

Submitted by: Assembly Chair
Constant
Prepared by: Assembly Legislative
Services
For reading: September 26, 2023

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2023-332

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THE**
2 **FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION INTERVENE TO BLOCK THE PROPOSED**
3 **MERGER OF KROGER AND ALBERTSONS IN RECOGNITION WITH RESPECT**
4 **TO FOOD INSECURITY AND MARKET COMPETITION IN THE MUNICIPALITY**
5 **OF ANCHORAGE AND THE STATE OF ALASKA.**
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8 **WHEREAS**, The United States' two largest grocery store chains announced a \$1.9
9 billion divestiture plan on Friday, September 8, 2023, including the sale of 14
10 Albertsons-owned stores in Alaska¹; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, Kroger, the parent company to Fred Meyer, operates five stores in the
13 Municipality of Anchorage, and Albertsons, the parent company of Carrs Safeway,
14 operates nine stores in the Municipality, are the two most prominent grocery store
15 chains within the Municipality of Anchorage; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the history of grocery store mergers has not been favorable for
18 Alaskans – when Safeway took over the Alaska-based Carrs chain in 1999, they
19 made a similar deal, which included the sale of seven stores to a competitor. Alaska
20 Marketplace acquired six of those stores, but they closed in little more than a year;
21 and

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23 **WHEREAS**, More than 78,000 Alaskans, or 1 in 10 residents, struggle with food
24 insecurity and 13% of Alaska kids live in homes without enough food²; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, The Council for Community and Economic Research produces a *Cost*
27 *of Living Index*, which measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods
28 and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, across 61 items on
29 a quarterly basis. In the *Cost of Living Index Review of Quarter Two in 2023*,
30 Anchorage is listed as the number 2 most expensive places for grocery items,
31 behind Fairbanks in the number 1 place, with matching index scores³; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, Upwards of 95% of Anchorage's food supply is shipped from outside
34 the state, with most imported food entering the state through the Port of Alaska, a
35 Municipality of Anchorage asset; now, therefore

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37 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**

¹ [Albertsons Companies, Inc. - Kroger and Albertsons Companies Announce Comprehensive Divestiture Plan with C&S Wholesale Grocers, LLC in Connection with Proposed Merger](#)

² [Map the Meal Gap 2023 \(feedingamerica.org\)](#)

³ [The Council for Community and Economic Research MediaRelease2023Q2COLIndex](#)

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Section 1. To request that the Federal Trade Commission intervene to block the proposed merger of Kroger and Albertsons to prevent further concentration of the grocery store market in the Municipality of Anchorage, where the potential divestment of stores would effectively monopolize the grocery store market and threaten basic food security in the Municipality.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 26th day of September, 2023.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk