

While Jeff Ettinger ran a large meatpacking company, one of the plants was raided by federal immigration agents which was quote “occupied largely by undocumented immigrants.” Ettinger even met with the Obama White House to lobby in support of amnesty for illegal immigrants.

Hormel’s line jobs are “occupied largely by undocumented immigrants,” and the company was the subject of an ICE raid under Ettinger’s leadership:

Editor’s Note: Ettinger [retired](#) as CEO of Hormel Foods in October 2016 and as chairman of the board in late 2017.

- In June 2004, Ettinger was named President of Hormel and was promoted to Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO in 2006.

Jeffrey M. Ettinger	48	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer	11/21/06 to Present
		President and Chief Executive Officer	01/01/06 to 11/20/06
		President and Chief Operating Officer	06/28/04 to 12/31/05
		Group Vice President/President and Chief Executive Officer Jennie-O Turkey Store	03/03/03 to 06/27/04
		Group Vice President/President and Chief Operating Officer Jennie-O Turkey Store	10/29/01 to 03/02/03

(Hormel Foods Corporation, “Form 10-K,” [U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission](#), 10/29/06)

- As of 2013, line jobs at Hormel plants were “occupied largely by undocumented immigrants willing to work twice as fast for lower pay.” “In the past twenty years, roughly 3,000 Hispanics have arrived in Fremont – an increase from 0.7 percent to nearly 12 percent of the total population. Latino immigrants have saved the economies of the towns of northeast Nebraska from ruin, but many older residents feel threatened by these new arrivals. Spots on the line at Hormel were once the most coveted jobs in the area, but now they are occupied largely by undocumented immigrants willing to work twice as fast for lower pay.” (Ted Genoways, “This Land Is Not Your Land,” [Harper’s Magazine](#), February 2013)
- In 2007, an ICE raid led to the arrest of about 50 people in Willmar, MN, where many Hispanics worked at a plant owned by Hormel. “Fifteen children were added Thursday to a lawsuit Willmar residents brought against the federal government over an immigration raid in April that resulted in dozens of arrests... More than 50 illegal immigrants were arrested in the April raid in Willmar, where many Hispanics work at a poultry processor owned by Austin-based Hormel Foods Corp. Investigators with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said several of those arrested falsely claimed to be Puerto Rican citizens while 18 had criminal convictions.” (“Willmar residents add children to case against federal government,” [MPR News](#), 7/26/07)
- In 2014, an ICE raid led to the arrest of six people at a Hormel plant in Fremont, NE. “FREMONT, Neb. – Federal authorities say six people arrested at a meatpacking plant outside Fremont this week are likely to face criminal charges related to identity theft, not immigration violations. Officers from Immigration and Customs Enforcement visited the Hormel plant and made the arrests Wednesday. An ICE spokesman declined to discuss details of the ongoing investigation.” (“Federal authorities arrest 6 at Neb. meat plant,” [KETV 7](#), 2/13/14)
- In 2011, Mower County Sheriff Terese Amazi said it was “frustrating” that she could not conduct immigration raids on businesses like Hormel, “where undocumented workers are frequently discovered.” “When it comes to enforcing illegal immigration laws, Sheriff Terese

Amazi's hands are tied. 'We cannot enforce immigration laws,' Amazi said. 'We can enforce forgery ... and violation of state law, but there is no state law that allows us to enforce immigration status. Period.' Amazi said because immigration laws are under federal jurisdiction and are not handled by state and local authorities, she and her deputies, along with the Austin Police Department, are unable to investigate potential illegal immigrants. This means local authorities are powerless when it comes to conducting raids on Hormel Foods Corp., Quality Pork Processors, Inc. and other businesses where undocumented workers are frequently discovered, she said... '(ICE) is doing the best they can,' she said. 'Their gloves need to be taken off, and until you have a federal administration that let's that happen, we will continue to have these issues.' 'This whole system is broken,' she added. 'It's just frustrating.'" (Amanda Lillie, "Sheriff: Illegal immigration process is out of our hands," [Austin Daily Herald](#), 1/31/11)

In 2014, Ettinger co-wrote an op-ed in support of amnesty for illegal immigrants after meeting with legislators and White House staff to promote immigration reform in Washington, D.C.:

Editor's Note: In 2014, [Obama](#) was President of the United States.

- **In 2014, Ettinger co-wrote an op-ed in support of federal immigration reform after discussing the issue with legislators and White House staff in Washington, D.C.** "Our nation was built by people who came here in search of a better life. The five of us, as Austin, Minn., community members and leaders, traveled to Washington, D.C., this past spring to discuss immigration reform with U.S. legislators and White House staff. We represented the many different aspects of our community and explained why federal immigration reform needs to happen now. Subsequent to our visit, the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill; we now urge House leadership and our own Minnesota congressional delegation to make the passage of immigration reform a priority." ("Others' Opinion: Federal immigration reform needed now," [Austin Daily Herald](#), 1/28/14)
- **Ettinger supported immigration reform with "pathways for earned legalization, permanent residency or citizenship" for illegal immigrants.** "Immigration reform with pathways for earned legalization, permanent residency or citizenship will enable the positive contributions of undocumented immigrants, making our communities stronger for everyone. We need and urge House leadership and our congressional delegation to prioritize the passage of immigration reform – to make a positive impact for those residing in Minnesota and for the rest of the individuals and businesses that call Minnesota home." ("Others' Opinion: Federal immigration reform needed now," [Austin Daily Herald](#), 1/28/14)