



May 28, 2020

Chair Witt, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger, Members of the Committee:

Good morning. 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 throughout Oregon and SW Washington from industries ranging from grocery and pharmacy to fish processing and healthcare. UFCW is Oregon's largest private sector union.

Our members are on the frontline. Some are working in close proximity to others while processing our food. Others are serving up to hundreds of customers per day in retail. We ask the committee to recognize the need for protections for our members and other essential workers.

Our members are showing up every day during this crisis to support Oregon. The impact in our industries has been significant. Around the country the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rises every day.

To improve these statistics, we must have adequate social distancing, sufficient personal protective equipment for workers, and access to testing. When workers are putting their health and welfare, even their lives, on the line we must have policies in place to safely guard them.

- **Social Distancing** – We are requesting that workstations be in compliance with CDC social distancing guidelines. This may mean that line speeds within food processing plants must be slowed down to ensure safe distancing.
- **Adequate PPE** – Facemasks and gloves should be mandatory in work sites within critical supply chain industries for employees. The state should be using its purchasing power to provide personal protective equipment, at cost or with subsidies, for Oregon's small employers and food processing facilities to help get the economy up and running again. It is imperative that within the food supply chain that worker safety should be the first priority, in order to ensure safe food for the consumer.
- **Access to Testing** – We must move towards universal testing and contact tracing to help identify outbreaks and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

It is in the interest of workers to work, and to get our economy moving again. We must do this in a safe manner to avoid creating additional spikes in exposure to the virus, which would exacerbate our existing public health crisis.

I appreciate the opportunity to present today and would be happy to answer any questions.

Jeff Anderson
Secretary-Treasurer, UFCW Local 555