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Workers at JBS Ratify Five Year Contract

(Souderton, PA, August 6) -- The workers of JBS in Souderton, PA voted overwhelmingly today to accept a five year contract proposal from the company.

Negotiations for a new agreement began last December. The workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776, bargained in solidarity for quality and affordable healthcare and fair wage increases. Many members participated in various chain activities, including member Michelet Felix of the FAB department. "It was a very good experience. This year we have more people active and involved than before, taking part of this process. We worked together to be effective and to work to satisfy all workers," she said.

The five year agreement, which will expire in August 2019, includes affordable health care for employees and their families and significant wage increases for the full term of the agreement along with additional bonuses in the first year. The agreement includes the JBS Rendering facility.

Wendell W. Young, IV, President of UFCW Local 1776, said that today's vote "can be accredited to much solidarity amongst the UFCW." Young said:

"There is no doubt the strength and solidarity amongst the other UFCW represented plants here in the United States and the global solidarity with the unions representing JBS workers in Brazil played a tremendous role in securing this contract. JBS workers recognize the value both chain and global unity has in achieving what they deserve."

Young said he is proud to have seen so many members active in the bargaining process.

"The engagement amongst this group of members should be applauded. Their involvement in the negotiating process is what gives us strength at the bargaining table and demonstrates the significance and pride they take in their hard work," he added.

UFCW Local 1776 represents more than 1,100 workers at JBS Souderton and it's Rendering facility.

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UFCW Local 1776 represents 24,000 members who work in southeast, northeast and central Pennsylvania and southern New York in supermarkets, drug stores, food processing plants, government services, manufacturing facilities, nursing homes, professional offices and Pennsylvania's Wine and Spirits Shops.

United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1776
Wendell W. Young, IV • Michele Kessler • Barbara Johnson
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