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Fair Trade for a Better World

May 26, 2016

Kevin Murphy
Soren Bjorn
John Erb
Driscoll's
PO Box 50045
Watsonville, CA 95077
via email

Dear Driscoll's:

Thank you again for meeting with Fair World Project, Familias Unidas por la Justicia, Community to Community Development, and Domestic Fair Trade Association, last year to discuss the situation at Sakuma Brother's farm in Washington. We appreciate your openness.

However, we are contacting you again this year to express concern about your interpretation of freedom of association. During our 2015 meeting Driscoll's reiterated your commitment to freedom of association.

Recent statements such as "we don't even know what to do, because the state of Washington doesn't recognize agricultural unions"* are troubling.

If a group of workers would like to collectively bargain with a farm owner or manager, they should be supported in doing so, whether the government requires that or not. Freedom of association is meaningless if workers who choose to associate are made invisible or denied access to a good faith negotiation.

We urge Driscoll's to ensure your commitment to freedom of association is meaningful at Sakuma Brothers and beyond by insisting that your partner farms recognize and negotiate with organized workers whether or not the law requires this or also recognizes the union. You found a way to eliminate child workers under age 15 from partner farms even when the law does not require it. You can do the same for collective bargaining.

Thank you,

* <http://www.freshfruitportal.com/news/2016/02/03/qa-driscolls-applies-fresh-approach-to-ag-labor-relations/>

California Institute for Rural Studies
CATA-the Farmworker Support Committee
Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center
Coalition of Immokalee Workers
Community Alliance for Global Justice
Community to Community Development
Domestic Fair Trade Association
Fair World Project
Familias Unidas por la Justicia
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Worker Ministry Northwest
Farmworker Association of Florida
FEEST—Food Empowerment Education and Sustainability Team
Friends of the Earth, U.S.
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Food First
Got Green
Grassroots International
International Labor Rights Forum
Laundry Workers Center
Migrant Justice
National Farmworker Ministry
Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center
Organic Consumers Association
Pioneer Valley Workers Center
Real Food Challenge
Rural and Migrant Ministry
Sierra Club Labor and Economic Justice Program
Street Vendor Project
Teamsters Joint Council 7
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
Worker Justice Center of New York