

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION OFFICE
OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES**

)	
In the Matter of:)	
)	Docket No. 9428
The Kroger Company and Albertsons Companies, Inc.)	
)	
)	
)	

**UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR VITAMIN COTTAGE
NATURAL FOOD MARKETS, INC. TO MOVE TO QUASH OR TO LIMIT
SUBPOENA**

Non-Party Vitamin Cottage Natural Food Markets, Inc. (“Natural Grocers”) moves to further extend the time for Natural Grocers to file a motion to quash or to limit a subpoena served on it by Complaint Counsel for the Federal Trade Commission (“Complaint Counsel”). In support thereof, Natural Grocers states as follows:

1. On April 2, 2024, Complaint Counsel sent Natural Grocers, via email, a Subpoena *Duces Tecum* (the “Subpoena”) containing requests for documents, with a response date of April 25, 2024.
2. By order dated April 17, 2024, the time for Natural Grocers to file a motion to quash or to limit the subpoena was extended to April 22, 2024
3. By order dated April 23, 2024, the time for Natural Grocers to file a motion to quash or to limit the subpoena was further extended to May 3, 2024.
4. Counsel for Natural Grocers and Complaint Counsel continue to be engaged in negotiations regarding the scope of the Subpoena and the time required for Natural Grocers to produce responsive documents. The parties' counsel first spoke on April 12, 2024, which was the earliest available time to discuss the Subpoena. On April 15, 2024,

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Natural Grocers made an initial production to Complaint Counsel. The parties' counsel met again on April 18, 2024, and April 24, 2024. The parties' counsel have agreed to continue their discussions with another meeting on May 3, 2024.

5. To facilitate further negotiations, Natural Grocers requests that this Court grant Natural Grocers until May 14, 2024, to file a motion to quash or to limit the Subpoena. Complaint Counsel has extended the return date of the subpoena to May 14, 2024, and does not oppose this request.

6. This extension has been agreed upon to afford Natural Grocers' counsel sufficient time to negotiate with Complaint Counsel regarding reasonable limitations and modifications of the Subpoena to reduce the burden on Natural Grocers of responding and thereby to potentially avoid the necessity of filing a motion to quash or to limit the Subpoena.

Dated: May 1, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hartmut Schneider

Hartmut Schneider
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20037
Phone: 202.663.6948
hartmut.schneider@wilmerhale.com

Counsel for Natural Grocers

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 1, 2024, pursuant to Federal Trade Commission Rules of Practice 4.2(c) and 4.4(b), I filed the foregoing document electronically using the FTC's E-Filing system, which will send notification of such filing to:

The Honorable D. Michael Chappell
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Law Judges
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20580
OALJ@ftc.gov and electronicfilings@ftc.gov

James H. Weingarten or designee
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580
(202) 326-3570

I further certify that on May 1, 2024, I caused the foregoing document to be served via email to:

Charles Dickinson
James H. Weingarten
Emily Blackburn
Paul Frangie
Laura Hall
Janet Kim
Kenneth A. Libby
Eric Olson
Rohan Pai
Harris Rothman
Albert Teng
Elizabeth Arens
Jacob Hamburger
Joshua Smith
Katherine Bies
Lily E. Hough
Katharine Drummonds
Federal Trade Commission
Bureau of Competition
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

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Washington, DC 20580
cdickinson@ftc.gov
jweingarten@ftc.gov
eblackburn@ftc.gov
pfrangie@ftc.gov
lhall1@ftc.gov
jkim3@ftc.gov
klibby@ftc.gov
eolson@ftc.gov
rpai@ftc.gov hrothman@ftc.gov
ateng@ftc.gov earens@ftc.gov
jhamburger1@ftc.gov
jsmith3@ftc.gov kbies@ftc.gov
lthough@ftc.gov
kdrummonds@ftc.gov

Complaint Counsel

Michael B. Bernstein
Matthew Wolf
Sonia Pfaffenroth
Joshua Davis
Michael Kientzle
Jason Ewart
Yasmine Harik
Christina Cleveland
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
601 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: (202) 942-5227
michael.b.bernstein@arnoldporter.com
matthew.wolf@arnoldporter.com
sonia.pfaffenroth@arnoldporter.com
joshua.davis@arnoldporter.com
michael.kientzle@arnoldporter.com
jason.ewart@arnoldporter.com
yasmine.harik@arnoldporter.com

John Holler
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
250 West 55th Street
New York, NY 10019
Telephone: (212) 836-7739

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john.holler@arnoldporter.com

Mark Perry
Luke Sullivan
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
2001 M Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: (202) 682-7511
mark.perry@weil.com
luke.sullivan@weil.com

Luna Barrington
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
767 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10153
Telephone: (212) 310-8421 luna.barrington@weil.com

Bambo Obaro
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
201 Redwood Shores Parkway
Redwood Shores, CA 94065 Telephone:
(650) 802-3083 bambo.obaro@weil.com

Counsel for The Kroger Company

Edward Hassi
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: (202) 383-8135
thassi@debevoise.com

Michael Schaper
Shannon R. Selden
J. Robert Abraham
Natascha Born
Jaime Freilich-Fried
Marieugenia Cardenas
Tom E. Buckley
Heather T. Mehler
Marie Ventimiglia
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
66 Hudson Boulevard
New York, NY 10001
Telephone: (212) 909-6737
mschaper@debevoise.com
srselden@debevoise.com

PUBLIC

jrabraham@debevoise.com
nborn@debevoise.com
jmfried@debevoise.com
mcardena@debevoise.com
tebuckley@debevoise.com
htmehler@debevoise.com
msventim@debevoise.com

Mike Cowie
James Fishkin
Dechert LLP
1900 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 261-3339
mike.cowie@dechert.com
james.fishkin@dechert.com

Thomas Miller
Dechert LLP
Cira Centre 2929 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Telephone: (215) 994-2906
thomas.miller@dechert.com

George L. Paul
White & Case LLP
701 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 626-3656
gpaul@whitecase.com

Counsel for Albertsons Companies, Inc.

Dated: May 1, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Hartmut Schneider

Hartmut Schneider
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20037
Phone: 202.663.6948
hartmut.schneider@wilmerhale.com

Counsel for Natural Grocers

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

_____)	
In the Matter of:)	
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)	
_____)	

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO MOVE TO QUASH OR TO LIMIT SUBPOENA *DUCES TECUM*

On May 1, 2024, non-party Vitamin Cottage Natural Food Markets, Inc. (“Natural Grocers”) filed a motion to further extend its time to move to quash or limit the subpoena *duces tecum* (“Subpoena”) issued by Complaint Counsel on April 2, 2024 (“Motion”). Complaint Counsel does not oppose the relief requested in the Motion.

Under FTC Rule of Practice 3.34(c), any motion to limit or quash a subpoena must be filed within 10 days of receipt of the subpoena. 16 C.F.R. § 3.34(c). Pursuant to FTC Rule 4.3(b), the Administrative Law Judge, except in circumstances not here presented, may extend any time limit prescribed by the rules “[f]or good cause shown.” 16 C.F.R. § 4.3(b).

Based on the representations in the Motion, Natural Grocers has demonstrated good cause for the requested extension. Accordingly, the Motion is GRANTED and it is hereby ORDERED that Natural Grocers’ deadline for filing any motion to quash or limit the Subpoena is extended to May 14, 2024.

ORDERED:

D. Michael Chappell
Chief Administrative Law Judge

Date: May 1, 2024