

Frederick H. Rice



U. S. Federal Trade Commission
Office of the Secretary
600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20580

March 11, 2010

Ref. FTC Docket Number 9324

To whom it may concern:

Since moving from Kansas to Maine nine years ago I have been dismayed at the lack of Trader Joe's stores in Maine and New Hampshire. Consequently I drive to Worcester or Boston eight to ten times each year to stock up on my favorite Trader Joe's grocery items such as cheese, frozen chicken, and private label strawberry preserves, cookies, bran cereal, corn bread mix, fruit juices, wine and other items. To make my trips more cost effective I often purchase additional items for my daughter's family and other friends and neighbors in Maine.

When traveling to other parts of the country I make a point of visiting local Trader Joe's stores. In my travels I have spoken to many Trader Joe's managers about the prospects of opening a store here. They all say the corporation would love to enter the Portland, Maine market, but the red tape from Washington has made it difficult.

I was ecstatic to learn that Trader Joe's might be allowed to purchase the empty Wild Oats store in Portland, Maine. I will be one of their most enthusiastic customers if we can ever cut through the bureaucratic maze and let free enterprise work for the good of the citizens of this great country.

Thank You,

 Frederick H. Rice

CC Senator Susan Collins
CC Senator Olympia Snowe