



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AFTER BRAGGING ABOUT SECURING COVID-19 TESTS FOR JBS WORKERS, UFCW LOCAL 7 ASKS “WHERE ARE THE TESTS, CORY?”

Colorado Senator Cory Gardner and JBS’s failure to deliver on the promised COVID-19 tests put workers and the public at risk. Now JBS Greeley workers face more than 30% increase in health care premiums.

DENVER – Since April, Colorado Senator Cory Gardner has continued to [brag to the media](#) that he secured 5,000 COVID-19 tests for meat-processing plant workers at JBS Greeley in Greeley, Colorado. The problem? The tests were never made available to workers. The JBS Greeley plant became one of the first outbreak sites in Colorado and continues to lead the nation in meat-processing plant worker deaths. Now, JBS USA has notified the Union it will [increase JBS workers health care premiums by more than 30 percent—as much as \\$800 more a year per family member](#).

UFCW Local 7 is calling on Sen. Cory Gardner to explain where the 5,000 tests have gone after specifically claiming he leveraged his relationship with Vice President Mike Pence to acquire them in order to keep the plant running.

Kim Cordova, President of [UFCW Local 7](#) who represents more than 3,000 workers at JBS Greeley, issued the following statement:

“Our members, and frankly all Coloradoans, are tired of the broken promises from Senator Gardner. Nearly 100 days ago, Gardner touted an agreement with Vice President Pence to secure COVID-19 tests, but has since stayed silent as our members call for increased safety measures and enforceable laws to protect them as they risk their lives just going to work.

In the months since his apparent testing victory, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has confirmed more than 300 positive cases and six of our members have paid the ultimate price of COVID-19: their lives. Time and again these workers are labeled essential, but are treated as disposable. We have come to expect this rhetoric from JBS, but we expect more from our elected leaders. Senator Gardner talks big but acts small - and where workers are concerned – doesn’t act at all.

It’s time Senator Gardner protects his constituents and not the companies that are putting profits ahead of our people’s lives. So, Cory, where are the tests?”

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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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