Kroger Associates Ratify Agreement With UFCW Local 23

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept. 19, 2011 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ --

Associates of The Kroger Co. (NYSE: KR), working at stores in the valley region of Kroger's Columbus Division, have ratified a new labor agreement with United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 23.

The contract covers 1,100 associates working in 12 stores. The valley region, part of the company's Columbus Division, includes Wheeling, Weirton, Steubenville, Wintersville, St. Clairsville, Martins Ferry and other cities and towns in Ohio and West Virginia.

"We are pleased to reach an agreement that provides our associates pay increases, high quality affordable health care, and a company funded pension that maintains current retirement benefits," said Bruce Macaulay, President of Kroger's Columbus Division. "This is a good contract that rewards our associates and will help us be competitive in a tough economy."

Kroger, the nation's largest traditional grocery retailer, employs more than 338,000 associates who serve customers in 2,439 supermarkets and multi- department stores in 31 states under two dozen local banner names including Kroger, City Market, Dillons, Jay C, Food 4 Less, Fred Meyer, Fry's, King Soopers, QFC, Ralphs and Smith's. The company also operates 788 convenience stores, 361 fine jewelry stores, 1,046 supermarket fuel centers and 40 food processing plants in the U.S. Kroger, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, focuses its charitable efforts on supporting hunger relief, health and wellness initiatives, and local organizations in the communities it serves. For more information about Kroger, please visit www.kroger.com.

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