

January 26, 2026

Dear Jim Pattison Group,

On behalf of the 28,000 workers represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1518 (UFCW 1518) across British Columbia, I write to express our concern about the decision to sell a warehouse owned by Jim Pattison Development to convert it into an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) processing facility in Hanover County, Virginia.

UFCW 1518 stands firmly against the demonization and targeting of immigrant workers by the Trump administration, as well as the dehumanizing practices being utilized by ICE. The expansion of immigrant enforcement infrastructure, including ICE processing facilities, has had devastating consequences for workers and their families by creating fear and undermining fundamental human and labour rights.

The labour movement in both Canada and the United States stands in solidarity with immigrant workers – many of whom are a part of our union and operate grocery stores belonging to the Pattison Group across Canada. They work in our grocery stores, warehouses, and farms – these workers are an integral part of our communities, and they deserve dignity, respect, and safety.

Given the Pattison Group's significant presence and influence here in Canada and in the United States, we believe that there is a responsibility to consider the broader social and moral implications of this sale and any future sales to the Department of Homeland Security. We urge you to decline any involvement that would contribute to the ongoing attack on human rights.

An attack on any worker's right to safety and security is an attack on the rights of all workers. We hope you will reflect of the values of inclusion, fairness, and respect for workers that Canadians hold dear, and choose a path forward that aligns with these important principles. I welcome the chance to discuss this matter further.

In solidarity,

Patrick Johnson
President, UFCW 1518