



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JBS BOUGHT SEN. CORY GARDNER’S SILENCE (R-CO) FOR \$24,000 IN POLITICAL DONATIONS, WHILE THE 5,000 TESTS HE PROMISED FOR GREELEY WORKERS WERE CANCELLED

Colorado Senator Gardner Accepted Money from a Company Majority-Owned by Two Brazilians Under DOJ and SEC Investigation for Potential Violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Gardner’s Message to Coloradans is Loud and Clear: My Political Career Is More Important Than Your Lives.

DENVER – During the height of the pandemic, as hundreds of Coloradans in Greeley flooded local emergency rooms and hospitals sick with COVID-19, Senator Cory Gardner repeatedly and actively [misrepresented](#) the truth to Coloradans. He claimed to have secured and proudly took credit for securing 5,000 COVID-19 tests for meat processing plant workers at JBS in Greeley, Colorado thanks to his close relationship with Vice President Mike Pence. The workers at the plant, then a “COVID Hot Spot,” never received the “phantom” tests.

It took nearly three weeks for the JBS Greeley plant to shut down after the first confirmed case was reported. It wasn’t until dozens of JBS supervisors tested positive for COVID-19 that it chose to abruptly stop the testing before the plant workers even had access to testing.

Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, which represents 3,000 members employed by JBS Greeley, issued the following statement regarding the [Open Secrets data](#) that shows Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) received the second highest amount of political contributions from JBS this cycle:

“Federal, state, and local authorities were all, in varying degrees, complicit in JBS’ failure to protect thousands of workers, waiting weeks to ensure that basic safety measures were implemented as the pandemic struck the U.S. To date, over 300 UFCW Local 7 meatpacking members have been infected with COVID-19 and six have died. The failure to respond quickly to control the spread of this virus means JBS and some of our government officials at all levels, including Senator Cory Gardner, may very well have led to the death of six of our members. Regardless of how much campaign money Gardner takes from JBS, the families of our fallen members and the people of Colorado will not forget this in November. Colorado values trump corrupt special interests.”

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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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