

Familias Unidas por la Justicia



May 18, 2015

Danny R. Weeden, President and CEO
Sakuma Bros. Berry Farm
P.O. Box 427
Burlington, WA 98229

Mr. Weeden,

With all due respect, we your employees and members of Familias Unidas por la Justicia are writing this letter in good faith to ask for a meeting with you as soon as possible to see if together we can resolve this ongoing labor conflict that began on July 11, 2013.

Your employees that have worked for this company that you are now President of, for many years want to know if you will indeed bring a change for the better, so that consumers will once again be able to enjoy Sakuma berries.

Steve Sakuma stated last year that there were no winners in this conflict because the trust between the workers and the company was disappearing; he also said in public about caring for farmworkers and our community. You have said publicly to State legislators and our supporters that Sakuma Bros. farm wants to be a productive and responsible part of the Skagit Valley, if your statements are true then together we can end this labor conflict.

We know that the strawberry harvest is about to start and you need us as much as we need you. Our members are ready to start harvesting and we ask that the families that have worked for you for years be rehired, be able to work with no reprisals, including our union leaders that were fired in 2013 and 2014; that housing be provided again and that you remove the security guards, cameras and fences.

We want you to know what we have repeatedly told Steve Sakuma; what we want is a union contract; we are people with families just like you and everyone else. The only thing we want is to negotiate and assure a better future for our children. We do not agree that your new pay system ends piece-rate compensation and that pickers will be able to earn up to \$27hr. and without a union contract there is no transparency. These issues can only be resolved through fair negotiations between us and you.

We want to know if you, as the CEO of Sakuma farms have the authority to negotiate and end this conflict.

P.O. Box 1206, Burlington, WA 98233

www.boycottsakumaberries.com

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Steve Sakuma is correct in saying that the trust between Sakuma Bros Farm has been broken and we believe that only working with a legally binding union contract will restore trust.

Once again the employees and members of Familias Unidas por la Justicia want to propose that if we are able to reach a mutual agreement and sign a contract, you will truly be a productive and responsible part of the Skagit Valley economy.

The community will be proud and support you because you will be the first Agri-corporation in the Skagit Valley that gives farm workers a fair union contract that assures them and Sakuma Bros. Berry Farm a better future; if the farmworkers have a better future that also will benefit the community.

If we negotiate a mutually agreed upon contract that includes expedited binding arbitration and a no-strike clause during the term of that contract we will be able to stop the boycott. We will do our part by announcing to all of our networks, allies and the media that Sakuma products, the berries we pick should be a consumer's first pick at the market.

That is how we can demonstrate that we want to work together in peace.

In the meantime we will continue to work, in the fields and in the marketplace, promoting the boycott. We think the most important part of your job as the new CEO is to rebuild the trust with consumers, the community and the people who have worked at Sakuma Bros. Berry Farm for many years.

We await your decision. Please respond to myself and Felimon Pineda to this e-mail address: familiasunidas@qwestoffice.net

Or: Familias Unidas por la Justicia, P.O. Box 1206, Burlington, WA 98223

Ramon Torres, President

Felimon Pineda, Vice-President

Cc: Kevin Murphy, CEO Driscoll's
Jeff Johnson, WSLC
Various WA State Legislators