



May 27, 2020

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Bynum and Vice-Chair Barreto:

Good afternoon. For the record my name is Jeff Anderson and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of United Food & Commercial Workers Local 555. I am here today on behalf of more than 25,000 members in Oregon and SW Washington from industries ranging from grocery and pharmacy to meat processing and healthcare. UFCW is Oregon's largest private sector union.

Our members are on the frontline. We ask the committee to recognize the need for protections for the essential workers who are showing up every day during this crisis to support Oregon. One of these critical needs is a recognition that workers who are putting their lives on the line during this crisis deserve to have a presumption for pandemic exposure in our Workers' Compensation system.

For Local 555 this hits home. Nationally, over 160 workers in retail have died due to COVID-19 – with thousands more testing positive. This includes workers in Oregon.

We know there are 55+ cases of COVID-19 in over 25 locations represented by Local 555. Based on market share statistics we can estimate the true numbers are at least double that, or higher, within our industries.

We aren't doing enough. I am asking for your help. We need to make sure adequate protections are put in place when our workers are staying on the job. This includes UFCW members. They ensure public access to groceries and the medicines people need. They package and process our food. They are risking exposure to Coronavirus for public benefit. Many retail workers come into contact with hundreds of people a day. Other states are acting quickly to move policies forward to protect workers, including access to Workers' Compensation and testing. Oregon should do the same.

Workers answered the call after Governor Brown's March 23 Stay Home Stay Safe Executive Order. Protecting these people is essential. We are asking you to stand with us to ensure these same employees are covered in the event that they contract the virus. It is the least we can do.

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeff Anderson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Anderson  
Secretary-Treasurer, UFCW Local 555