

January 11, 2017

Doug McMillon  
President and CEO Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.  
702 SW 8th Street  
Bentonville, AR 72716-8611

RE: Greenpeace campaign to improve canned tuna sold at Walmart

Mr. McMillon:

As you are aware, global attention has been raised about pervasive abuse of seafood workers and deplorable working conditions throughout the seafood industry. Greenpeace has found evidence of these concerning practices within the global tuna industry.

In 2015, Greenpeace launched a global campaign to reform the out of control tuna industry. From the beginning, major U.S. and international unions stood with Greenpeace in solidarity, calling on tuna giant Thai Union to commit to sustainable and ethical sourcing across its global supply chains. With this letter, labor, human rights and environmental organizations are calling on Walmart—the world’s largest retailer—to do its part to eradicate these exploitive and abusive practices and ensure sustainable and ethical supply chains for all tuna products sold in stores, starting with Walmart’s Great Value brand.

Walmart is responsible for one quarter of U.S. canned tuna sales. Walmart buys tuna from Thai Union Group, a company that has been under the spotlight for its links to human rights and labor abuse, including forced labor and human trafficking, in some of its seafood supply chains.<sup>1,2</sup> Walmart has also had supply chain scandals and has not provided sufficient assurances that its supply chains are socially responsible.<sup>3,4</sup>

Irresponsible labor practices and illegal, destructive fishing are interconnected. Solutions such as increased transparency and traceability, and a ban on transshipment at sea will address both human and environmental threats. Through its CSR commitments, Walmart has a responsibility to offer its millions of customers sustainable and ethical seafood. The company must guarantee the fair treatment of workers and the long-term health of ocean life throughout its supply chain—from the fishing vessels at sea, to factories on land, and to Walmart stores worldwide. This starts with Walmart making a public commitment to improve its own brand canned tuna, and demanding better tuna from Thai Union. For far too long, Walmart has presented itself as an environmentally responsible company, yet has not taken true responsibility for the destructive tuna it sells.

Walmart has done little to demonstrate its purported commitment to address its supply chain blights. While the company has provided some of its customers a more sustainable tuna option (e.g., Ocean Naturals), this small step falls far short of what is required to address the chronic human rights and environmental horrors associated with

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/0d9bad238bc24a059beeb4041aa21435/ap-global-supermarkets-selling-shrimp-peeled-slaves>

<sup>2</sup> <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/b9e0fc7155014ba78e07f1a022d90389/ap-investigation-are-slaves-catching-fish-you-buy>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/25/world/asia/bangladesh-building-collapse.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/25/world/asia/bangladesh-building-collapse.html?_r=0)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/cbs-news-goes-undercover-in-a-bangladesh-clothing-factory/>

the majority of its tuna offerings, and what is needed to transform a brutal and lawless industry. Walmart must demonstrate a clear commitment with a timeline and comprehensive procurement policy to source sustainable, ethical tuna.

Companies like Walmart, similar to Thai Union, are keystone actors in the world's economy and environment; the choices you make will lead the industry. Walmart must do its part to confront human trafficking within the seafood supply chain. We stand in support for workers' rights and people around the world who have a right to healthy, productive oceans now and for future generations.

We urge Walmart to take responsibility for the products it sells and prevent consumers from unknowingly purchasing seafood in your stores that may have been caught at the expense of human trafficking and labor abuse. Walmart must use its unparalleled buying power now to transform the industry, and demand sustainable and ethical tuna from Thai Union.

We urge you to lead the U.S., Canadian, and international retail sectors to make this iconic seafood staple a more responsible one.

Sincerely,

**AFL-CIO**

**American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations**  
Richard L. Trumka, President



**Corporate Accountability International**  
Kelle Louaillier, President



**Environmental Justice Foundation**  
Steve Trent, Executive Director

**GREENPEACE**

**Greenpeace USA**  
Annie Leonard, Executive Director



**International Brotherhood of Teamsters**  
James P. Hoffa, General President



**International Labor Rights Forum**  
Judy Gearhart, Executive Director



**International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)**  
Ron Oswald, General Secretary



**National Guestworker Alliance**  
Saket Soni, Executive Director



**Sierra Club**  
Michael Brune, Executive Director



**United Food Commercial and Workers International Union (UFCW)**  
Marc Perrone, International President



**International Transport Workers' Federation**  
Stephen Cotton, General Secretary