

June 15, 2020

Diana Scheele
Vice President of Human Resources
Maple Leaf Farms
101 E Church Street, P.O. Box 167
Leesburg, IN 46538

Dear Diana:

The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to present unprecedented challenges for our nation's food supply and workers in the food processing and meatpacking industries.

We can continue to protect our food supply by protecting our food workers. Protecting food workers also helps to protect all aspects of our food supply – from ranchers to production and from processing to our local supermarkets.

Members of UFCW Local 700 have continued to work at Maple Leaf Farms. Throughout this crisis, they have worked to ensure that people and families have access to the food they need. While some say that we are back to normal, that is simply not true. Although production has been cut back to four days per week, workers are still putting their lives on the line every day to keep our country fed during this deadly outbreak.

Maple Leaf workers have put themselves at significant risk to continue to stay on the job. We appreciate the ability to work together to improve health and safety protocols in the plant and look forward to continuing to improve them. But in addition to the improved health and safety measures, workers in other food packing and process plants in Indiana, and across the country, have received and are receiving extra pay during this crisis – including at Maple Leaf.

Maple Leaf should continue to compensate its workers for the additional risk they take simply by walking in the door to work. This crisis has not ended, and neither should their additional pay. They've earned the additional pay and they deserve it.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue; please contact my Executive Assistant, Scott Barnett to further discuss. We look forward to continuing to work together to keep our members safe and healthy at work and to recognizing their service to our communities at this very challenging time.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Chorpenning II, President

Via electronic mail

Joseph M. Chorpenning II
International Vice President
President UFCW Local 700

Michael D. Merrell
Secretary/Treasurer