February 10, 2014

Dear President Garvey and Dean Abela,

We write as members of Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice and signatories of a Dec. 13th letter expressing concern regarding the Koch Foundation's $1 million grant to the School of Business and Economics at The Catholic University of America. We are obliged to reply to some mischaracterizations of Church teaching on labor in the university's response. In addition, we also would like to clarify concerns first voiced in the original letter.

Dean Abela, you told *Catholic News Service* in December that "Catholic social teaching says nothing about specifically the issue of public sector unions." In addition, you commented that while Catholic teaching affirms respect for the environment "it doesn't say if you question global warming or climate change that's a sin." These statements, made by a Dean at a university sanctioned by the nation's Catholic bishops, may lead readers to the erroneous conclusion that the Church does not support public sector unions and has not spoken on global warming. Further, since you are an official at Catholic University, readers may conclude that you represent the official position of The Catholic University of America on these matters.

With respect to public sector unions, we believe your remarks may be interpreted as an implicit endorsement of growing anti-union activism supported by well-funded opponents of workers' rights. As you know, the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, published by the Vatican, describes unions as "a positive influence for social order and solidarity, and are therefore *an indispensable element of social life*." (emphasis in original). The *Compendium* adds "this makes the practice of solidarity among workers more fitting and necessary than ever."

When Gov. Scott Walker moved to end the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers in Wisconsin, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki of Milwaukee strongly affirmed the rights of workers and the value of unions. "The Church is well aware that difficult economic times call for hard choices and financial responsibility to further the common good. Our own dioceses and parishes have not been immune to the effects of the current economic difficulties. But hard times do not nullify the moral obligation each of us has to respect the legitimate rights of workers," the Archbishop said in a 2011 statement.

With respect to your comments about Church teaching and climate change, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI specifically referenced the reality of climate change in his 2010 World Day of Peace address. "Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change, desertification, the deterioration and loss of productivity in vast agricultural areas, the pollution of rivers and aquifers?" he said. On Nov. 25, 2011, he addressed delegates of 194 countries gathered in Durban, South Africa for international climate change negotiations and specifically urged leaders to reach a global agreement to address climate change. Pope Francis explained that he took this name as Holy Father in part to signal the importance of environmental stewardship modeled by St. Francis of Assisi. In contrast to the Catholic Church's leadership on this issue, the Koch brothers have funded groups that deny climate change and undermine efforts to find solutions to an urgent challenge that especially hurts the poor and vulnerable.

The content of our initial letter reflected a collaborative response from Catholic theologians, scholars, and other concerned Catholic leaders. Included were faculty members at your own university and former officials at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The advocacy group, Faith in Public Life, which has done valuable work to build support for comprehensive immigration reform and economic justice issues supported by Catholic and diverse religious leaders, served as a distribution point for communication and dissemination of the letter as the signatories desired.

Our primary concern with this sizable donation is where the money is going and the potentially misleading message that is sent about Catholic teaching regarding economic justice. A general grant from the Koch Foundation that would be used to support campus beautification or to fund a cultural center, for example, would raise less concern. We noted in our letter the Koch brothers' generous philanthropic giving to support arts and culture. In this case, however, significant funding is going to support the teaching of business and economics. Charles and David Koch have a clear political and ideological agenda when it comes to taxes, deregulation of business and markets, the role of government, workers' rights and the environment that are in direct conflict with traditional Catholic values.

While the study of "principled entrepreneurship" is a worthy endeavor, a healthy skepticism about this grant on our part is warranted given the Koch brothers' influential bankrolling of many causes that conflict with a Catholic vision for the common good. Along with their opposition to workers' rights and environmental stewardship, Charles and David Koch also fund organizations that are now working to defeat Medicaid expansion in several states. This advocacy stands in stark contrast to Catholic bishops' support for a policy that helps struggling families access quality health care.

We hope that this letter clarifies our concerns. We look forward to engaging with you both on these and other vital issues bearing on human dignity and the common good.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Fahey

Chair, Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

Professor of Religious Studies

Manhattan College

Edward “Joe” Holland III

Vice Chair, Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

Professor of Philosophy & Religion, St. Thomas University

President, Pax Romana/Catholic Movement for Intellectual & Cultural Affairs

Rev. Raymond G. Decker

Pastor Emeritus, Archdiocese of San Francisco

Steering Committee, Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

Mary Priniski, OP

Chapter Prioress Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Dominican Sisters of Adrian

Vice Chair, Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

Mary Ann Hinsdale, IHM

The Catholic University of America alumna (M.A. '71)

Assoc. Prof. of Theology

Boston College

Francis X. Doyle

Associate General Secretary (retired)

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Frederick L. Ahearn, Jr.

