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***Via Electronic Transmission and First Class Mail***  
Christopher S. Maile, Esq.  
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**RE: Freedom of Association**

*Of Counsel:*

WILLIAM M. WRIGHT  
GEORGE M. SMRTKA

Dear Mr. Maile:

As you know, I represent the United Farmers Agents Association (UFAA). Per your prior request, I am directing my client's concerns to your attention with the expectation that you will share the same with Farmers Group, Inc. (FGI).

Recently, my client received complaints from multiple Farmers agents in the state of Oklahoma that District Managers were advising agents – newer agents in particular – that they needed to “stay away” from UFAA. As reported by these agents, the District Managers were making clear that agents who chose to associate with UFAA could expect adverse consequences from Farmers.

My client was surprised to learn this information and can only assume that these District Managers were operating contrary to the direction and policy of FGI. Given the National Labor Relations Board's heightened interest in employee misclassification matters and its similarly heightened interest in protecting the freedom of association, we trust FGI would never discourage its agents from freely exercising their right to associate with a professional trade association of similarly situated agents.

I would ask that FGI educate Farmers management on this important topic and discourage management's interference with the collective activities of Farmers agents.

Very truly yours,

Dirk A. Beamer  
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