Walmart worker Rose Campbell speaks at the Poor People's Campaign rally in Lansing, Mich. on May 14th.
Dear Supporters...

On behalf of the Making Change at Walmart (MCAW) team at United Food and Commercial Workers, we want to express deep appreciation to our locals, community allies, elected officials and members, all of whom continue the work of holding the largest retailer in the world, Walmart, accountable.

Over the past few months, MCAW has exposed how Walmart's practices and policies affect Walmart workers, taxpayers, and our communities, and shown the real impact of Walmart's low, stagnant wages and poor benefits contributing to worker poverty in the U.S.

We have had the opportunity to fight for legislation in Wisconsin to close Walmart's dark store tax loophole, expose Walmart's poor track record with Walmart working women at the Academy Awards, and raise Walmart workers' issues to the national platform through the Poor People's Campaign. We have worked with communities and partners across the country to hold Walmart accountable as a community partner and employer and our work continues.

Thank you for being a part of the journey for justice for all workers.

In Pursuit of Justice,

The Making Change at Walmart team.
For the second year, Walmart was a sponsor of the Oscars, but what will it take for The Academy to care about women who work at Walmart?

2018 Tax Day: Who's Paying the Walmart Tax?

MCAW was busy this tax season, exposing Walmart’s abuse of property tax loopholes and bullying of small towns across America, like Raytown MO.

The Poor People's Campaign

Walmart workers across the country are joining the Poor People's Campaign. Find out why.

2018 Annual Meeting: What is Walmart Hiding?

For the first time in Walmart’s history, they separated their business meeting from the main Associate celebration... which begs the question: What is Walmart hiding?

Meet the Changemakers

Get to know the team that's working to change Walmart!
For the second year, Walmart has teamed up with the Academy to sponsor the Oscars and this year, hired 3 prominent female filmmakers to create its Oscars TV ads.

In response, Making Change at Walmart (MCAW) launched a national campaign highlighting Walmart’s mistreatment of female workers, including pregnant women, mothers, and the LGBTQ community.

MCAW brought former Walmart worker and mother Yvonne Gonzalez to L.A. to present the Academy with the "Biggest Corporate Sellout of Walmart Working Women" award and also demonstrated outside a pre-Oscars red carpet event. Special thanks to UFCW Local 770 for turning out to support Walmart working women. For more information on our campaign, click here.
Tax Day 2018: Walmart's Dark Store Tax Loophole

This tax season, MCAW highlighted a national crisis known as Walmart’s Dark Store Tax Loophole and exposed its impact and tax burden in the state of Wisconsin.

MCAW held press conferences in Milwaukee and Madison with the help of UFCW Local 1473 and were joined by Alderwoman Chantia Lewis in Milwaukee and Wisconsin State Senators Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville) and Chris Larson (D-Milwaukee), Assembly member Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha), and homeowners Rob and Barb Pifer at the state capitol. Both press conferences exposed Walmart’s use of Wisconsin’s “dark store” tax loophole to avoid paying its full share of property taxes.

MCAW also called on Wisconsin state leadership to revisit Ringhand’s bill, A.B. 386, an attempt to close the loophole, which despite having over 50 bipartisan co-sponsors, was blocked by Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Senate Leader Scott Fitzgerald during the final days of the legislative session this year. Read more about the issue here:

Read "Concerns addressed over 'dark store loophole'"
Big box retailers like Walmart have been using the “dark store” tax loophole to reduce their property tax rates by insisting that the assessed value of their properties is comparable to that of nearby vacant, abandoned, or “dark” big box stores. This tax loophole unfairly shifts the property tax burden to homeowners and reduces the amount of funding available for public schools.

Here is what the dark store loophole, used by many large retailers, has cost some states so far:

**Michigan**
- Roughly two-thirds of the state’s counties
- Lost at least $75 million in property taxes between 2013 and 2015.

**Wisconsin**
- More than 210 cases have been filed by big-box property owners over the last decade or so in 26 counties that make up 36% of the state.

**Indiana**
- Retailers’ successful use of the dark store argument
- Affected more than 17,000 parcels of land in the state.

**Texas**
- The state’s comptroller estimates dark store loopholes could cost local governments $2.6 billion annually within five years, including nearly $1.2 billion in lost property taxes for schools.

Sources: Michigan Association of Counties, the Association of Indiana Counties, Indiana County Assessors Association, Wisconsin League of Municipalities, Austin American-Statesman.
MCAW also highlighted another widespread problem for local towns and communities this tax season -- Walmart's offloading of anti-shoplifting costs onto local law enforcement, draining much-needed police resources away from the rest of the community.

