

UFCW Local 3000 of WA & ID, UFCW Local 400 of MD, DC, VA, WV, KY, OH, & TN, UFCW Local 7 of CO & WY, Local 770 of Southern CA, UFCW Local 5 of Northern CA, UFCW Local 324 of Orange County, CA and Southern Los Angeles County



UFCW Local Unions Commend Attorneys General for Working to Halt Albertsons Cash Grab

Attorneys General from DC, California, and Illinois Seeking Preliminary Injunction to Halt Albertsons Dividend

DENVER, CO. (December 1, 2022) – Today, the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) local unions including Local 5, Local 7, Local 324, Local 367, Local 400, Local 770, Local 1442, Local 3000, and Teamsters 38, which represent over 100,000 grocery workers at Kroger and Albertsons-owned stores across twelve states and the District of Columbia, issued the following statement regarding a motion filed today by Attorneys General from DC, California and Illinois seeking a preliminary injunction to halt an up to \$4 billion special dividend payout planned by Albertsons:

“We commend the action of California Attorney General Rob Bonta, as well as the Attorneys General of Illinois and the District of Columbia, for working to halt this brash attempt to loot Albertsons by a handful of ultra-wealthy board members and shareholders. If allowed to occur, this up to \$4 billion payout would leave the company largely depleted of liquid assets and in a precarious financial position moving forward. Destabilizing Albertsons in this manner puts the livelihoods of thousands of essential workers at risk and jeopardizes food access for the customers and communities we serve. Moreover, by rushing to issue this unprecedented special dividend, Albertsons is seemingly making a brazen attempt to game the system before federal regulators have a chance to complete a review of the company’s proposed merger with Kroger. We applaud the action of the Attorneys General for refusing to back down and working to address this looming crisis before it’s too late.”

Background: Today’s motion is the latest in a series of ongoing efforts to scrutinize the proposed Kroger-Albertsons merger, along with an alarming, up to \$4 billion “special dividend” announced by Albertsons in connection with the merger agreement. On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights held a hearing to question the CEOs of both grocery giants and expressed skepticism that the deal would benefit consumers. In a letter to the Federal Trade Commission urging the agency to intervene, more than two dozen antitrust experts and local unions representing Albertsons’ workers decried the payout as “nothing less than an out-and-out looting of the company” and a brazen attempt to destabilize the company ahead of regulatory review of the merger. Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson filed a lawsuit in state court seeking to stop the payout and a temporary restraining order was granted through December 9th until the matter can get a full hearing on antitrust grounds.

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The UFCW is the largest private sector union in the United States. UFCW International represents 1.3 million professionals and their families in healthcare, grocery stores, meatpacking, food processing, retail shops and other industries. Our members serve our communities in all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico. Learn more about the UFCW at ufcw.org.