

Thanks for writing a letter of support for the Milk with Dignity Campaign!

These letters are a powerful way for us to demonstrate widespread support for Milk with Dignity to Hannaford President Mike Vail

Please use the template below to write your organization's letter of support. You can copy the suggested bullet points or adapt and put them into your own words. When you're finished please email the letter to us at: [info@migrantjustice.net](mailto:info@migrantjustice.net) (You can also mail it to: 179 S Winooski Ave. Unit 202, Burlington, VT 05401) and we will coordinate on how best to deliver the letter.

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[Your organization letterhead]

Mike Vail, President  
Hannaford Supermarkets  
145 Pleasant Hill Road  
Scarborough, ME 04074

(Today's date)

Dear Mike Vail,

**Introduce yourself and your group/organization/faith community**

**Context and Problem: What is the problem? Why do we need Milk with Dignity?**

- Hannaford's dairy supply chain includes farms where workers are suffering from severe human rights abuses
- Immigrant farmworkers labor long hours in dangerous conditions for low pay and live in substandard housing
- Abuses are endemic to the industry: for example, a 2020 study of immigrant dairy workers in Vermont shows high rates of workplace injuries and illnesses and a severe lack of safety equipment and training
- Corporations at the top of supply chains have a responsibility to ensure that their suppliers treat workers fairly

**Power/Impact of Milk with Dignity: How does it work? What are the impacts?**

- Migrant Justice created Milk with Dignity to provide a solution to the systemic problems plaguing the dairy industry.
- The program invites corporations to take responsibility for ensuring human rights in their supply chains by joining this worker-led solution
- Milk with Dignity creates worker-defined standards for labor and housing, paid for by dairy companies and monitored by an independent third-party that responds to complaints and audits farms

- Unlike many corporate initiatives or certification labels, Milk with Dignity is worker-led and is enforced through legally-binding contracts and strong market consequences for farms that don't comply
- Milk with Dignity benefits companies by certifying that dairy products are sourced free from human rights abuses; it benefits farmers by providing a premium during a time of economic challenge, and it benefits workers by improving conditions and securing respect and dignity on the farm.

**Sample improvements under the program include include:**

- Paid sick days and vacations
- Increased wages and bonuses to raise farmworker income
- Repairs to worker housing and the construction of new housing
- Access to personal protective equipment for safer handling of chemicals and other hazardous materials
- Training and policies protecting workers from violence and sexual harassment
- A guaranteed day of rest every week
- New policies and practices ensuring access to medical treatment for workplace injuries

**Values: Why does your group support Milk with Dignity? How does it align with your values?**

- Farmworkers deserve to live and work in dignity
- Companies should take responsibility for the rights and wellbeing of workers in their supply chains
- Consumers expect that the products they buy are free from human rights abuses

**Conclusion: What are we asking Mike Vail to do?**

Farmworkers and (consumers/students/communities of faith/etc) are united in calling for Milk With Dignity. We respectfully request that you respond to this letter to inform us of your position and whether or not you intend to join the Milk with Dignity Program. [Our X # of members/constituents/etc.] eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,

Name, on behalf of  
Name of your organization  
Email address  
Phone Number

Don't forget to email your letter to us when it's finished at: [info@migrantjustice.net](mailto:info@migrantjustice.net)

