



***Via Facsimile and
Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested***
September 29, 2006

Mr. Rich Cox
Group Vice President
The Vons Companies, Inc.
618 Michillinda Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91007

Dear Mr. Cox:

We reply to the letter of September 22 in which your representative expressed an interest in negotiating collectively with Ralphs Grocery Company and The New Albertsons as in 2003. Although prior to 2003 this approach served both the employees and the companies exceedingly well, your company's unethical – and often unlawful – actions before, during, and after the strike/lockout during which your company colluded to rob workers of affordable health care and a fair wage leave us no choice but to refuse your invitation. Given this reality, we intend to bargain with each employer as a separate unit.

It is understood that the active concealment of each employer in the previous negotiations led to the present intolerable situation. With Ralphs committing hundreds and possibly thousands of felonies and then splitting its ill-begotten profits among the three employers, there was no way a fair collective bargaining agreement could have been reached.

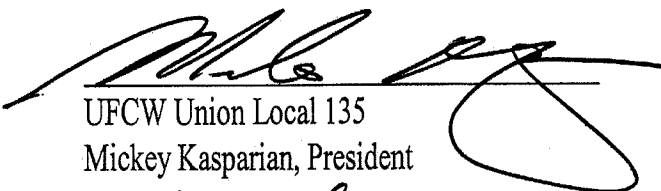
You collectively undermined the total collective bargaining process with white collar crime that has not been replicated anywhere in corporate America in dealing with unions. The following are among the crimes that were committed:

- Albertsons and Ralphs, and probably Vons, never paid contributions to the Trust Funds during the dispute. Some have still not been paid.
- Ralphs obstructed justice by lying to the NLRB.
- Both Albertson's representative and chief negotiator and Ralphs' representative and chief negotiator misled the California Unemployment Insurance Board by actively lying under oath and misstating facts concerning thousands of working employees.

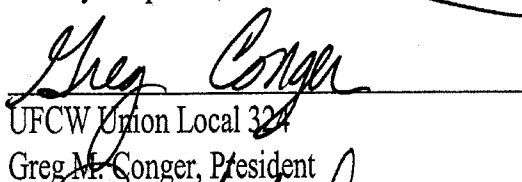
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Your employees, whom we proudly represent, deserve nothing less than a fair and honest contract negotiation. Given our experience negotiating with you collectively in 2003 and 2004, we simply cannot – in good conscience – allow you to be positioned to repeat the unethical and unlawful collusive activities that had such a disastrous outcome for workers and consumers in 2003-04.

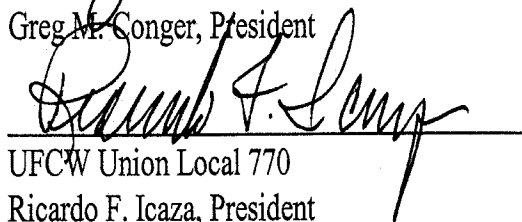
Sincerely,



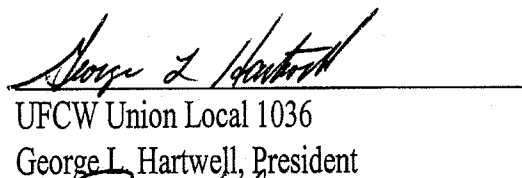
UFCW Union Local 135
Mickey Kasparian, President



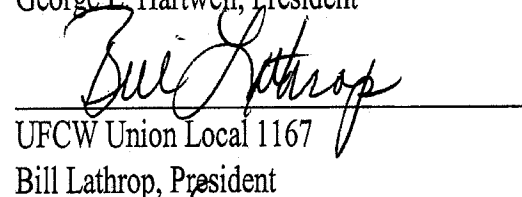
UFCW Union Local 324
Greg M. Conger, President



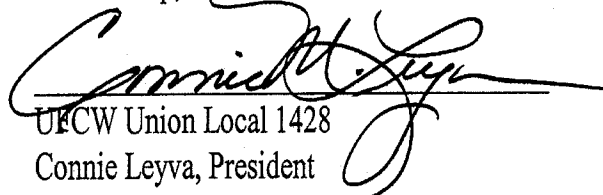
UFCW Union Local 770
Ricardo F. Icaza, President



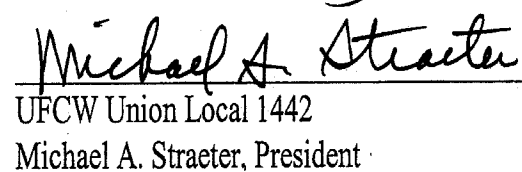
UFCW Union Local 1036
George L. Hartwell, President



UFCW Union Local 1167
Bill Lathrop, President



UFCW Union Local 1428
Connie Leyva, President



UFCW Union Local 1442
Michael A. Straeter, President

cc: James Mahan
Pat O'Neill
Shaun Barclay