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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0530**

HENRY A. WAXMAN  
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Mr. Steven A. Burd  
Chairman, President, & CEO  
Safeway, Inc.  
5918 Stoneridge Mall Rd.  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Mr. Dave Dillon, President  
Kroger Co.  
1014 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1100

Mr. Larry Johnston  
Chairman & CEO  
Albertsons, Inc.  
250 E. Park Center Blvd.  
Boise, ID 83706

February 9, 2004

Gentlemen:

We are writing to ask for your commitment to work to end the strike and lockout of 70,000 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in Southern California.

We strongly support the workers' demand for living wages and affordable healthcare. The typical grocery worker earns less than \$25,000 per year. Most workers average only \$312 per week, and many earn less than \$10 an hour. Contrary to public statements that workers would only be required to contribute \$5 to \$15 per week toward healthcare costs, the supermarket chains' proposal would result in significant decreases in insurance coverage, and large increases in premiums and deductibles. New employees would receive even lower wages and less coverage.

While the supermarket chains point to Wal-Mart as the model of efficiency and competition they must meet, Wal-Mart is currently under investigation for widespread, serious labor violations. A race to the bottom in wages and healthcare benefits leaves hardworking Americans without the ability to provide for their families. And, it shifts costs onto taxpayers who will be forced to shoulder the burden of increased visits to emergency rooms and other public healthcare programs and facilities.

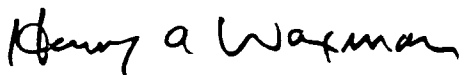
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The work stoppage is now in its fifth month, and no formal negotiations have taken place since December 19, 2003. We understand that the sides may resume discussions with a mediator as early as this week. We urge you to offer a proposal that ensures working families a living wage and affordable and adequate healthcare.

Sincerely,



HOWARD BERMAN  
Member of Congress



HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress