

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 11, 2022

Robert E. Rich Jr. (Bob)
Chairman
Rich Products Corporation
1 Robert Rich Way
Buffalo, NY 14213

Dear Mr. Rich:

We write to you today to express support for the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers, and Grain Millers (BCTGM) at the Jon Donaire Desserts plant in Santa Fe Springs, California who have been on strike since November 3, 2021. We urge you to reach an agreement as soon as possible on a contract that is fair and that includes good wages, decent benefits, reliable schedules and safe working conditions.

What the 100 bakery workers, who make cakes for Baskin Robbins, Safeway and Cold Stone Creamery are asking for is not radical. These workers, 75 percent of whom are Latina women, have been working up to 16 hours a day. All they are asking for is a \$1 per hour wage increase each year for three years, respect on the job, a fair attendance policy and no cuts to their healthcare benefits.

Let's be clear. Rich Products is not a poor company. It is not going broke. Last year, your company made over \$4 billion in revenue. During the pandemic, you became over \$2 billion richer and now have an estimated net worth of more than \$7.5 billion according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. We do not believe that it is too much to ask that you treat your workers with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve.

Average wages at Jon Donaire are less than \$17 per hour – which is slightly higher than the minimum wage in California. BCTGM members at Rich Products' facility in Murfreesboro, Tennessee — where the cost of living is much lower — make, on average, \$6 more per hour than their Los Angeles peers. In your California plant workers are often penalized for absences, such as medical appointments, which are unapproved but necessary.

The work at the Santa Fe Springs plant is difficult and days are long. Production line speeds continue to increase to as high as 38 cakes per minute. Many workers report hand and arm injuries and physical and emotional stress levels are high. Mandatory overtime is common, and workers can work up to 16 hour shifts with little notice. Morale at work is low, and our understanding is that these dedicated workers have reported their concerns to Rich Products headquarters. Unfortunately, these concerns continue to go unanswered and ignored.

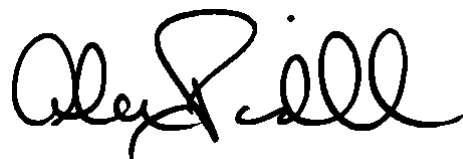
Mr. Rich: Your employees have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, keeping production lines moving at breakneck speeds and fueling company profits. Meanwhile, your employees are falling further and further behind economically.

Your employees deserve better. We urge you to bargain in good faith with the union and agree to a fair contract as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator