



**Steve Reynolds**  
Executive Vice President and  
General Counsel

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October 9, 2014

**Via E-Mail**

Hugh Madden  
Communications Director  
Progress Michigan Political Action Fund  
[hugh@progressmichigan.org](mailto:hugh@progressmichigan.org)

Re: Progress Michigan Political Action Fund Aramark Ad

Dear Mr. Madden:

It has come to Aramark's attention that the Progress Michigan Political Action Fund ("Progress Michigan") intends to launch a new television advertisement and road campaign today that allegedly "seeks to educate the public about Gov. Rick Snyder's mishandling of the state's Aramark contract." The media advisory you released yesterday states that your events in Grand Rapids and Lansing will "feature a small aquarium full of maggots, a striking visual to represent the maggots that were discovered in Aramarkrun [sic] cafeterias, and a print out of the ad language will be made available." The video advertisement, accompanying statements, publications (including yesterday's advisory statement) and event visuals will contain material falsehoods and/or distortions about Aramark's performance under the contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections ("MDOC").

The purpose of this letter is to demand that you and anyone connected to Progress Michigan immediately cease and desist from communicating, publishing, airing or causing others to air any false statements or distortions relating to Aramark's performance under the contract with the MDOC.

As you know, the MDOC and the State of Michigan have specifically refuted and dispelled previous false reports connecting Aramark to the presence of "maggots" at any MDOC facilities. In fact, in an August 2014 press release, the MDOC specifically stated: "We investigated recent allegations connecting Aramark's services to inmate illnesses and pests. We determined none of these incidents were caused by Aramark. Despite heavy scrutiny and challenges, Aramark has served more than 20 million meals through July with great efficiency."

Based on the media advisory that your organization released yesterday, Progress Michigan intends to nonetheless publish and air a statement to the public indicating or suggesting that Aramark was responsible for the presence of "maggots." Any such statement or suggestion, in the face of MDOC's press release, would constitute a knowing publication of a materially false statement intended to injure Aramark. Please be aware that if Progress Michigan proceeds with advertisements containing false statements, Aramark reserves the right to take appropriate action.

Very truly yours,

A blue ink signature of Stephen R. Reynolds, consisting of a stylized, cursive script.

Stephen R. Reynolds

c: Lonnie Scott, Executive Director ([lonnie@progressmichigan.org](mailto:lonnie@progressmichigan.org))

Sam Ingot, Communications Specialist ([sam@progressmichigan.org](mailto:sam@progressmichigan.org))