

VIA E-MAIL & REGULAR U.S. MAIL

December 29, 2009

Mark B. Tobey, Special Counsel for State Relations and Agriculture
Legal Policy Section, Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 11700
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Tobey:

RE: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

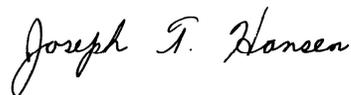
On behalf of the officers and 1.3 million members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), I would like to thank the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for initiating a dialogue on issues related to increasing corporate consolidation in agriculture, and for agreeing to hold public workshops jointly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2010 to solicit a broad range of views on what impacts consolidation has had on all the stakeholders in our food system.

The vast majority of UFCW members work in the meat packing, food processing, food distribution and retail food sectors of our economy. A recent DOJ press release says that these workshops will provide the opportunity for several constituencies to offer public comment for these hearings, but does not explicitly mention workers in the food industry. The UFCW believes that the perspectives of workers in our food system should be added to the list of constituencies being consulted during these workshops. Therefore, I request that a representative from the UFCW be included on the workshop panels to provide a worker perspective.

Additionally, I ask that the DOJ and USDA use this process to investigate the impacts that corporate consolidation has had on issues such as worker rights, safety, wages, and benefits. I also ask that the workshops provide an opportunity to explore the effects that the consolidation of suppliers has had on the meat industry and by extension on our members who work in this industry. Finally, I ask that the workshops include an assessment of how consolidation has impacted the economies and quality of life in those communities that depend on food production, processing, distribution and retail sales.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



International President

cc: The Honorable Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General;
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture