



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UFCW LOCAL 7 FIGHTS HARD FOR MEMBERS AT JBS GREELEY; DEMANDS INDUSTRY STANDARD PAY & IMPROVED SAFETY MEASURES

Meat Processing Plant with the Most COVID-19 Deaths in U.S. Refuses to Agree to Union's Demands for the 3,000 UFCW Local 7 Members Who Contribute to U.S. Food Supply

DENVER – Yesterday, Monday, July 13, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 7 (UFCW 7), which represents more than 3,000 JBS meat processing plant workers in Greeley, Colorado, met with JBS executives following reports that the company was attempting to negotiate a substandard mid-contract salary offer directly with Union members. President Kim Cordova, and Union members employed by JBS, held the meeting with hopes of securing a fair, mid-contract agreement that would include industry standard pay, including hazard pay during the current global pandemic, as well as enhanced safety measures and worker protections. The JBS Greeley plant has been a consistent COVID-19 hot spot in Colorado, infecting almost 300 workers, and remains the plant with the most deaths of meat processing plant workers due to the virus.

Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, issued the following statement after JBS failed to reach a fair deal for workers:

“This mid-contract offer by JBS is another attempt by the company to take advantage of our members who have been on the frontlines as essential workers during this pandemic. Instead of correcting the in plant conditions that led to an outbreak -- that to date has caused almost 300 confirmed COVID-19 cases and six Union member deaths-- JBS attempted to con workers directly into a bad salary deal at an extremely vulnerable time. UFCW Local 7 will not stand for such tactics.

The horrific stories our members told at the meeting with JBS about the current conditions at the plant included a continuation of the ‘work while sick culture,’ supervisors not wearing masks, workers being forced to drink water from unsanitary sources, a female member being physically assaulted by a supervisor, and lack of social distancing in many stations, including lack of staggered breaks, just to name a few.

While losing six Union brothers and sisters, who were beloved members of the community, our members continued to work on the frontlines at JBS Greeley to keep the U.S. food supply chain secure in the midst of a global pandemic. Our Essential Heroes deserve to be compensated fairly, to be adequately protected on the job, and to be treated with respect and dignity.

The Union continues to demand better safety measures and worker protections including high-quality PPE, enhanced social distancing measures, daily COVID-19 testing, as well as industry-standard wages, including hazard pay, and paid sick leave, without the threat of retaliation from the company. UFCW Local 7 will not stop fighting until our members get the deal they deserve.”

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Local 7, is the largest private-sector Union in Colorado and Wyoming. It is affiliated with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union which represents over 1.3 million workers in the United States and Canada, 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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