

For Immediate Release
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Rally on 5/12 to support Albanese Workers: *Albanese continues to break the law*

WHO: Albanese Workers, Local 881 UFCW, Labor Allies

WHAT: Local 881 UFCW and allies are joining to tell Albanese to stop the retaliation against workers for wanting to join a Union.

WHEN: **Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 4pm**

WHERE: Outside of Albanese Candy Factory 5441 E. Lincoln Hwy, Merrillville, IN 46410

WHY: On April 9, 2018, Local 881 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union filed charges against Albanese claiming the maker of Gummi Bears violated the rights of its workers to join Local 881. Albanese has responded by continuing to violate Federal labor laws, and have hired an anti-union consulting firm to keep workers from organizing. As part of its tactics, Albanese has continued to fire, harass, and retaliate against Union supporters.

“When I was a kid we used to stop by Albanese on our way to our campground. It was a part of my childhood. So, when I started working for the company, I was thrilled and thought I would retire there. It's a shame that they have gotten so big that they have forgotten about the people that have gotten them this far...the employees,” said Jennifer Harris, one of the employees fired for union activity. “They've cut hours, cut holiday pay, cut raises, have broken equipment that doesn't get fixed, and the favoritism is completely out of control. It's sad that a company that likes to portray themselves as ‘family-oriented’ is far from that. They have forgotten all about their employees and their families.”

“The company may want to keep spending their money on anti-union consultants. But the support for the Albanese workers is not going anywhere” said Ron Powell, Local 881 President. “Workers deserve to be heard and respected. The workers at Albanese are not alone in their struggle for respect and dignity.”

Local 881 UFCW has filed additional unfair labor practices as a result of the Company’s continued unlawful practices. We are asking customers and the public to call Albanese and tell them to stop retaliating against its workers for wanting better wages, hours, and working conditions. You can call 885 272-3227 (dial 3) and tell them to STOP the Retaliations. You can also hold Albanese accountable by commenting on their Facebook page @AlbaneseConfectionery.

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Local 881 UFCW represents 34,000 members employed in retail food and drug stores throughout Illinois and Northwest Indiana, as well as a professional division comprised of health and nursing home workers, barbers and cosmetologists, and workers in other retail and service industries. Among the companies under contract with Local 881 are Jewel Food Stores, Osco Drug, Mariano’s Fresh Market, CVS Pharmacy, Kroger, Schnucks, Pinnacle Foods, and many smaller chains and independent stores, as well as nursing homes and other business establishments. Local 881 is among the largest affiliates of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which represents 1.3 million members in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.