

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Retail Food Industry Joint Labor Management Committee Chooses Bob Potter as Next Leader**

**BALTIMORE** — The Trustees of the Joint Labor Management Committee of the Retail Food Industry (JLMC) announced today that in the fall of 2006 the current president of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local Union 951 in Grand Rapids, Mich., and a Vice President of the UFCW International Union, Bob Potter, will become Chairman of the organization. The Chairman of the JLMC oversees day-to-day operations of the group. Potter will succeed Robert F. Harbrant, who is retiring.

“We, as Trustees of the JLMC, are very confident that we have found a strong, uniquely qualified person to lead the JLMC through this challenging period for the unionized retail food industry. This is an exciting time for the JLMC,” said Larree Renda, Co-Chairman of the JLMC Board of Directors and Executive Vice President of Safeway.

“In this challenging retail environment, it is important that we turn to a proven leader who not only will fight for American workers, but will lead the way in making sure we continue delivering world-class goods and services to people in North America,” said James P. Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

“We have worked with Bob Potter, we know Bob Potter and we are delighted that he has agreed to Chair the JLMC. He has just the perspective and the experience we need,” added Dave Dillon, Chairman and CEO of Kroger.

“The UFCW is proud and pleased that our own Bob Potter will be chairing the JLMC at this critical juncture in its history. Important contract negotiations, especially in southern California, lie ahead for our industry. The technology, the needs of consumers and the economic environment that define retailing are changing daily. Bob is the right person in the right place at the right time to help labor and management make the most of these opportunities,” said UFCW International President Joe Hansen.

“As rewarding as it has been to lead UFCW Local 951, this challenge is truly exciting,” Potter said. “I look forward to chairing an organization dedicated to helping management and unions communicate and to work collaboratively to secure and grow union jobs.”

Founded in 1974, the JLMC is an executive committee of the supermarket and wholesale distribution management and labor organizations. Its seventeen management members operate more than 11,000 stores, warehouses and distribution centers and employ more than 500,000 members of the participating unions.

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