



PRESS RELEASE

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Employees of Casa Bonita introduce list of demands to ownership to improve the working conditions for all, and to revert to the pay structure initially promised, and ownership refuses to respond

Lakewood, Colorado, July 19 — At an all-hands employee meeting on Wednesday, July 12, fifty employees of Casa Bonita delivered a letter to management outlining their demands: to revert to what was originally promised by ownership when they were hired months ago; to clarify hours of operation - there have been a series of “soft openings” with no clear pathway to being open seven days a week; access to health benefits; the creation of a voice in the workplace, as well as transparency and two-way communication with ownership; the ability to consider employment documents for a reasonable timeframe before signing; and to reinstate former employees lost through Casa Bonita’s contract-related disputes.

As a collective, #WeAreTeamCasa, asked ownership to adopt these policies that lead to fulfilling the promises originally made. The demand letter was drafted with help from the Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United — the nation’s first and largest restaurant workers-led organization.

“There was a promise of lucrative business which would bring an incredible opportunity monetarily. We have yet to see any of this lucrative business – despite people nationwide waiting patiently to finally see the inside of this Colorado landmark. We want

to see Casa Bonita thrive, and if ownership/management cannot bring that about, then we will,” said employee Gayle Durr.

Another employee, Michelle Mendenhal, said “I’d gladly take minimum wage, with tips, so that our kitchen can receive better pay, give them the \$30 they deserve it! We also need to see more operating hours so that we can all be offered benefits, as originally promised to us. Park County (Casa Bonita’s ownership entity) needs to remember we (the hourly employees) are the ones who love this place and will take care of it with joyful enthusiasm. In return we ask them to see our humanity and let us earn a competitive wage with benefits.”

“This is a bait-and-switch - we were excited about the possibility of reviving a Denver institution, but what began as a really fun adventure has turned into a real-life financial nightmare...”, said recently fired bartender, Russ Lee.

#WeAreTeamCasa gave ownership and upper management one week to respond, and they have chosen to ignore our demands, and continue taking advantage of workers. We are asking for community support to make management meet our demands. We are circulating a petition and will be escalating our campaign until our demands are met.

To speak directly with the workers, please email the collectively-accessed email address at employeesofcasabonita@gmail.com.

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Restaurant Opportunities Centers United is the largest and oldest restaurant-workers led organization in the country with a mission to improve restaurant workers’ lives by building worker power and uniting workers of various backgrounds around shared goals and values. More at <https://rocunited.org/>.