

May 8, 2014

NW14-008

To: Northwest Council Members
From: NW Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
Subject: **PRE-SUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS: Support for Farmworkers Union.**

Background

The United Farm Workers Union, (UFW) is attempting to unionize huge factory farms in eastern Washington whose products are sold to our members in Western Washington. Teamsters, Local 117 are supporting the United Farm workers organizing effort. The United Farm Workers, (UFW) was successful in organizing two dairies in Oregon that supply Tillamook Cheese. Tillamook did the right thing and pressured the dairies to allow unionization. See attached website for a model for better dairies; <http://www.threemilecanyonfarms.com/>

While Darigold advertises and promotes a small farm image, many of the farms are huge industrial farms residing in eastern Washington: Ruby Ridge dairy in Pasco, DeRuyter Brothers in Sunnyside, and 5-D Dairy in Pasco. The 5-D dairy milks 40,000 cows 3 times daily and there are 400 farm workers employed. At Ruby Ridge Dairy they milk 10-15,000 cows with 50 to 100 workers in 3 eight hour shifts.

- Workers are not given breaks or time to have a lunch break.
- Workers are expected to work off the clock to milk all the cows in an 8 hour shift.
- Workers have been fired for injuries.
- Large Companies like Walmart and Costco sell Darigold products.

<http://www.darigold.com/>

<https://secure.ufw.org/page/contribute/rubyridge>

http://action.ufw.org/page/speakout/dg_deruyter

<http://nfwfm.org/2012/02/ruby-ridge-workers-supporters-deliver-petition-to-darigold/>

https://www.hcn.org/issues/41.15/the-dark-side-of-dairies/article_view?searchterm=dark%20side%20of%20dairies&b_start:int=4

Petition: <http://action.ufw.org/page/s/darigoldpetition>

NW L&PA Committee Recommendation

The NW Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommends' passage of this motion.

MOTION

It is moved that: **THE NORTHWEST COUNCIL SUPPORT EFFORTS BY UNITED FARM WORKERS TO UNIONIZE AT DAIRIES THAT SUPPLY MILK TO DARIGOLD, AND TO ADVERTIZE THE PETITION AND TO INFORM OF MEMBERS OF ACTIONS AND RALLIES.**

Pro's

- SPEEA members would benefit from stronger union presence in WA.
- A union presence will help protect and enforce safer food delivery to the market.

Con's

- Could result in higher milk costs.

XXX/xxx

Passage or adoption of Northwest legislative or public issues requires a 60 percent majority of votes cast at a duly constituted Northwest Council meeting. The total affirmative vote cast must be at least a majority of the total number of seated NW Council Representatives.
