

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are writing in support of a November 12 submission to the State Department's U.S. National Contact Point (NCP) under the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises involving conduct by Grupo Comercial Chedraui. Chedraui is the third largest retail corporation in Mexico. The company has a substantial investment in the United States, bringing its U.S. operations within the purview of the OECD Guidelines and the U.S. NCP. We respectfully urge you to make every effort to expedite the NCP's assessment process in this case of great import.

We are familiar with the conduct of this company's subsidiary, Bodega Latina, dba. El Super, which owns fifty grocery stores in California, Nevada and Arizona, does business throughout our Congressional Districts. Over the past year El Super's workers, their union, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), and consumers in the our communities have been engaged in a boycott of El Super's grocery stores and a public campaign calling for both accountability to employees by providing quality labor standards, and accountability to the community by providing quality food that meets at a minimum government standards. It is of great concern to us that a multinational corporation, as outlined in the submission, has run an aggressive, multi-year campaign of coercion against workers seeking a living wage, adequate sick days and affordable health insurance.

We believe that an offer by the U.S. NCP of its good offices to bring the parties together in mediation could have a positive impact in this situation. Our review of the facts leads us to the conclusion that a finding is also warranted in this case, should mediation be unavailing. The NCP can provide an important vehicle to hold this corporation accountable to the international norms outlined in the Guidelines.

In sum, we urge you to ask that your staff expedite the assessment of this submission regarding Chedraui's conduct in the United States within a time frame faster than the normal 60 days – if possible by December 31, so that the offer of mediation can take effect quickly in the New Year.

Thank you for your anticipated action to address our concerns.

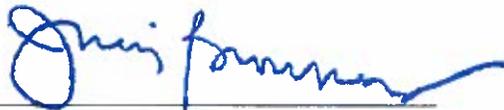
Sincerely,



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



KAREN BASS
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress



RAÚL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



JANICE HAHN
Member of Congress



TED LIEU
Member of Congress



GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



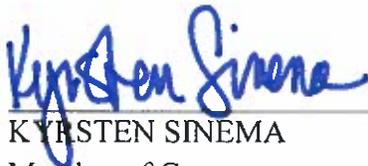
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



LINDA SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress



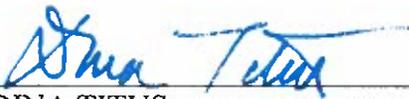
LORETTA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress



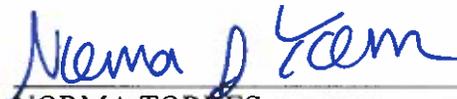
KRISTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress



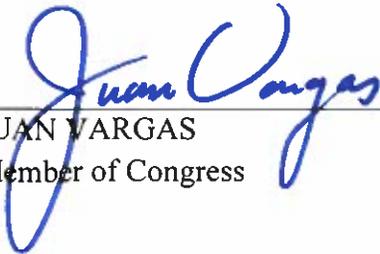
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