Ms. Rodriguez,

I would like to add my name to what must be a growing list of people who are endorsing the proposal that Fred Ross Sr. be given the Congressional Medal of Freedom Award. The award would not only be recognition of the exemplary work that Fred Ross Sr. did throughout his life, but would also be a way of recognizing all of the behind-the-scenes organizers who have meant so much to this country but who never seek the spotlight and whose work remains unknown to most of us. It is their names and their legacies that an award to Fred Ross Sr. would acknowledge and celebrate. It would be a moment of recognition for all the people who have not sought it, but who have dedicated their lives to organizing for justice.

Thanks for your consideration.

Frank Bardacke

Author of Trampling Out the Vintage: Cesar Chavez and the Two Souls of the United Farm Workers