

From the Silicon Valley Business Journal

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Intel cafeteria workers at center of latest union action aimed at Silicon Valley companies

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Only days after approval of unionization among [Facebook Inc.'s contract bus drivers](#), Intel Corp. is being called upon by labor activists to protect the jobs of cafeteria workers who may be impacted by a change in catering companies running the company's food facility.

Though the labor group Unite Here claims that Intel could require Guckenheimer Services LLC, its new corporate food manager, to retain the 70 employees of Bon Appetit Management Co. that currently serve in Intel's cafeterias, the chipmaker said it cannot insert itself in a dispute between the union and employers.

Both sides of the disagreement said in separate statements to the **Silicon Valley** Business Journal Monday that new employment opportunities will be offered to existing workers.

Unite Here said that the Bon Appetit's employees at Intel's headquarters in Santa Clara were informed that a new manager will take over food services for Intel Thursday. Seventy cafeteria workers could lose their jobs on Thanksgiving Day, according to the labor union.

"This is a story about the hardship that these workers will suffer because of Intel's inaction," said [Enrique Fernandez](#), the president of Unite Here Local 19 and a member of Working Partnerships USA's board of directors.

Derecka Mehrens, the executive director of Working Partnerships USA, also supports the cafeteria workers. "It's incumbent upon Intel to make sure its employees, contract or otherwise, are treated fairly and responsibly," she said in a statement to the Business Journal. "The company's lack of action is a stark reminder of the realities faced by Silicon Valley's invisible workforce, who serve, protect and clean at these companies."

But Intel says it has no influence between the union and employers, and expects no cost-saving as a result of the transition from Bon Appetit to Guckenheimer.

"We're in the process of changing suppliers at the cafeterias here in Santa Clara for Intel," said [Chuck Mulloy](#), a corporate spokesman with Intel based in Santa Clara, in a statement Monday to the Silicon Valley Business Journal. "We're a customer of Guckenheimer and Bon Appetit. It's

not appropriate for Intel to get involved in employment issues involving these two firms, or their employees or hiring practices."

Guckenheimer did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Maisie Ganzler, a vice president of strategy with Bon Appetit Management, said that it's customary in the industry for a successor company to hire most or all of the hourly staff as a result of a vendor change.

"We are trying to do our part, helping our staff transition by holding job fairs and connecting them to managers throughout Bon Appetit who are hiring at other sites," said Ganzler in a statement to the Business Journal.

Intel in 2013 generated revenue of [\\$52.7 billion](#), along with a profit of \$9.6 billion.