

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2105

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February 13, 2013

Mr. James McCann
Chief Operating Officer
Ahold USA
1385 Hancock St
Quincy, MA 02169

Dear Mr. McCann:

I am writing this letter in reference to the ongoing negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement between a consortium of United Food & Commercial Workers and Stop & Shop New England, an Ahold USA subsidiary.

Many Stop & Shop employees are constituents living in my Congressional District, and I am familiar with the struggles that these employees face to make ends meet and support their families. The wages and benefits that Stop & Shop and the Union have always successfully negotiated in the past have provided these employees with a certain measure of economic security. It is my hope that the Company and the Union will once again reach a mutually beneficial agreement that satisfies both parties.

Among its corporate counterparts, Stop & Shop has long distinguished itself as a Company that respects and cares for its workers – a quality evidenced by the Company's provision of affordable health care to part-time employees. In this contract dispute, I would respectfully request that the Company hew to its reputation as an employer that cares for the economic well-being of its employees. Recent press reports have indicated that Stop & Shop New England has begun the process of recruiting and hiring "replacement workers" to staff Stop & Shop stores in the event of a strike or lockout when the collective bargaining agreement expires on February 24, 2013. Particularly troublesome are the reports that indicate Stop & Shop is offering these "replacement workers" higher starting wages than wages currently offered to starting unionized employees (*Boston Herald*, "Stop & Shop Stocks up for Strike," February 1, 2013).

I encourage Stop & Shop to seek resolution in the current negotiations in a manner that is consistent with the Company's strong reputation as a labor-friendly workplace. In closing, I thank you for your time and attention to this letter. Please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey