

# JOHN EDWARDS08

April 2, 2007

Mr. C. Larry Pope  
President and CEO  
Smithfield Foods, Inc.  
200 Commerce Street  
Smithfield, Virginia 23430

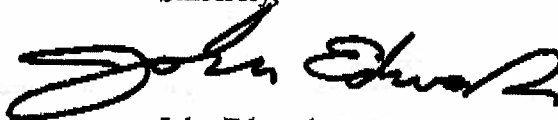
Dear Mr. Pope:

I am writing to urge you to help protect the right of workers at Smithfield Packing in Tar Heel, North Carolina, to form a union by remaining neutral in their on-going organizing campaign. Protecting the right to organize in our democracy is important because it allows working men and women to help make decisions that affect their work lives.

I understand that workers at your Tar Heel facility – the largest pork processing plant in the world - have expressed a long-standing interest in forming a union with the United Food and Commercial Workers. I further understand that the National Labor Relations Board ruled in 2004 that Smithfield had violated its workers' right to organize in the 1990s and that Smithfield recently paid \$1.5 million in back wages in this case as ordered by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

As President and CEO of Smithfield Foods, I hope and expect that you will protect the right of your workers in North Carolina and across the country to form a union and bargain collectively.

Sincerely,



John Edwards