From the fields once dubbed “Ground Zero for modern-day slavery” by federal prosecutors, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers has pioneered a proven solution to forced labor in agriculture with the Fair Food Program (FFP), and in the process turned those fields into what one expert called “the best working environment in American agriculture,” on the front page of the New York Times.

Kroger has refused to join for over a decade, even as its supply chains remain hidden from the “gold standard” scrutiny of the Fair Food Program. This has led to the grocery giant buying produce harvested by workers trapped in forced labor operations. Earlier this year it was revealed that in the latest federal slavery prosecution to come out of Florida, US v. Moreno, Kroger sold watermelons harvested by modern-day slaves to unsuspecting consumers. Now is the time to take a stand for human rights. Now is the time to champion the only proven solution to systemic forced labor in agriculture, the Fair Food Program.

As a consumer who believes in fundamental human rights and an ally of farmworkers who demand dignity and respect in the fields, I call on Kroger to join the Fair Food Program without further delay, because justice delayed is justice denied.

A concerned customer