

**Congressional Progressive Caucus**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

December 17, 2015

Susan Lacz, CEO  
Ridgewells Catering  
5525 Dorsey Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20816

Dear Ms. Lacz:

We write to express our concern for the federal contract workers who provide catering services on Capitol Hill. The Congressional Progressive Caucus has demonstrated long-standing support for better protections, pay and benefits for federal contract workers and federal employees. We believe the Federal Government and those who contract with the government should be model employers.

We are aware that your company, Ridgewells Catering, and your subsidiary, Capitol Host, are currently negotiating a contract with employees who provide catering services on Capitol Hill. We have attended many events served by the Capitol Host employees, and we greatly appreciate their hard work and service to Members and visitors on the Hill. We believe that these employees and all workers need access to long-term, affordable healthcare coverage and a living wage that allows them to take care of their families and themselves. We ask for fair and full consideration of the above benefits and any requests made by Unite Here Local 23, the union representing these employees.

Over the past 40 years, worker productivity in the United States has increased while wages have mostly stagnated or declined. In the meantime, the cost of education, healthcare and other costs have risen, making it hard for the average American to keep up. Despite their skills and work ethic, most American workers and families are so financially strapped from increasing income inequality that their paychecks barely cover basic necessities. We believe that the economic wellbeing of our workers is vital to the economic security of our country. In order to achieve a full economic recovery and national prosperity, working Americans need access to high-quality jobs that pay a living wage.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. We stand ready to partner with you in supporting federal contract workers.

Sincerely,

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Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

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John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

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Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

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André Carson  
Member of Congress

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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

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Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

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Frank Pallone Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

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Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

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Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

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Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

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Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

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Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress