

DONNA F. EDWARDS
4TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE, RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2004

September 27, 2013

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT

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

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

Dear Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Neibergall:

I write to express my interest in the ongoing negotiations between Giant, Safeway and your employees represented by the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) Locals 400 and 27, as they seek a new collective bargaining agreement to replace the current contract that expires October 31, 2013.

On behalf of the over 18,000 employees who will be affected by the agreement, I urge you to engage in meaningful and productive bargaining that recognizes the important role your employees play in making Giant and Safeway the top two supermarket operators in the Washington region. The commitment and dedication of these employees have contributed greatly to the companies' success, and as such, they deserve the opportunity to share in the fruits of their labor through living wages; accessible, affordable, quality, health care; and pensions.

In order to ensure that Giant and Safeway can continue to grow and provide their customers the exemplary service to which they are accustomed, it is necessary that the collective bargaining process protect fairly the ability of your workforce to negotiate their compensation and benefits, while continuing to foster progress for the company. Middle-class families remain a building block of our nation's economy, and I urge you to remain involved in protecting the economic health and stability of our local economy through the collective bargaining process.

I commend each of you for the investments your companies have made in Maryland's 4th Congressional District, the roles your stores play in helping to make livable communities, and the jobs they provide. I value greatly the time and resources contributed by Giant, Safeway, and your employees in so many of the social service programs and community organizations in the 4th Congressional District. This is a tribute to your leadership and your stewardship. As such, I ask that you each negotiate in good faith with the members of UFCW Locals 400 and 27, and look forward to a mutually acceptable resolution that will benefit the two companies, the workers, and your customers.

I will continue to monitor your progress. Please feel free to reach out to me in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

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