

BROWN ULMAN • 2014

December 10, 2013

Dean Wilkinson
Executive Vice President
Sales & Operations
Giant Food, LLC
8301 Professional Place, Suite 115
Landover, MD 20785

Steve Neibergall
Eastern Division President
Safeway Inc., Eastern Division
4551 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, MD 20706

Dear Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Neibergall:

Safeway and Giant are outstanding companies with a strong tradition of collective bargaining here in Maryland. I am writing to voice my support for UFCW #400, UFCW #27 and the tens of thousands of employees and retirees with whom you are currently negotiating. I strongly support collective bargaining for Maryland's working families.

Your employees have voted twice to extend their contract to keep bargaining and have taken smaller raises and made sacrifices in previous contracts to protect their healthcare insurance. Continuing to provide your part-time employees this benefit will help your companies retain healthy, productive employees with healthy families.

The Affordable Care Act was passed to provide the uninsured with the ability to purchase quality, affordable healthcare. It is not meant to be a substitute for employer-sponsored insurance currently being provided.

Thank you for your strong presence in Maryland and continued commitment to our communities and families. Progress is being made and I am confident you will reach an agreement that protects your employees healthcare insurance and works for all parties involved in the very near future.

I can be reached at 240-667-2321. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

AGB/jpb