

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2016

Mr. Bill DeLaney
President and CEO
Sysco Corporation
1390 Enclave Parkway
Houston, TX 77077

Dear Mr. DeLaney:

As members of the Senate Caucus to End Human Trafficking, we are deeply concerned about the prevalence of human trafficking in the seafood supply chain. The global demand for inexpensive seafood has increased pressure to provide cheap labor and maximize profits, providing ample space for human trafficking in the seafood supply chain. While this is an industry-wide problem and reform must occur with the collaboration of multiple entities, it is incumbent on Sysco, Restaurant Associates, and Sodexo to take swift and measurable action to combat human trafficking within their own supply chains. Sysco is the world's largest food distributor with the buying power to ensure that consumers do not unknowingly purchase seafood produced with slave labor. As Congress is a customer of Restaurant Associates and Sodexo, operators supplied by Sysco, we request assurances from Sysco that no products associated with human trafficking are being served in Capitol Hill facilities.

First, we ask that Sysco, Restaurant Associates, and Sodexo disclose what policies are currently in place to ensure your full supply chain is free from human trafficking. The complex path that seafood travels – from the time it is harvested to the plate of the consumer – presents numerous opportunities for human trafficking. We have reviewed Sysco's Code of Conduct and are concerned that it does not provide adequate safeguards against illegal and exploitive seafood supply chains. Under Sysco's Code of Conduct, Sysco will "not knowingly work with any supplier that uses forced, bonded, indentured, or slave labor." As a leader in the global market, Sysco has a responsibility to be both proactive and reactive to instances of human trafficking occurring in their supply chain. Simply knowing about human trafficking in the supply chain is insufficient, if Sysco does not have the policies in place to address such instances of abuse. We request detailed information on what additional steps are taken to vet Sysco's suppliers and ensure they have not participated in or are associated with human trafficking.

Second, we request detailed information on what response measures are taken to address violations of Sysco's Code of Conduct related to instances of human trafficking in your seafood supply chain. It has come to our attention that Sysco is in partnership with seafood companies who have been accused of perpetuating human trafficking and maintaining deplorable working conditions, such as Thai Union. It is mandated in Sysco's Code of Conduct that Sysco will "only initiate and renew contractual relationships with suppliers that do not violate basic human rights." Several major U.S. foodservice companies are supplied by Sysco, thus we are concerned

that Thai Union products are in the dining halls of Congress. We ask that you disclose how you are addressing this issue and whether you have plans to reevaluate your partnership with this company.

As the world's largest food distributor, Sysco has a direct responsibility to prevent consumers from unknowingly purchasing seafood produced with trafficked labor. Food companies complicit in human trafficking throughout their seafood supply chain should not be providing food to Congress or any other customers. We look forward to learning more about your efforts to eradicate human trafficking from your supply chain.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



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United States Senate

cc: Mr. Dick Cattani, CEO, Restaurant Associates
cc: Ms. Lorna Donatone, CEO, Sodexo North America