



Office of the General Assembly  
Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk

September 21, 2007

Mr. Steve Grover  
Burger King Corporate Office  
5505 Blue Lagoon Drive  
Miami, FL 33126

Dear Mr. Grover:

It has come to the attention of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that you have stated to the press that the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is receiving payments from Taco Bell and McDonald's, that the CIW has asked Burger King to sign a check to them, and that the CIW wanted Burger King to sign a "secret deal." (Palm Beach Post, letter to the editor 9/17/07, Naples Daily News article 9/18/07).

These claims are false and not only do a disservice to CIW, but to Burger King as well. I respectfully ask you to swiftly and publicly retract these statements by 12:00 noon on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise for the sake of truth and integrity, I will make my call for retraction public.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has worked as a partner with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers for many years and has rigorously engaged both Yum! Brands and McDonald's Corporations on the importance of farmworkers' human rights. I have been privileged to be at the table during some of the key, confidential dialogues that produced the ground-breaking agreements.

During such conversations the CIW specifically rejected any and all proposals that might route a corporation's payment of an increase to the farmworkers through the CIW. The central provision of the CIW's campaign is that fast-food corporations change their purchasing practices so that *they* ensure workers' human rights, rather than create conditions where human rights abuses flourish. If this is to be accomplished, it is the corporation's own supply chain that must itself route the payment to the workers. Neither conceptually nor mechanically would it work for CIW to act as a conduit for these payments. As a result, the penny-per-pound arrangements go directly from the corporate purchasers to the workers without in any way passing through the CIW.

We are troubled that you have seen fit to try to damage the credibility and reputation of the CIW, an organization that has a proven record of integrity and good working relationships with other corporations. Further, through these comments you have denigrated what are admirable advances in the protection of farmworkers' human rights by other corporations.

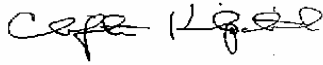
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Surely this cannot be the path down which Burger King wants to continue walking.

Therefore, I strongly encourage you to publicly retract these statements immediately in order to repair any damage done to the good name of the CIW and to set Burger King on the right footing for a productive dialogue with the Coalition. The severe and urgent human rights violations in the tomato fields of your FL suppliers must be addressed, and falsely demeaning the CIW will neither insulate Burger King from its responsibilities nor facilitate the modernization of your supply chain.

I await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifton Kirkpatrick".

The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Cc: Board of Directors, Burger King Corporation