



220 Hillsborough Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

(919) 821-2777  
(919) 821-4778 Fax

[www.ncdp.org](http://www.ncdp.org)

**Officers -**

*Jerry Meek*  
Chair

*Dannie Montgomery*  
First Vice Chair

*Delmas Parker*  
Second Vice Chair

*Courtney Crowder*  
Third Vice Chair

*Roy Lucas*  
Secretary

*Muriel Offerman*  
Treasurer

**Trustee Patrons –**

*Doug & Margaret Abrams*

*Michael Brader-Araje*

*Wade Byrd*

*Michael Cucchiara*

*Dr. Lucy Daniels*

*Lisbeth Evans*

*Victor Farah*

*John A. Forlines, Jr.*

*Mitchell Gold*

*Clarice Cato Goodyear*

*Mark V.L. Gray*

*Cameron Harris*

*Rep. Pricey Taylor Harrison*

*Gov. & Mrs. James B. Hunt, Jr.*

*Amb. Jeanette & Wallace Hyde*

*Sen. Clark Jenkins*

*Roddy Jones*

*David F. Kirby*

*George R. Kornegay, Jr.*

*Congressman Mike McIntyre*

*Leigh Harvey McNairy*

*Daniel D. Mosca*

*Bob Page*

*Hank & Jane Patterson*

*Elizabeth Moore Ruffin*

*Wade Smith*

*Sen. Tom Taft*

*Michael Tiemann*

*Timothy Toben*

*Kevin A. Trapani*

*Robert Zaytoun*

April 22, 2008

Delivered Via Email and Regular Mail

Ms. Theresa Kostrzewa  
2349 Churchill Road  
Raleigh, NC 27608

RE: Smithfield Foods and Smithfield Packing

Dear Theresa:

I wanted to follow-up with you regarding our conversation this morning. In that conversation, I informed you of our decision not to accept a contribution from your clients, Smithfield Foods and Smithfield Packing. You indicated that I was making a big mistake, and that you were going to notify corporate executives across this State of our decision not to accept this contribution.

The North Carolina Democratic Party recognizes the importance of businesses, large and small, to creating economic opportunities for all. We have long demonstrated our commitment to fostering a climate in which businesses can thrive. Indeed, our State's national reputation as one of the best business environments in the country is the product of decades of prudent leadership by the elected officials of our Party.

We do not believe that a company must violate worker rights, or flaunt the law, in order to prosper. And I refuse to believe that the corporate executives you have threatened to speak with about this matter could condone the flagrant disregard for worker rights, worker safety, and the environment. Law abiding corporations are at a competitive disadvantage when others fail to respect the law or to uphold basic human rights.

The record of Smithfield Foods is all too clear.

# North Carolina Democratic Party

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has fined Smithfield Foods for over 7000 violations of the Clean Water Act. The U.S. Department of Labor has repeatedly cited Smithfield Foods for violating the nation's child labor laws. OSHA has cited Smithfield Foods for repeated workplace safety violations, including the exposure of workers to corrosive chemicals, the use of unguarded blades on cutting equipment, and blocked exits. And the National Labor Relations Board has found that Smithfield Foods engaged in intimidation, threats, and retaliatory practices in response to workers' efforts to improve their conditions.

In 2000, Smithfield Foods became the only meatpacking plant in the United States with its own armed police force. In the ensuing years, this force was found to use violence, intimidation, and threats against the company's own workers.

It is noteworthy when the internationally respected organization, *Human Rights Watch*, calls a company to task for violating human rights. I doubt that many of the executives you have threatened to discuss this matter with manage companies that face such scrutiny.

In conclusion, we stand by our decision. I do encourage you to discuss this matter with other executives, but only if you reveal in the process your clients' full record on worker safety, environmental protection, and human rights. Please feel free to ask them to contact me if they have questions.

With Best Wishes,



JERRY MEEK  
Chair

/jm