Statement of National Farm Worker Ministry on the Occasion of the End of the Sakuma/Driscoll’s Berries Boycott

SEPTEMBER 2016

National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) is pleased to announce that Familias Unidas por la Justicia (FUJ) ended their boycott of Sakuma Berries, Driscoll’s Berries and Häagen-Dazs strawberry ice cream on Sept 4th. Familias Unidas por la Justicia and Sakuma Bros. Farm have officially agreed to an election and negotiation process for a collective bargaining agreement. For FUJ, this has been a long 3+ year struggle for farm workers’ self-determination on issues of wages, housing and working conditions.

NFWM’s board of directors endorsed the boycott at their board meeting in July 2015. Since then, member and supporting organizations, and many individual supporters have participated in postcard writing, social media campaigns, public demonstrations, meetings with the Sakuma CEO and phone calls to the boycott targets. NFWM is pleased that these efforts raised awareness and built support for the farm workers’ struggle. Yet it is due to the courage of the farm workers themselves risking job security, intimidation and harassment that they reached this stage.

In the coming months, NFWM will continue to accompany FUJ and monitor the process going forward. We are hopeful that a fair and reasonable contract will be reached quickly.

National Farm Worker Ministry stays true to our roots as a faith-based organization committed to justice for and empowerment of farm workers. Our work is to stand in solidarity with, NOT speak for, farm workers so that we can amplify their voices and increase their efforts. We thank all of our supporters whose actions helped FUJ achieve this great step in their struggle for justice.