



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CORY GARDNER DEFLECTS ANSWERING DEBATE QUESTION ABOUT SECURING 5,000 TESTS FOR JBS MEATPACKING WORKERS BECAUSE WORKERS WERE NEVER TESTED DURING THIS PERIOD**

*Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) Misled Coloradoans, Claiming Publicly that He Helped Secure Testing for JBS Workers from the Trump Administration; Yet Workers Were Never Tested During this Time*

**DENVER** – At the Colorado 9News senatorial debate between former Governor of Colorado John Hickenlooper and Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), the incumbent senator deflected and misled the public in his response to the second question from moderator Marshall Zelinger. Zelinger asked Senator Gardner to explain the status of 5,000 COVID-19 tests he claimed to have acquired, in partnership with the Trump administration, for the meatpacking workers at the JBS Greeley plant in April-- which was a national COVID-19 hot spot at that time.

**Kim Cordova, President of [UFCW Local 7](#) who represents more than 27,000 workers in Colorado and Wyoming, over 22,000 of which are essential workers, and 3,000 members who work at JBS in Greeley, issued the following statement:**

“The only thing Cory Gardner got right during tonight’s debate is that JBS’ workers are heroes. Unfortunately, that is where the truth ended for Cory Gardner. He has falsely claimed, [numerous times in the media](#), that in coordination with the Trump Administration he helped to secure 5,000 tests for workers. The same administration that allowed JBS, a foreign company with [numerous legal issues and indictments in this country](#) and beyond, to [write our federal government’s executive order to](#) keep plants open despite rampant spread.

“More than 300 Local 7 members employed by JBS Greeley have tested positive for COVID-19, and that number does not account for the hundreds of workers and their families infected with COVID-19 that overwhelmed Greeley’s hospitals in March and April, prompting Weld County’s Department of Public Health and Environment to [officially criticize the ‘Work While Sick’ culture at the plant](#). The slow response and failure of JBS and our public officials at all levels of government to protect these workers, their families, and the Weld County community, may have contributed to the deaths of six of our union brothers and sister, as well as several member’s family members.

“Gardner’s deflection in tonight’s debate does not erase the fact that he has acted with incompetence, misled the public about protecting Colorado’s essential workers, and [has received \\$24,000 in political donations](#) from JBS, according to the FEC. His record speaks for itself, and he is clearly not qualified and too compromised to be a Senator for Colorado for four more years.

“We stand with John Hickenlooper for the US Senate because he stands with our members on the issues that are important to them, including: putting worker safety first, ensuring fair wages, and protecting the Affordable Care Act. Governor Hickenlooper has met face-to-masked-face with our members and heard directly from them about what they need to be safe at work. He will fight on behalf of working families across Colorado, and not treat our state’s essential workers as disposable workers, like Gardner has.”

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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.*