



President
Matthew Utecht

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Gov. Tim Walz
Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 18, 2020

Dear Governor Walz,

As president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local Union 663, which represents 13,200 workers throughout Minnesota, I want to thank you for your leadership at this critical time.

Our UFCW members in grocery stores, retail establishments, and food processing plants are on the front lines of the coronavirus outbreak working around the clock to keep these businesses open and ensure that families in our communities have the essential food and supplies they need.

Keeping our communities healthy and safe is our first priority, but our members need strong worker protections like paid leave to continue doing these vital jobs.

Members of Congress have given us nothing but partisan gridlock and many major corporations are failing to strengthen their own paid leave policies for these workers.

Today, on behalf of UFCW Local 663 and our 13,200 members, I am calling on you to do the right thing by recognizing Minnesota's grocery, retail, and food processing workers as Tier 1 critical first responders.

With the designation of these hardworking men and women as first responders, we ask that you use the power of your executive order to mandate that all of these workers receive at least two weeks of paid leave, essential childcare for school age children, and the additional

benefits Tier 1 provides. This will ensure that our members can continue to serve their communities without having to choose between their health and their paycheck.

Our families and communities need leaders with the courage to stand up for these workers and do the right thing by ensuring that they have paid leave and can continue to perform this essential work. These workers help to power Minnesota's economy every day and their courage and dedication is needed now more than ever. We are asking you to stand with them now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Utecht". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Utecht
President
UFCW Local 663