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EMO expresses condemnation of immigration raid at Del Monte plant in Portland

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) condemns the raid conducted Tuesday at the Del Monte plant in Portland by the federal government's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. We are deeply saddened by this inhumane and unnecessary action, which has torn apart families and caused a great deal of suffering to children and their parents.

While there are many legitimate concerns about immigration issues, low wage undocumented workers are not responsible for, and have no power over, the grand political and economic policies that have left them with few options for a decent life for themselves and their children. The ICE raids have only served to add to the victimization of honest and honorable, hard-working men and women who ask only for the opportunity to contribute as equals in our community.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon joins its voice with faith communities around the country in calling upon the federal government to develop a humane, respectful and family-centered approach to immigration reform. We join with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in calling for an immigration bill based on five principles:

- To make family a priority in immigration law.
- To insist that worker programs contain protection for U.S. citizens and immigrant workers.
- To allow for earned legalization for undocumented immigrants.
- To restore due process protection for immigrants.
- To respond to the economic, political and social root causes of immigration.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church of the Brethren ■ Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA) ■ Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

We also call on the ICE to end the arrests of undocumented workers who have broken no laws other than those related to their immigration status, while immigration reform is under way in congress. We call upon our governmental representatives to pass immigration reform legislation that will provide a reasonable path to legalization for undocumented immigrants, make family unification a priority in immigration law and guarantee that all workers have access to protective labor laws. We also ask our representatives, and all of civil society, to work to address the economic, social and political conditions throughout the world that lead to disruptive and uncontrolled emigration.

We are guided by the ancient scriptural admonition, *"When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God."* - Leviticus 19:33-34

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.