Ordinary Professor and Co-Chair

Center for International Development

National School of Social Service

The Catholic University of America

Rev. Clete Kiley

Director of Immigration Policy

UNITE HERE International Union

Thomas Shellabarger

Public Policy Associate

Interfaith Worker Justice

Rev. Drew Christiansen, S. J.

Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Global Human Development

Georgetown University

Susan A. Ross

Chair, Department of Theology

Loyola University Chicago

Past President, Catholic Theological Society of America

Dennis M. Doyle

Professor of Religious Studies

University of Dayton

Anthony B. Smith

Associate Professor

Department of Religious Studies

University of Dayton

Michael Duffy

Director

Joan and Ralph Lane Center for Catholic Studies and Social Thought

University of San Francisco

Terrence W. Tilley

Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J., Chair in Catholic Theology

Fordham University

Eugene McCarraher

Associate Professor of Humanities

Villanova University

Donald C. Carroll

Pres. Law Offices of Carroll & Scully, Inc.

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

Adj. Professor of Law

School of Law, Univ. of San Francisco

David O'Brien

Professor Emeritus

College of Holy Cross

Rev. John A. Coleman

Associate Pastor

St. Ignatius Church, San Francisco

Retired Professor, Loyola Marymount University

Kathleen Mass Weigert

Carolyn Farrell, BVM Professor of Women and Leadership

Loyola University Chicago

Nicholas P. Cafardi

Dean Emeritus

Duquesne University School of Law

Maureen H. O'Connell

Associate Professor and Chair of Religion

La Salle University

Michael J. Gent

Emeritus Professor of Management

Canisius College

Rev. T. Michael McNulty, SJ

Adjunct Professor of Philosophy

Marquette University

Christopher Pramuk

Associate Professor of Theology

Xavier University, Cincinnati

John Sniegocki

Associate Professor of Christian Ethics

Xavier University, Cincinnati

Anthony J. Godzieba

Professor of Theology and Religious Studies

Villanova University

John Inglis

Professor and Chair

Department of Philosophy

Cross-appointed to Department of Religious Studies

University of Dayton

Alex Mikulich

Jesuit Social Research Institute

Loyola University, New Orleans

Paul Misner

Professor Emeritus

Department of Theology

Marquette University

Rev. Juan Romero

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Fred Glennon

Professor of Social Ethics and Chair

Department of Religious Studies

Le Moyne College

Susan Weishar

Research Fellow

Jesuit Social Research Institute

Loyola University, New Orleans

Brian Stiltner

Associate Professor and Chair

Department of Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies

Sacred Heart University

John Trumpbour

Research Director

Labor and Worklife Program

Harvard University

William Quigley

Professor of Law

Loyola University, New Orleans

Scott Paeth

Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Director, Center for Interreligious Engagement

Department of Religious Studies

DePaul University

Rev. John R. Morris, OP

Lecturer, St. Mary's College

Promoter of Peace and Justice

Western Dominican Province

Catherine M. Mooney

Assoc. Prof. of Church History

Boston College

School of Theology and Ministry

Stephen Pope

Professor of Theological Ethics

Boston College

Robert DeFina, Ph.D.

Professor and Chairperson

Department of Sociology and Criminology

Villanova University

Sixto J. Garcia

Professor of Theology

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

Peter Beisheim

Professor of Religious Studies

Stonehill College

John Philo

Legal Director

Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice

Joe Torma

Professor of Theology

Walsh University

Rev. Benjamin J. Urmston

Xavier University, Cincinnati

Mary Kate Birge, SSJ

Associate Professor of Theology

Mount St. Mary's University

Judith Remy Leder

Emerita Business Writing

California State University, Fullerton

Peter R. Gathje

Professor of Christian Ethics

Memphis Theological Seminary

Sharon McGuire

Contributing Faculty

Walden University

Danielle M. Poe

Associate Professor of Philosophy

University of Dayton

David McLoughlin

Former President

Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain

Senior Lecturer in Theology

Newman University

Birmingham, England

Rev. James Hug, S.J.

Dolores Christie

John Carroll University

Jeannette Henriquez

Doctoral Student

Graduate Theological Union