

From: Andrea Dehlendorf

Date: March 5, 2013, 4:07:57 PM PST

To: "[Julie C. Rodriguez@who.eop.gov](mailto:Julie_C_Rodriguez@who.eop.gov)" <Julie_C_Rodriguez@who.eop.gov>

Subject: Letter to President Obama Urging Award of Presidential Medal of Freedom to Fred Ross, Sr.

Dear President Obama,

I am grassroots organizer who has devoted my life to work with everyday Americans to help make our world a better place. Today I am organizing Walmart workers to win dignity and a living wage at their jobs. I feel proud that someone who has been an organizer is now our President. As you know, organizing requires our deepest commitment, passion and hard work as we challenge the most entrenched forces of injustice. As organizers we are fulfilled by watching those we organize take leadership that transforms them and their worlds. It will take organizers to make our nation reach its greatness.

I have been inspired by the legacy of organizers who have come before me in the labor, women's, civil rights, and LGBT movements. Without them our world would not be what it is today. Fred Ross Sr. was one such organizer who taught us all how one man, by investing in the leadership of others can help build an extraordinary movement that changed the lives of farm workers and changed how we all think about those who toil to produce our food.

I urge you to honor Fred Ross, Sr. with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Honoring Fred Ross honors every organizer who works every day to make our country one of which we can proud.

In Solidarity,

Andrea Dehlendorf
Making Change at Walmart
United Food and Commercial Workers Union