

**\*\* EN ESPAÑOL A CONTINUACIÓN \*\***



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**AHEAD OF TELEMUNDO DENVER'S SENATE DEBATE, UFCW LOCAL 7 CALLS OUT COLORADO SEN. CORY GARDNER'S FAILURE TO PROTECT ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

*Gardner Continues His Legacy of Protecting Foreign Corporate Donors Like JBS Instead of Colorado's Essential Workers, Many of Whom are Hispanic*

**DENVER** – Ahead of tonight's airing of the Telemundo Denver debate between U.S. Senate candidates Sen. Cory Gardner and former Governor John Hickenlooper, UFCW Local 7 calls out Sen. Gardner for his failure to protect Colorado's essential and frontline workers, many of whom belong to Colorado's vibrant Hispanic community and risk their lives to protect the country's food supply chain during the pandemic.

**Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, which represents more than 27,000 workers in Colorado and Wyoming, including over 22,000 essential workers in healthcare, meatpacking, and grocery, issued the following statement:**

“Senator Cory Gardner’s lack of leadership, transparency, and basic management during the pandemic shows he is not prepared to handle the job of a U.S. Senator and fight for Coloradans in Washington. Gardner failed to help protect the members of UFCW Local 7, more than 22,000 of which are essential and frontline workers, and he did so to protect [his campaign contributions from foreign corporate interests like JBS](#), from which he has [accepted \\$24,000 in political donations](#), while workers got sick and died.

“Cory Gardner has failed Colorado’s Hispanic community. Latinos make up almost 22% of Colorado’s population, yet make up 38% of total [COVID-19](#) cases, and 23% of total COVID-19 total fatalities. In fact, at one point in May more than half of COVID-19 patients in Colorado were Hispanic according to state data.

“Our Union and the Greeley community witnessed firsthand how Cory Gardner and JBS, among others, failed Latinos. Hundreds of workers and their families flooded local emergency rooms with COVID-19, all while Gardner repeatedly and falsely [claimed](#) to secure 5,000 COVID-19 tests for the workers at JBS. The reality is that the workers at JBS never received the tests in March and April, when they were needed most. Lack of testing contributed to 300 Local 7 members getting the virus, and six of our members dying, four of which were Latino.

“This November, our members, and the state’s almost 700,000 eligible Latino voters, will stand with those who stand with us. Hispanic Coloradans will vote on jobs, the economy, and healthcare, but we will also vote for elected officials who do not lie to us, nor who accept thousands of dollars in political donations from companies that treat workers like disposable widgets because of their complexion and last name.

“UFCW Local 7 supports John Hickenlooper to represent hard-working Coloradans for the U.S. Senate. Governor John Hickenlooper is a long-time ally of working people, and has a track record of getting things done for all Coloradans, regardless of race and ethnicity and not just for those at the top. It’s time to say ‘adios’ to Cory Gardner.”

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