



UAW Local 4121

2633 Eastlake Ave E, Suite 200 • Seattle, WA 98102 • 206.633.6080

November 17, 2022

The Honorable Lina Khan
Chair
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC, 20580

Dear Chair Khan,

We are writing in solidarity with UFCW & others in opposing Kroger Company's proposed \$24.6 billion acquisition of Albertsons Companies, and join them in asking you to block the merger. We are also strongly in support of [recent legal action](#) moved by Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson that has temporarily blocked Albertsons from making a related \$4B payout to shareholders.

The proposed merger would be disastrous for grocery workers and all working people. As part of the proposed merger, both chains have stated they would divest hundreds of existing locations. However, as the history of the 2015 Albertsons-Safeway merger shows, this is likely to result in many (if not all) of those locations closing permanently. For grocery workers, the merger would result in significant layoffs as well as downward pressure on wages and working protections. For consumers, the merger would almost certainly result in higher food prices, and would increase the prevalence of food deserts. This all would hit low income households the hardest.

In the midst of busy work and family schedules, and in order to make ends meet in an increasingly expensive area, UAW 4121 members depend on having easy access to grocery stores with affordable prices in order to meet weekly household needs --. And like [others in the Seattle area](#), for many of us, that currently means relying on one of the four stores under the Kroger and Albertsons umbrellas -- QFC, Fred Meyer, Albertsons, or Safeway. At the same time as this merger, Kroger is also ending an agreement with Express Scripts, Inc, which provides prescription and pharmacy services to many of our members. This is a precursor to the dramatic negative impacts that the proposed merger would have on our ability to easily access affordable food, prescription refills, and more.

UAW 4121 members are also strongly in solidarity with UFCW grocery workers taking the lead against this merger. Grocery workers provide an essential service to our communities, and yet for years have had to fight for reasonable wages and fair workplace conditions. According to a recent Economic Roundtable survey, "More than two-thirds of Kroger workers struggle to survive

due to low wages and part-time work schedules.” These struggles are known all too well to UAW 4121 members, and this merger would only exacerbate them for grocery workers.

Overall, this merger would only serve to enrich the wealthiest shareholders and executives of Kroger and Albertsons, all at the expense of thousands of workers and consumers. It would be seriously harmful for all working people, particularly grocery workers who have been at the front lines supporting our communities throughout the COVID pandemic. This is particularly egregious at a time when inflation is making it harder and harder for regular people to afford to live.

We urge you to immediately block this merger.

Sincerely,

UAW 4121 Joint Council

Justin Applegate

Lucia Baker

Ana Bennett

Rebecca Bluett

Erica Bigelow

Nick Bolten

Francesca Colonnese

Pat Erickson

Max Friedfeld

Colleen Hoffman

Soohyung Hur

Levin Kim

Brianne King

Avi Matarasso

Nicel Mohamed-Hinds

Emily Myers

Amal Nanavati

Anzela Niraula

Marissa Parker

Mara Rafferty

Tahiyat Rahman

Anastasia Schaadhart

Audrey Seo

Jer Steeger

Sam Sumpter

Samantha Thompson

Natalie Wellen

Tricia Wu