

Boycott Burger King! Justice for Farm Workers!

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3 **WHEREAS**, farm workers who pick tomatoes for the fast food industry are among this
4 country's most exploited workers; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, they suffer from sub-poverty wages; have no right to form unions, and
7 have no benefits of any kind; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) which represents Florida farm
10 workers has been fighting for many years to increase the price that farm workers are
11 paid per pound for the tomatoes they pick; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, most pickers are paid virtually the same that they were paid in 1980, (45
14 cents per 32 lb bucket); and

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16 **WHEREAS**, most workers have to pick over twice the number of buckets per hour
17 today as they did in 1980 in order to earn minimum wage; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 after a four-year boycott, CIW reached a historic agreement with
20 Taco Bell to pay farm workers more; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, in April, 2007, McDonald's also agreed to work with CIW to improve farm
23 worker wages and working conditions; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, Burger King has refused to work with CIW. Instead, it's putting profits
26 ahead of dignity and justice for workers; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, the one cent per pound increase would cost Burger King only \$250,000 per
29 year; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, three private equity firms are major shareholders in Burger King -
32 Goldman Sachs, Texas Pacific Group, and Bain Capital; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, 12 Goldman Sachs executives received bonuses exceeding \$200 million -
35 more than twice as much money as all of the roughly 10,000 tomato pickers in southern
36 Florida earned in 2006; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, Senator Bernie Sanders released two letters signed by four US Senators -
39 Sen. Sanders, Sen. Richard Durbin, Sen. Edward Kennedy, and Sen. Sherrod Brown -
40 sent to John Chidsey, CEO of Burger King Corporation, and Reggie Brown of the
41 Florida Tomato Growers Exchange (FTGE), urging both Burger King and the FTGE to
42 participate in the CIW-led initiative to improve farm worker wages and end the
43 exploitation of Florida's tomato harvesters.

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45 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell
46 join U.S. Senators Sanders, Durbin, Kennedy and Brown in sending letters to John W.
47 Chidsey and Reggie Brown.

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49 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, we support a NATIONAL BOYCOTT of
50 Burger King until such time as that company reaches an agreement with the Coalition
51 of Immokalee Workers.

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53 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT**, notification of this action shall be mailed to: John
54 W. Chidsey, Chief Executive Officer; Burger King; 5505 Blue Lagoon Drive; Miami FL
55 33126, and to Reggie Brown, Executive Vice President; Florida Tomato Growers
56 Exchange; 800 Trafalger Court, Suite 300; Maitland FL 32751

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59 Submitted by the Washington State Progressive Caucus to the Washington State
60 Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its January 26, 2008 meeting in the
61 Vancouver. (Date Submitted 1/26/2008)

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63 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
64 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its January 26, 2008 meeting in Vancouver.

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66 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 26, 2008 meeting in Vancouver.