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FEBRUARY 22, 2013

PRESIDENT BARAK OBAMA  
WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

VIA EMAIL [JULIA\\_C\\_RODRIGUEZ@WHO.EOP.GOV](mailto:JULIA_C_RODRIGUEZ@WHO.EOP.GOV)

RE: PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM, FRED ROSS, SR.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA,

IF THERE IS ANY ONE PERSON MORE DESERVING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM, IT IS FRED ROSS, SR.

WHAT A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAN WHOSE ORGANIZING SKILLS PREPARED, NOT ONLY THOSE HE PERSONALLY TRAINED, BUT FUTURE GENERATIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE CULTURE OF SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZING WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES. HE PROVIDED A BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION BASED ON GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIVING AND LOVING.

IN 1969, AT THE AGE OF 27 I WAS FIRST EXPOSED TO FRED ROSS, SR., HIS SON FRED, AND THE UNITED FARM WORKERS' (UFW) EFFORTS IN IMPROVING THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE FIELDS.

FROM THAT BEGINNING TO NOW, AT THE AGE OF 70, REFLECTING ON HIS "AXIOMS FOR ORGANIZERS" AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT HIS WORK HAS BROUGHT TO MANY COMMUNITIES AND CAMPAIGNS, I AM THANKFUL FOR HIS INFLUENCE, HIS DEDICATION AND ESPECIALLY HIS WISDOM.

ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE – IS THE BEST RESPONSE TO INJUSTICE.

IT IS WITH HUMILITY THAT I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER FRED ROSS, SR. ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONOR HIM BY BESTOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO A TREMENDOUSLY CARING MAN.

RESPECTFULLY,

SHARON P. JOHNSON