

Finally, your allegation of Choice's improprieties relating to Aldi Europe are similarly false and wholly baseless, and demonstrates your reckless disregard for the truth. For your information, Aldi Europe is *not* a Choice customer, nor does Choice have any European customers. The transaction you are referring to concerned Choice's sending of five pounds of breaded shrimp as a sample to Aldi Europe, who requested it. The Amalapuram facility does not possess the capability of breeding shrimp; the raw material was sent from Amalapuram to Choice's Cochin facility so that the latter facility could process it. Had you or Outlaw conducted even a proper independent investigation you would not have raised such clearly false and baseless allegations. Your story is full of such instances which we can point too and show at the appropriate time if required.

OFFSITE PEELING SHEDS

The allegations about the offsite peeling sheds are also baseless and defamatory. Both facilities only were used to process non-BAP shrimp. One facility belongs to a copacker, [REDACTED]. Accordingly, the shrimp in this facility are not owned nor sold by Choice, they are sold by [REDACTED]. This is why we did not mention the facility in our letter to Outlaw.

The remaining shed that we did mention was only temporarily used for a brief period of time and NEVER used for the processing of ANY BAP-certified shrimp. Your allegations to the contrary are wrong and knowingly false. In fact, your sole source of information, Joshua Farinella. In fact, Joshua Farinella visited the offsite peeling shed and found sanitation to be satisfactory, and Choice can prove this too.

You and Outlaw's failure to be aware of such basic facts continues to demonstrate an agenda to print a story at the cost of the truth and that you are intending to print a story that is knowingly false in reckless disregard for the truth.

PAY, WORK CONDITIONS, AND ASSOCIATES

Choice highly values its associates. Its CEO, Jose Thomas, has clarified that Choice does not call them "workers" and instead "associates" to further show respect and dignity to the building blocks of Choice's organization. Regarding your false allegations to the contrary, once again, Joshua Farinella has misled you, and you have blindly followed his word despite purporting to minimize the impact that he has had on your and Outlaw's "reporting."

You claim that Choice paid its associates underneath the applicable Indian minimum wage, claiming that the law requires they be paid 450 rupees per day and they were only paid 350 rupees a day. This claim is false, at all times Choice has paid at least the minimum wage to all of its associates. Specifically, India's