

September 22, 2006

Mr. Jim Skinner, CEO  
McDonald's Corporation  
McDonald's Plaza  
Oak Brook, IL 60523



Dear Mr. Skinner,

We, the undersigned Bishops of the Episcopal Church in Florida and the Central Gulf Coast, stand together today to urge McDonald's to address the difficulties faced by the farm workers who pick its tomatoes. We implore McDonald's to recognize the injustices, and work together with the farm workers of Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) to institute fair wages and real rights in the fields. The Episcopal Church has a history of support for the rights of migrant farm workers and recognizes the right of workers to have a voice in their workplace.

Having become aware of McDonald's attempts to avoid working together with the farm workers of the CIW to improve the wages and working conditions for tomato pickers in its supply chain, we are called to witness to the need for true change in the Florida and Central Gulf Coast agricultural industry. Tomato pickers' wages have not risen in almost three decades, falling further and further below the poverty line every year, and cases of modern-day slavery involving farm workers continue to surface.

As religious leaders from Florida and the Central Gulf Coast, we know the conditions that farm workers face and we are particularly troubled that McDonald's has refused to take steps to improve wages and develop an enforceable code of conduct together with the CIW. Our state's fields and the people who labor in them are sacred, part of God's marvelous creation, which demands respect, dignity, and justice. We urge McDonald's to work with the CIW to bring about the dignity, respect, and a seat at the table that farm workers and all of God's children deserve.

This is fundamentally a justice issue. McDonald's has the power, responsibility, and resources to work cooperatively with the CIW to bring about a new day in its tomato supply chain. We urge you to reconsider McDonald's course of action and work together with the farm workers of the CIW for real rights and real justice for farm workers in your tomato supply chain.

May God bless and keep you.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend John B. Lipscomb  
Fourth Bishop of Southwest Florida

The Right Reverend Leopold Frade  
Diocese of Southeast Florida

The Right Reverend Philip M. Duncan, II  
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

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