

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2009

Ms. Judy Spires
President
Acme Markets, Inc.
75 Valley Stream Parkway
Malvern, PA 19355

Dear Ms. Spires:

I understand that Acme Markets and the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776 (UFCW) have been in negotiations for some time on a new contract for workers in southeastern Pennsylvania. I further understand that, after a recent vote by UFCW members to reject what Acme has stated will be its final offer, the company has terminated negotiations and intends to impose its own proposal on July 10.

I recognize that today's economy poses particular challenges to any employer and that the cost of providing health and pension benefits for workers has become increasingly costly. However, the 4,000 UFCW workers employed by Acme have committed to negotiate a new contract that takes into consideration the current economic climate, the demands upon Acme, and the needs of their individual employees. Moreover, a contract that is freely agreed upon at the negotiating table is in the best interests of both workers and employers since it improves worker productivity and strengthens the labor-management relationship.

In good faith, UFCW members employed by Acme have diligently worked under an extension of their current contract since early 2008 and remain willing to continue doing so. The threat of an impending contract termination is against the best interests of our community, the employees, and Acme Markets. It is my hope that Acme will work with the UFCW to continue negotiations in a fashion that protects the needs of all those involved. It is with this in mind that I urge you to make every effort to promptly resume negotiations with UFCW Local 1776 until a contract can be agreed upon.

If there is any way my office can be of assistance in this matter, please contact me or have your staff contact Kevin Stanton from my office at 717-231-7540. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator