



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

March 26, 2009

Mr. Lucas Benitez
Mr. Gerardo Reyes-Chavez
Coalition of Immokalee Workers
P.O. Box 603
Immokalee, Florida 34143

Dear Mr. Benitez and Mr. Reyes-Chavez:

It was my pleasure to meet with you both and the other representatives of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers yesterday. The information you provided greatly expanded my understanding of the hardships the workers face while enduring this difficult employment.

I have no tolerance for slavery in any form, and I am committed to eliminating this injustice anywhere in Florida. I unconditionally support the humane and civilized treatment of all employees, including those who work in Florida's agricultural industry. Any type of abuse in the workplace is unacceptable.

I support the Coalition's Campaign for Fair Food, whereby corporate purchasers of tomatoes have agreed to contribute monies for the benefit of the tomato field workers. I commend these purchasers for their participation, and I encourage the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange and its members to participate in the campaign so that these monies can reach and provide assistance to the workers.

Thank you for bringing these important issues to my attention. I look forward to working with you and your organization in the future to advance these important causes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist