

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

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<b>In the Matter of:</b>	)	
	)	Docket No. 9428
<b>The Kroger Company and</b>	)	
<b>Albertsons Companies, Inc.</b>	)	
_____	)	

**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. 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, Natural Grocers made an initial production to Complaint Counsel. The parties’ counsel

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met again on April 18, 2024, and have agreed to continue their discussions during the week of April 22.

4. To facilitate further negotiations, Natural Grocers requests that this Court grant Natural Grocers until May 3, 2024, to file a motion to quash or to limit the Subpoena. Complaint Counsel has extended the return date of the subpoena to May 3, 2024, and does not oppose this request.

5. 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: April 22, 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*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on April 22, 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 April 22, 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  
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Eric Olson  
Rohan Pai  
Harris Rothman  
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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: April 21, 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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**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO MOVE TO QUASH OR TO LIMIT SUBPOENA *DUCES TECUM***

On April 21, 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 or otherwise respond to the Subpoena is extended to May 3, 2024.

ORDERED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
D. Michael Chappell  
Chief Administrative Law Judge

Date: April 21, 2024