

“Toiling in the shadows, poultry workers have been essential workers long before the COVID-19 pandemic, working long hours under arduous working conditions to put food on America’s tables. Now they further risk their lives every day they report to work, where social distancing is nearly impossible as they struggle to keep up with line speeds to meet production numbers. They worry about the risk of getting infected and infecting family members, as they juggle finding childcare where limited alternative childcare exists, with the fear of being fired for missing work to care for their family members. Companies have a responsibility to keep workers safe – and in the case of COVID-19, a responsibility to the community. That means being transparent about and accountable for the policies and practices implemented during this pandemic.” -- **Stuart Appelbaum, President, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU)**

“It’s outrageous enough that meat companies knowingly risked the lives of their workers to keep us fed. It’s even more outrageous that companies like JBS risked the lives of their workers to boost food exports. This investigation by Senator Warren and Senator Booker simply underscores the complete failure of this Administration to protect food and farm workers from COVID-19 and the urgent need for mandatory protections.” -- **Scott Faber, Senior Vice President for the Environmental Working Group, a national environmental health group tracking COVID-19 cases at meatpacking plants, food processing plants, and farms**

"As an independent family farmer and small USDA-inspected meat processor I have seen first hand how the multinational meat processors run roughshod over the industry. Senator Warren is rightfully pointing out that these companies are putting profits ahead of American farmers, ranchers, workers and consumers. It is time to hold the giant meatpackers accountable and transition to a more resilient decentralized food system." -- **Greg Gunthorp, Farmer and Independent Meat Processor, Gunthorp Farms**

"Corporate meat packers have created a broken system that leaves farmers, workers, and consumers worse off. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen these multinational agribusinesses sacrifice worker safety, manipulate government, and export food right out from under American consumers. We need more leaders like Senator Warren holding these companies accountable for this unacceptable behavior." -- **Jake Davis, Farmer and Family Farm Advocate**