

However, it has been reported that JBS confiscated employee badges of hundreds of workers and sent them home, even those who did not participate in today’s event. This action appears to be an attempt by JBS to strong-arm its employees into accepting a less competitive wage increase that would lock them into a five-year agreement, with little to no chance for any further wage increases.

To date, the company refuses to discuss necessary safety improvements nor engage in any discussions concerning rising health care costs in these negotiations. These issues are not side-line issues. More workers have died at the JBS Greeley plant than any other meatpacking plant in the US. And, just this week, it was reported a new outbreak occurred among five JBS interns at the same plant.

Wages are important, but agreeing to more money in the short term does not provide stability or long-term comfort for a family if their father or mother is dead. JBS should agree to discuss all issues related to its workers, some of which are life and death concerns, but has thus far been uncooperative. That is the essence of bargaining. JBS workers have suffered enough. We cannot speak to what other local unions do, only ours. And what we know is that Local 7 has some of the best contracts for a reason: because we fight for the best deal for our members. Workers in Colorado deserve their voices to be heard. Local 7 is asking JBS to come to the table to ensure that happens.”

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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.

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