

An APPEAL for JUSTICE

Mr. Steven Spinner, CEO
United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI)

Dear Mr. Spinner:

In its mission statement, UNFI promises to be an outstanding partner in the community, to support it economically and contribute to its quality of life.

Instead, UNFI accepted \$18 million in state and local tax abatements to subsidize its new Hudson Valley distribution center.

Meanwhile, Valley Central was forced to close one elementary school; reduce kindergarten to half day; and eliminate elementary music, art and library. Because UNFI won't pay its full share of school taxes, our community is now raising taxes a second time to temporarily restore some of the programs we lost.

UNFI promised to act with integrity and be a steward of the land. Yet UNFI is building its warehouse with out-of-state labor, materials and contractors while many of our neighbors are unemployed. We wonder how UNFI will treat warehouse workers and drivers in our community. Local organic consumers fear they and regional farmers will see little benefit, since the warehouse will deliver mostly out-of-state products to Whole Foods Markets in New York City.

We call upon UNFI to pay its full share of school taxes – just as local residents and businesses do – and honor its commitments to support our community in a sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

Fair Share Coalition Against Unsustainable Tax Subsidies

CC: Michael Hayes, Town of Montgomery Supervisor
Steve Neuhaus, Orange County Executive
UNFI Board of Directors
Whole Foods Board Chairman

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

TITLE/OCCUPATION

ORGANIZATION NAME

PHONE (OPTIONAL)

EMAIL (OPTIONAL)

If unable to return in person, please sign and FAX to the attention of Matteo Colombi at (845) 564-4120, or email a copy to unsustainableunfi@gmail.com.

Do you have a child in the Valley Central School District?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Phone and email will not be made public.