

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4504

June 27, 2018

Mr. Douglas McMillon
President and Chief Executive Officer
Walmart
702 S.W. 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716

Dear Mr. McMillon:

I would like to invite you to participate in a livestreamed town hall event with me and workers from Walmart and CEOs and workers from other highly profitable corporations on Monday, July 16, 2018. The conversation will focus on the responsibility of large corporations to promote an economy that works for everyone, the working conditions and wages of workers, our current tax system, and the growing crisis of income and wealth inequality in America.

Today, the richest 1 percent of American families own a greater portion of the country's wealth than the bottom 90 percent. Even more shocking, just three individuals own more wealth than the bottom half. Meanwhile, the incomes of the top earners continue to skyrocket – CEO compensation jumped as much as 937 percent between 1978 and 2016 – while most Americans struggle to get by on stagnating wages.

As you know, many of your own employees work long shifts for low wages. The people you employ who stock Walmart shelves, greet us at the door, or run the cash registers – many of these workers struggle to pay their rent, put food on the table, send their kids to college, or afford their medical bills.

One Walmart worker said, "Right now I just can't make ends meet. I've been on the verge of eviction for falling so far behind on my rent. I'm getting by on food stamps." A Walmart worker from Florida said, "Even after Walmart's company-wide wage increase to \$11 an hour, I cannot afford to pay my bills... Although I've been here for almost two years, I make the same \$11 that someone walking through the door makes." A worker in Texas said, "At Walmart, you work as hard as you can it's always the same. 'Ladder of Opportunity?' There's no such thing. You work and you work, but you can't get ahead."

These are just a few examples of a much larger story about the growing divide between the top 1 percent and everyone else. In the year 2018, no one in America, especially those working for a profitable corporation like Walmart, should be living in poverty. I hope very much that you will join us, along with workers and executives from Disney, McDonald's and Amazon, to discuss how we can create an economy that works for all, not just those on top.

Mr. McMillon
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The panel is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Congressional Auditorium, Room 200 of the United States Capitol Visitor Center. If you have any questions, please call Ari Rabin-Havt on my staff at (202) 224-5141. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, July 16.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator