



STATE OF VERMONT
General Assembly

Mike Vail, President
Hannaford Supermarkets
145 Pleasant Hill Road
Scarborough, ME 04074

May 1, 2023

Dear Mr. Vail,

We write to you as legislators in the Vermont Senate and House of Representatives, voicing the requests of the thousands of Vermonters we serve. We urge Hannaford to join the Milk With Dignity Program.

Carrying perspectives from the Committees on Agriculture and Food Resiliency, Health Care, Government Operations, Human Services, among others, we collectively recognize the invaluable role that migrants serve in American agriculture. All members of the Vermont labor force deserve respect and dignity—yet far too many of the farm workers who drive Hannaford's profits have no time off, are consistently deprived of adequate sleep, are frequently paid below minimum wage, are victims of wage theft, and are continuously exposed to dangerous chemicals and other workplace safety violations, resulting in a high rate of workplace illness and injury. Such injustices are possible due to systemic racism that robs black and brown farmworkers of their voice and power. Hannaford fortifies these structures by taking advantage of their profitability.

Last year, your executives and investors celebrated a [60% increase in profits, with sales topping \\$80 billion](#). These individuals have been rewarded with [generous bonuses and over a billion dollars in stock dividends](#) while workers who produce the goods that generate profits struggle to put food on their tables.

By choosing to invest a portion of these exorbitant profits toward ensuring labor standards, Hannaford wins. Customers are more conscientious than ever to support establishments that align with their ethics, and the Milk With Dignity Program carries great weight. A larger portion of America's food budget will be directed to Hannaford if your corporation chooses to embody its stated business values, such as food that is



[“responsibly harvested and sourced.”](#) Ben and Jerry's exemplifies a corporation that has benefited greatly from joining the Milk With Dignity Program.

The Milk With Dignity Program is a powerful, reasonable solution to the current model which profits from the compromised health and safety of our labor force rather than customer choice. Farmworkers are due the same basic human rights and fair treatment as all Vermont workers: fair wages, safe housing, access to safety equipment, protection from violence and sexual harassment, and access to medical treatment from workplace injuries. We respectfully request your urgent participation in Milk With Dignity. Our constituents are paying close attention.

Sincerely,

Representative Esme Cole, Windsor-6 (Hartford)

Representative Leonora Dodge, Chittenden-23 (Essex)

Representative David Templeman, Orleans-3 (Barton, Brownington, Westmore)

Representative Ela Chapin, Washington-5 (East Montpelier, Middlesex)

Representative Lucy Boyden, Lamoille-3 (Cambridge, Waterville)

Representative Sarita Austin, Chittenden-19 (Colchester)

Representative Josie Leavitt, Grand Isle-Chittenden (Alburgh, Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, Milton, North Hero)

Representative Peter Anthony, Washington-3 (Barre City)

Representative Philip Jay Hooper, Orange-Washington-Addison (Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Randolph, Roxbury)

Representative Kirk White, Windsor-Addison (Bethel)

Representative Brian Minier, Chittenden-11 (South Burlington)

Representative Kevin "Coach" Christie, Windsor-6 (Hartford)

Representative Angela Arsenaault, Chittenden-2 (Williston)

Representative Mary-Katherine Stone, Chittenden-14 (Burlington)

Representative Melanie Carpenter, Lamoille-2 (Hyde Park, Johnson, Wolcott, Belvidere)

Representative Noah Hyman, Chittenden-8 (South Burlington)

Representative Barbara Rachelson, Chittenden-14 (Burlington)

Representative Bobby Farlice-Rubio, Caledonia-1 (Barnet, Ryegate, Waterford)

Representative Jed Lipsky, Lamoille-1 (Stowe)

Representative Joseph "Chip" Troiano, Caledonia-2 (Stannard)

Representative Michelle Bos-Lun, Windham-3 (Brookline, Rockingham, Westminster)

Representative Mari Cordes, Addison-4 (Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, Starksboro)

Representative Anne B. Donahue, Washington-1 (Northfield)



Representative Jubilee McGill, Addison-5 (Bridport, Middlebury, New Haven, Weybridge)
Representative Jim Masland, Windsor-Orange-2 (Norwich, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford)
Representative Rey Garofano, Chittenden-23 (Essex/Essex Jct)
Representative Kate Logan, Chittenden-16 (Burlington)
Representative Sara Coffey, Windham-1 (Guilford)
Representative Chea Waters Evans, Chittenden-5 (Charlotte)
Representative Seth Chase, Chittenden-20 (Colchester)
Representative Taylor Small, Chittenden-21 (Winooski)
Representative Troy Headrick, Chittenden-15 (Burlington)
Representative Carol Ode, Chittenden-18 (Burlington)
Representative Mollie Burke, Windham-8 (Brattleboro)
Representative Kate McCann, Washington-4 (Montpelier)
Representative Karen Dolan, Chittenden-22 (Essex Junction)
Representative Emilie Krasnow, Chittenden-9 (South Burlington)
Representative Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, Chittenden-17 (Burlington)
Representative Larry Satcowitz, Orange-Washington-Addison (Randolph)
Representative Jarrod Sammis, Rutland-3 (Castleton)
Representative Tiff Bluemle, Chittenden-13 (Burlington)
Representative Mike Rice, Bennington-Rutland (Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Mt. Tabor, Peru)
Representative Heather Surprenant, Windsor-4 (Barnard, Pomfret, Bridgewater)
Representative Jonathan Williams, Washington-3 (Barre City)
Representative Peter Anthony, Washington-3 (Barre City)
Representative Brian Cina, Chittenden-15 (Burlington)
Representative Dennis LaBounty, Caledonia-3
Representative Logan Nicoll, Rutland-Windsor
Representative Conor Casey, Washington-4
Senator Nader Hashim, Windham County
Senator Tanya Vyhovsky, Chittenden Central
Senator Becca White, Windsor County
Senator Irene Wrenner, Chittenden North
Senator Anne Watson, Washington District
Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale, Chittenden-Southeast