



October 3, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Vail,

The National Council of Churches joins with Migrant Justice and consumers across the country in celebrating the two-year anniversary of the Milk With Dignity Program.

As Christians called by Jesus to love our neighbors and work for a society where no person is beaten on the Jericho Roads of life, we commend Migrant Justice, participating dairy farmers, and Ben & Jerry's for the landmark gains in human rights that have been achieved by the Milk With Dignity Program. And as a Christian organization that includes more than 45 million people in over 100,000 congregations across the nation, we call on Hannaford Supermarket to join the Milk With Dignity Program and hasten its expansion across the northeast.

Because of the Milk With Dignity Program, today, Vermont dairy farmworkers laboring on participating farms no longer face dangerous conditions nor are they afraid to speak up when they see problems. That is because the Milk with Dignity Program's standards for labor and housing were defined by workers themselves, are monitored by an independent third-party and backed up with market consequences. In order to sell their milk to Ben & Jerry's, dairy farms must comply with MWD standards. And the corporation pays a small premium to dairy farmers to help with the program's implementation and the long-term sustainability of small dairy farms.

The Milk With Dignity Program uses the purchasing power of corporations to guarantee workers' rights and channels the contributions of all actors in the supply chain toward a more just and humane dairy industry. Hannaford can be confident that they are meeting the highest standards of corporate accountability by participating.

The NCC is proud to be an endorser of this model called Worker-driven Social Responsibility that is not only transforming the dairy industry but also realizing human rights advances in US agriculture through the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food Program and ensuring safety for 2 million garment workers through the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Safety.

We know this model works – what's needed now is its expansion. While conditions for dairy workers inside the Milk With Dignity Program have been transformed, outside the program dairy workers continue to live and work in abject and dangerous conditions. That's why on this anniversary day we call on Hannaford Supermarket to join the Milk With Dignity Program.

Hannaford has both the power and the responsibility to guarantee that dairy farmworkers in its supply chain are respected, safe, and fairly paid. You can do that by joining the Milk With Dignity Program now. I urge you to respond to Migrant Justice's invitation, take the place at the table that is waiting for you, and join us in forwarding this new day of human rights in the dairy industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Winkler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Jim Winkler  
General Secretary/President