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To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
Date: 9/3/2013 3:57:39 PM
Subject: Fast Food Strikes

Katherine,

Did this strike have any impact in SC? I thought you would have a pulse on this if anyone did...

QSR Workers Rally Others for Nationwide Strike

Fast-food employees are planning to walk off the job on August 29.

August 21, 2013

NEW YORK CITY – Buoyed by the success of one-day strikes in eight major cities several months ago, fast-food employees are calling for a strike day across the nation, the Washington Post reports. QSR employees, with the support of community organizations and unions, will stage walkouts on August 29.

With the success of one-day strikes in Detroit, New York and St. Louis, among other cities, organizers say workers in more than 35 localities have pledged to participate. The workers want \$15 an hour plus the right to unionize. The organizers claim that crew members, cashiers and cooks at QSR receive a median wage of \$9.4 per hour.

In November, around 200 employees staged a walkout in New York City, spawning several similar strikes in seven other cities. Labor groups say these strikes are part of an overall change in strategy to boost sagging union numbers.

Thousands of workers will walkout on August 29, according to organizers. "The top executives in these companies make huge salaries, and the corporations make record profits every year," said Terrance Wise, who takes home \$9.30 per hour at a Burger King job in Kansas City, Missouri, and \$7.47 an hour at a Pizza Hut (his second job). "How about them cutting a little off the top? CEOs are taking home millions, and many workers are struggling."

Retail workers from Sears, Macy's and Dollar Tree, among others, will join the QSR employees in the strike. Organizers say that the type of person working at fast-food and retail positions are no longer teens but adults trying to support themselves and families. Meanwhile, the fast-food and retail industries point out that paying employees \$15 an hour would ensure more of those businesses close because of razor-thin margins.

Thanks,

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