Calling on one Raytown alderman's wish to label Walmart a "public nuisance" and assess a fee per excessive police service call, MCAW partnered with community members and residents to find solutions that offset the town's budget cuts while holding Walmart accountable as a responsible community partner. MCAW spoke with hundreds of Raytown residents:

Read "Neighbors in Raytown arguing Walmart is abusing police resources"
On Tax Day, MCAW held a press conference with Raytown and Independence Missouri residents along with UFCW Local 2 outside of Raytown’s City Hall to highlight Walmart’s excessive taxpayer drain. MCAW also announced the creation of a new citizen-led task force in Raytown, “Citizens Against Walmart Taxpayer Abuse of Police Resources.”

MCAW surveyed over 200 members of the Raytown and Independence communities in a historic online survey asking "who do you think should pay for the 812 police service calls made last year to the Raytown Walmart?"

98.7% said Walmart should pay for its own police service calls

1.83% said Raytown taxpayers should pay for Walmart's police service calls
Walmart workers across the country have joined the nationally-acclaimed Poor People’s Campaign (PPC), highlighting Walmart workers’ low wages, inconsistent and unfair scheduling and insufficient benefits as contributing to systemic poverty in the U.S.

Workers like Rose, Lorene, and James have been speaking at PPC rallies throughout the U.S. over the past several weeks, creating a national platform to expose Walmart’s practices and policies that trap too many workers in a life of poverty.

Click for more photos and video!
This year, MCAW criticized the retail giant for excluding 20,000 Associates from being a part of the shareholders business meeting by holding it at a smaller venue and on a different date than the Associate celebration. This historic break with tradition led MCAW to ask "What is Walmart hiding?"

We posed the question to our email list and over 1,400 responded – in fact, more people responded to our poll than attended Walmart’s business meeting this year. And here’s what 87% of them answered:

“They didn’t want workers to see Walmart’s majority shareholders (the Waltons and Walmart’s top 5 executives) voting to compensate CEO Doug McMillon $22.8 million this year.”

Throughout the shareholders meeting, MCAW released a series of statements, fact sheets and digital ads to educate the public, Walmart workers, and shareholders, on what Walmart could be hiding by censoring its 2018 shareholder business meeting.
“Share your profits with all your associates, and treat them as partners.”

What is Walmart Hiding?

Click here to read the 12 Things Walmart is Hiding from Its Shareholders and the American Public

Click here to read the The Growing Wage Divide Between Walmart’s Top 1% and its Workers
“While it comes as no surprise that Walmart has dropped this year in customer satisfaction, it is quite telling to see that Walmart, the largest retailer and private U.S. employer, ranks dead last among all other retailers surveyed, even beneath dying companies like Sears,” says MCAW director Randy Parraz. “Walmart lacks the ability to improve its customer experience when it refuses to focus on what we all know to be true – quality jobs create quality experiences for both shoppers and workers.”

**Minimum Wage Hikes Won’t Solve Walmart’s Customer Service Problem,** Forbes 3/18/18

Dispute over police calls to Raytown Walmart causes heated debate at meeting, Fox 4KC 3/20/18

‘Dark store’ loophole has group calling on big box retailers to pay their fair share, Fox 6 Milwaukee, 4/12/18

“Walmart broke the law when it punished its workers for exercising their federally-protected right to peaceful protest,” said Randy Parraz, director of Making Change at Walmart, an advocacy group backed by the United Food & Commercial Workers International union. “It’s been six years of Walmart ignoring these facts and delaying justice for these workers.”

**Walmart to Permit Union Insignia After Settling Employee Dispute** Bloomberg, 5/11/18

**Walmart Gives Up Replacing Store Cashiers With Machines,** Forbes 5/16/18

**Making Change at Walmart blasts changes at annual meeting,** Arkansas Times 5/23/18

**Six C.E.O. Pay Packages That Explain Soaring Executive Compensation,** New York Times 5/25/18

**Walmart is paying $20 billion to shareholders. With that money, it could boost hourly wages to over $15,** Vox 5/30/18

“At best, if this is more than a publicity stunt, then Walmart is merely playing catch-up to other multibillion-dollar companies when it comes to providing benefits to its workers,” the group’s director, Randy Parraz, said in a statement.

**Walmart Says It Will Pay for Its Workers to Earn College Degrees,** New York Times, 5/30/18
Meet the Changemakers

Clockwise from top left: Jenny Divish, Amy Ritter, Anahi Tapia, Karen Rodriguez, Mike Baker, Terry Dunn

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