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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DeLAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

September 12, 2016

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AND RELATED AGENCIES

Administrator David Weil
Wage and Hour Division
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Administrator Weil:

I am writing in regard to the recent allegations that Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc engaged in wage theft against its employees at restaurants across the country. I strongly urge the Wage and Hour division at the Department of Labor to promptly investigate the corporation's labor practices and policies to determine whether any violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 have occurred.

Wage and hour violations pose a serious and growing problem for working Americans across industries, and wage theft disproportionately affects low-wage, hourly workers. A 2008 survey conducted by the National Employment Law Center of 4,387 low-wage workers in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago found that 68 percent of them experienced some form of wage theft in the workweek immediately before the survey was conducted.

According to media reports, the worker's class action lawsuit against the Chipotle Mexican Grill now includes nearly 10,000 Chipotle Mexican Grill workers from across the country. The workers allege they were forced to work "off the clock" hours without receiving compensation for those hours or overtime pay. Alarming, they also alleged that Chipotle continues policies and practices that purposefully deny its hourly-paid employees of their earned wages, including utilizing timekeeping technology that automatically punches workers off the clock, even if they are required to continue to work.

These accusations are in direct contradiction to federal wage and hour law, as defined in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, depriving workers of the wages and earnings to which they are legally entitled. I urge you to immediately conduct a thorough investigation into these claims. We must hold employers who violate their employees' rights accountable.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I believe Wage and Hour's assessment and enforcement will help ensure that employees are paid the wages they are entitled to according to federal law and will help eliminate wage theft practices in the workplace.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress