



October 30, 2022

Office of Policy and Coordination
Room CC-5422
Bureau of Competition
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20580

RE: No Grocery Monopolies

Dear Director,

On October 14, 2022, Kroger and Albertsons announced a plan to merge their companies. The deal, which is expected to close in 2024, would combine two of the largest supermarket chains in the country and create one of its largest private employers. The two companies have a combined 710,000 workers, nearly 5,000 stores and more than \$200 billion in sales. Together they will constitute one of the largest retailers in the country. In California they control the Albertsons, Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Ralphs and Food4Less grocery chains.

Albertsons has announced that, as part of the deal, they will issue a \$4 billion dividend in what looks like an attempt to lock in the deal before it is subjected to regulatory scrutiny.

I urge the FTC to order Albertsons to suspend the dividend and to then thoroughly investigate supermarket giant Kroger's proposed merger with Albertsons! A merger of the nation's first- and fourth-largest supermarket companies is liable to enrich shareholders while harming virtually everyone else — particularly those communities most vulnerable to food deserts and grocery price hyperinflation.

Sincerely,

Print Name _____

Address _____

CC: President Joseph R Biden