

## Sample Letter to Smithfield Packing

Joseph Luter III, CEO  
Smithfield Foods, Inc  
200 Commerce St  
Smithfield, VA 23430

Dear Mr. Luter,

As a concerned member of my community I ask that Smithfield Packing Inc. respect workers rights in Tar Heel, NC. Stop the use of intimidation, violence, threats and firing against workers, and disband the company police.

Your company has been found guilty of using intimidation, threats and violence against workers. Your company has been found guilty of physically assaulting workers, threatening bodily harm, and causing the false arrest of workers for exercising their legal rights. And you have repeatedly appealed orders from administrative law judges and the National Labor Relations Board that required your company to respect workers rights, and allow them to make their own choices about union representation and other legally protected activities without threats, intimidation, and violence.

The Smithfield plant in Tar Heel is the only meatpacking plant in the US with its own private company police. The very presence of company cops create an environment of intimidation, especially when those same company cops have been involved in physically beating, falsely arresting and threatening workers.

Human Rights Watch has cited Smithfield Packing for violating international human rights standards in two reports, *Unfair Advantage* in 2002 and *Blood, Sweat, and Fear* in 2005. This international human rights organization reported that Smithfield had violated the rights of workers to organize a union, denied workers compensation to injured workers and retaliated against workers for reporting injuries.

I am appalled by the behavior of Smithfield Packing in Tar Heel, NC, and I call on your company to do the right thing and implement the orders of the NLRB, disband the company police, and allow workers to make their own choices about a union without threats, intimidation and violence.