



November 29, 2021

To: Rev. Dan Clark
Ohio Director of Faith in Public Life

I'm writing to acknowledge your email from November 2021 sent on behalf of the Vincentian Ohio Action Network, Faith in Public Life, the National Farm Worker Ministry, The Catholic Labor Network and [REDACTED] regarding the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' (CIW) Fair Food Program. We welcome the opportunity to provide you information about our business practices on this matter.

At Wendy's, we are proud of our brand and our commitment to deliver high quality, ethically sourced products for our restaurants. We have high expectations for ourselves and for others with whom we work, including with regards to quality, integrity, and human dignity.

In 2018, Wendy's made a significant change to our sourcing strategy by purchasing our North American tomato supply exclusively from indoor, hydroponic greenhouse farms. We find these tomatoes to be superior in quality and taste to outdoor, field-grown tomatoes, and we believe these changes to our supply chain are both responsible and sustainable. The indoor work environment provides shelter from the elements and environmental contaminants, benefitting both workers and plants, requires significantly less water and land use, and a reduced need for chemical pesticides. We simply have not purchased field-grown, commodity tomatoes from areas in which the Fair Food Program operates for several years now; so, there is no nexus between the Fair Food Program and our supply chain today.

I'd also like to share that Wendy's has an established [Supplier Code of Conduct](#) (the "Code") that applies to significant suppliers of The Wendy's Company and our North America restaurant system and it covers important topics such as Food Safety and Ingredients, Human Rights and Labor Practices and Business Ethics and Integrity.

We continue to work with third-party groups and experts on matters related to Corporate Social Responsibility, and this input helps Wendy's make informed decisions on enhancements to the Supplier Code of Conduct. In 2017, we expanded the Code to include additional assurances and requirements related to human rights and labor practices, including requiring third-party reviews related to the human rights and labor practices for suppliers of certain hand-harvested, whole, fresh produce such as tomatoes.

Unlike areas such as food safety and animal welfare in which there are global or industry-wide standard assessments and certifications, today there is not a singular human rights and labor practices assessment that is used by all sectors and geographies of agricultural work. Therefore, in implementing this requirement, Wendy's evaluated and subsequently authorized several human rights and labor practice frameworks that are consistent with our Supplier Code of Conduct. Wendy's considers the Fair

Food Program to be an acceptable certification framework; however, our understanding is that, at present, none of our covered suppliers use the Fair Food Program framework.

We have no reason to doubt that the Fair Food Program has helped improve conditions on outdoor tomato farms. However, linking this work with the idea that joining this program, and purchasing fieldgrown, commodity tomatoes, is the only way that Wendy's can demonstrate responsibility in our supply chain is not true.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our position on this matter. You can learn more about our commitments to responsible business practices on our [website](#) and our [blog](#). You can also learn more about our Good Done Right corporate responsibility platform in our [2020 Corporate Responsibility Report](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liliansa Esposito".

Liliansa Esposito
Chief Corporate Affairs & Sustainability Officer
The Wendy's Company