

## UFCW, Local 1500, Senator Gillibrand Launch \$1 Billion Legislative Effort to Combat Food Deserts



**RWDSU District Council of the UFCW President Stuart Appelbaum, U.S. Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Local 1500 President Bruce Both join local officials to announce the Fresh Food Financing initiative.**

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), together with the UFCW and U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez (NY-12) announced the launch of a \$1 billion push to combat food deserts across the country this week. The announcement of the Fresh Food Financing program, made in a Local 1500-represented Pathmark grocery store, builds on efforts by President Obama and local leaders to provide financing for quality food stores in underserved communities. Local 1500, as members of the New York State Supermarket Commission, helped craft the model legislation that Gillibrand and Velazquez are introducing, and that has been implemented across New York City and state.

This effort will, if passed, aid in the construction of more than 2,100 new grocery stores in high-need areas across the country. The UFCW has been a leader in combating food deserts across the country—with high-profile efforts in New York, Detroit, and Chicago.

In a statement, Senator Gillibrand said, “By building new grocery stores in underserved areas across the state, we can give people the opportunity to live longer,

healthier lives, save billions in health care costs, and create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.”

The UFCW has thrown its full support behind the effort. Supermarkets act as anchors for economic development in a neighborhood. In community after community, good supermarket jobs provide workers with good wages, career opportunities and, most importantly, quality health care coverage that is key to a healthy lifestyle. **OP**

## VoteUFCW.org Launches—Your Source for UFCW Political Information and Action



**The new VoteUFCW.org**

The UFCW has launched a new legislative and political web site, [VoteUFCW.org](http://VoteUFCW.org). The site was designed with UFCW members and locals in mind—we’ve stocked it with crucial information and helpful tools to make it easier to take action and stay informed on politics and the issues that matter to working Americans.

Here are some of the things you and your members can do on [VoteUFCW.org](http://VoteUFCW.org):

- Get in-depth UFCW-related information on legislative issues—immigration, jobs, food safety, and more.
- Find the latest news and information on UFCW political issues and actions, including information on candidates local unions have endorsed.
- Directly contact members of Congress on important legislative issues and votes.

- See videos and photos, download flyers, and post your own photos of workers in action.
- Connect with UFCW members and staff.
- Contribute online to the UFCW's Political Action Committee, the Active Ballot Club (ABC), and support candidates, organizations, and ballot initiatives that will improve the lives of working families.

Check out the new site today at [VoteUFCW.org](http://VoteUFCW.org). And please help us keep this site fresh and useful for you: send us an email at [vote@ufcw.org](mailto:vote@ufcw.org) if your local has endorsed a candidate recently, taken action or held a rally, or if there's any other news, video, or pictures you think we should include on the site. **OP**

## UFCW Activists Stand Up for Striking Workers at Shaw's



UFCW activists are sending letters to the CEO of Supervalu telling him that the 300 Shaw's workers and members of Local 791 in Methuen, Mass., who were forced out on strike on March 7 deserve a fair contract. To show your support for the Shaw's workers, and to ask Supervalu to come back to the table and bargain a fair deal, visit [www.JusticeAtShaws.org](http://www.JusticeAtShaws.org).

## UFCW Members Take Action for Good Jobs at Mott's

UFCW activists flooded Dr. Pepper/Snapple corporate headquarters with emails in support of Mott's workers

who are members of RWDSU Local 220\* in upstate New York who have been trying to negotiate a contract for weeks. Dr. Pepper/Snapple—the parent company of Mott's—is trying to cut every worker's salary by \$2.50 an hour, and take away the workers' pension plan. To send a letter to Dr. Pepper/Snapple Group and tell them what they are doing is wrong, go to [www.ufcw.org/take\\_action/](http://www.ufcw.org/take_action/). **OP**

## Local 1994 Rallies Against Cuts to Government Jobs & Services



Members of Local 1994 who work as school health aides protest cuts in their workday.

Members of Local 1994 who work for the county government in Montgomery County, Md., rallied against deep cuts to the services they provide last Tuesday. Hundreds of UFCW members and their allies stood against furloughs and layoffs, cuts to school health programs, and slashing public safety programs, while county management pay remains above average and county executives spend top dollar to remodel their personal bathrooms.

They were joined by labor and community allies, as well as Montgomery County resident, International President Joe Hansen.

Said Local 1994 President Gino Renne, "There are five [county] agencies that need to be restructured from the top." **OP**