

# LOCAL 1473

United Food & Commercial Workers Union

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**John R Eiden** • *President*  
*International Vice President*

**Grant Withers** • *Secretary-Treasurer*

March 18, 2020

Dear Governor Evers,

As president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local Union 1473, which represents over 11,000 workers throughout Wisconsin, I want to thank you for your leadership at this critical time.

Our UFCW members in grocery stores, retail establishments, and food processing plants are on the front lines of the coronavirus outbreak working around the clock to keep these businesses open and ensure that families in our communities have the essential food and supplies they need.

Keeping our communities healthy and safe is our first priority, but our members need strong worker protections like paid leave to continue doing these vital jobs.

Members of Congress have given us nothing, but partisan gridlock and many major corporations are failing to strengthen their own paid leave policies for these workers.

Today, on behalf of UFCW Local 1473 and our 11,000 members, I am calling on you to do the right thing by recognizing Wisconsin's grocery, retail, and food processing workers as first responders.

With the designation of these hardworking men and women as first responders, we ask that you use the power of your executive order to mandate that all these workers receive at least two weeks of paid leave. This will ensure that our members can continue to serve their communities without having to choose between their health and their paycheck.

Our families and communities need leaders with the courage to stand up for these workers and do the right thing by ensuring that they have paid leave and can continue to perform this essential work. These workers help to power Wisconsin's economy every day and their courage and dedication is needed now more than ever. We are asking you to stand with them now.

Sincerely,

John R. Eiden  
President UFCW Local 1473 and UFCW Int'l Vice President

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