

*President*  
Matthew Utecht

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Paul Crandall

*Director of Packing*  
Michael Potter

[ufcw663.org](http://ufcw663.org)

**BROOKLYN CENTER OFFICE**  
6160 Summit Drive N., Ste 600  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430  
Office 763-525-1500 or 800-292-4105  
Fax 763-525-0680

**WORTHINGTON OFFICE**  
1039 Oxford Street  
P.O. Box 183  
Worthington, MN 56187  
Office 507-376-4234  
Fax 507-376-6604

Senator Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

March 18, 2020

Dear Senator Smith,

As president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local Union 663, which represents 13,200 workers throughout Minnesota, I am writing to ask you to stand up for our hardworking families most at risk during the coronavirus outbreak.

Our UFCW members in grocery stores, retail establishments, and food processing plants are on the front lines, 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.

Our members have been disappointed to see partisan gridlock slowing the response from Congress and limiting the relief proposals that have been voted on. While the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was intended to help American workers, its failure to provide essential paid leave for 80 percent of our country's workforce is deeply troubling.

With many companies also failing to strengthen their own paid leave policies for their workers, there has never been a greater need for strong leadership from you and your colleagues in Washington.


Today, on behalf of UFCW Local 663 and our 13,200 members, I am calling on you and your fellow members of Congress to do the right thing by amending the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to recognize

our country's grocery, retail, and food processing workers as first responders.

In designating these hardworking men and women as first responders, we ask that you use the federal relief legislation to guarantee that all of these workers receive at least two weeks of paid leave. 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