

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0910

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Omeed Assefi
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Andrew Ferguson
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chairman Ferguson and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Assefi,

We urge the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to closely examine the proposed acquisition by Sysco Corporation, the nation's largest food distributor, of their direct competitor, Restaurant Depot, the nation's largest cash-and-carry warehouse distributor for independent restaurants. Restaurant Depot currently operates 166 locations in 35 states while servicing a customer base of over 700,000 restaurants and food service operators.¹

This acquisition is the latest in a history of aggressive acquisitions by Sysco, leading to further consolidation of food distribution in the United States. The proposed merger would likely increase food prices when Americans are already facing an affordability crisis, and this merger would threaten the viability of independent restaurants, the trillion dollars they contribute to the economy, and the 12 million jobs they sustain.²

Sysco is a direct competitor of Restaurant Depot. Restaurants specifically cite Restaurant Depot's prices when negotiating for better deals with Sysco.³ The elimination of a competitor to Sysco and further reduction of choice for restaurants through a merger with Restaurant Depot could lead to substantially higher costs. Due to the slim profit margins restaurants operate on, any additional costs would likely be passed on to customers. American consumers are already decreasing their meals out due to rising restaurant prices.⁴ This acquisition and its resulting rising costs for restaurants would profoundly impact the independent restaurant industry.

Sysco's acquisition of Restaurant Depot would also threaten independent farmers. Like independent restaurants, they already function on incredibly small margins before the recent explosion in fuel and fertilizer costs, thanks to the President's war of choice in Iran.⁵ Sysco has

¹ Nicole Neuman, "N.Y. state assemblymember asks FTC to review Sysco acquisition of Restaurant Depot," Spectrum News, April 24, 2026, <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2026/04/24/sysco-corporation-restaurant-depot>.

² "Beyond the Plate: The Economic and Social Impact of Independent Restaurants," Nation Builder, Chase, Accessed June 3, 2026, https://assets.nationbuilder.com/irc/pages/3144/attachments/original/1753228438/Chase_Independent_Restaurants_Final_071825.pdf.

³ Harry Cheadle "A \$29 Billion Restaurant Supply Deal Could Change How Independent Restaurants Buy Food," *Food and Wine Magazine*, April 2, 2026, <https://www.foodandwine.com/independent-restaurants-oppose-sysco-restaurant-depot-deal-11941190>.

⁴ Bryan Mena and Sarah Dewberry, "Restaurants are under threat as costs skyrocket and consumers cut back," *CNN*, August 10, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/10/business/restaurants-food-costs-consumer-spending>.

⁵ Alana Semuels "They're Trying to Wipe Us Off the Map.' Small American Farmers Are Nearing Extinction," *Time Magazine*, November 27, 2019, <https://time.com/5736789/small-american-farmers-debt-crisis-extinction/>.

bragged that this acquisition will allow them greater power in dictating prices to growers, a key indication of how anticompetitive this proposed merger may be.⁶ Such concerns have led Georgia's Commissioner of Agriculture to request investigations by the DOJ and FTC.⁷

Sysco's acquisition of Restaurant Depot could have repercussions around the country, and it may harm the people of our districts profoundly. Threats to local restaurants and growers would have a ripple effect across the country's entire economy and detrimentally impact the livelihoods of millions of Americans.

Such negative ripple effects would be felt in urban and rural economies alike. Such a threat to entrepreneurship, jobs, and affordability is the last thing that Americans need right now. That is why we call on the DOJ and FTC to closely examine Sysco's acquisition of Restaurant Depot without delay.

Sincerely,



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Administrative State,
Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust
Committee on the Judiciary

⁶ Harry Cheadle "A \$29 Billion Restaurant Supply Deal Could Change How Independent Restaurants Buy Food," *Food and Wine Magazine*, April 2, 2026, <https://www.foodandwine.com/independent-restaurants-oppose-sysco-restaurant-depot-deal-11941190>.

⁷ "Agriculture Commissioner Tyler J Harper Calls for Anti-Trust Investigation of Sysco, Restaurant Depot Merger," Press Releases, Georgia Department of Agriculture, effective May 5, 2026, <https://agr.georgia.gov/pr/agriculture-commissioner-tyler-j-harper-calls-anti-trust-investigation-sysco-restaurant-depot>.