



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2020

Contact:

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

Jennifer Lee | jlee@skdknick.com | 415-828-0303

UFCW LOCAL 7 SAYS COMMUNITY DONATION WON'T MAKE UP FOR THE LIVES LOST AT JBS GREELEY PLANT

JBS' failure to protect workers with enhanced safety measures has resulted in JBS Greeley leading the nation in meat processing plant worker deaths.

DENVER – UFCW Local 7 says JBS USA's one-time donation to Greeley community organizations through its "Hometown Strong" initiative will not make up for the company's disregard for the safety of its essential workers. To date, its failure to respond to the dangers of COVID-19 may have resulted in the six deaths and more than 300 confirmed cases at the JBS Greeley meat processing plant.

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

"JBS may label its workers as essential, but the reality is they treat them as disposable. They'll publicly claim they are 'providing full pay and benefits' to vulnerable workers, but the reality is they are denying the compensation claims from workers fighting to survive the negative health effects from being placed on a ventilator and the families of those who have passed away.

Today's announcement is another smoke-and-mirrors attempt to distract from the company's failure to protect its workers and buy time as it plans to further burden JBS Greeley workers by increasing their healthcare premiums by more than 30 percent—that is an approximate increase of \$800 a year per family member. If JBS wanted to sincerely show its commitment to support the Greeley community, they would use some of their record-breaking profits to pay these essential workers a fair wage instead of punishing them with crushing health care costs because the company failed to protect them.

A one-time donation will not make up for the lives that have been lost nor mitigate the dangers our members face each and every day they enter the Greeley plant. That is why Local 7 continues to demand JBS do more to protect these essential workers, including access to high-quality PPE and real testing, enhanced safety measures, removal of policies that promote a 'Work While Sick' culture, and provide paid sick leave and hourly hazard pay for workers."

###

[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.

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)