



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

J. HERBERT NELSON, II  
STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 3, 2019

Mr. Mike Vail, CEO and President  
Hannaford Supermarkets  
145 Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Scarborough, ME 04074

Dear Mr. Vail,

I write on behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to urge Hannaford Supermarkets to join the Milk with Dignity Program and use your company's purchasing power to expand this proven program that is guaranteeing critical rights and safety for dairy farmworkers, sustainability for small dairy farmers, and reflecting the highest level of corporate social responsibility.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s two million members are part of a vast and growing population of consumers of conscience who are insisting that corporations take up their rightful responsibility to ensure humane conditions in their supply chains. Our faith demands that we not stay silent when people are exploited as part of bringing products to market.

There is more than adequate documentation that workers on dairy farms across the northeast, where Hannaford brand sources its milk, suffer severe human rights abuses, often working in dangerous conditions. Their compensation is too often below minimum wage standards and they are forced to live in substandard housing.

We urge you to join Milk with Dignity because it is the only existing program that has proven to end those abuses. Milk with Dignity is modeled after the Fair Food Program, using a worker-driven approach to social responsibility, an approach long endorsed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This is transforming conditions for workers in supply chains in different industries around the world. Indeed, several supermarket brands owned by your parent company, Ahold Delhaize, have already signed the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food Program, committing to source their tomatoes from this internationally renowned human rights program.

By joining Milk with Dignity, Hannaford would uphold Ahold Delhaize's own commitment to responsible retailing and, critically, use Hannaford's power to end human rights abuses that surely disturb your

consciences as they do ours.

It is disturbing that Hannaford has rebuffed the efforts of the leaders of Migrant Justice to enter into dialogue regarding these injustices. We therefore join our voices with theirs in urging you, in the strongest terms, to begin this dialogue, to the end that justice is served and another step is taken to end dairy farmworker exploitation and to contribute to the sustainability of small farmers in the dairy industry. We respectfully request that you do the right thing.

In the Faith that we share,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Herbert Nelson, II". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)