



**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Tyler J Harper**  
**COMMISSIONER**

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

United States Department of Justice  
Antitrust Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Federal Trade Commissioner  
Bureau of Competition  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Anti-Trust Concerns Related to the Proposed Acquisition of Restaurant Depot by Sysco

Honorable Members of the Antitrust Division & Bureau of Competition,

As Georgia's 17<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of Agriculture and a 7<sup>th</sup> generation Georgia farmer, I write to urgently ask the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to launch an antitrust investigation into Sysco Corporation's proposed acquisition of Restaurant Depot. Sysco, the largest food distributor in America, already controls nearly 20% of the food service market. This proposed acquisition will dramatically reshape America's food supply chain, making it more fragile and increasing costs on American restaurant owners and their customers.

While inflation has cooled and real wage growth has increased measurably under President Trump, Americans are still feeling the lasting effect of record inflation from the previous administration as well as increased volatility in the marketplace due to the conflict in Iran. American consumers cannot absorb another price shock in the food supply chain.

This proposed merger is also part of a broader and more troubling trend of corporate consolidation in the agriculture industry and food supply chain. "Big Ag" continues to grow larger and more powerful, squeezing American farmers and limiting their options. Farmers have fewer places to sell their products, while restaurants and food businesses have fewer suppliers to choose from. The lack of competition creates higher prices and less economic opportunity across the board.



Sysco's acquisition of Restaurant Depot would only accelerate this trend. While Restaurant Depot is currently privately owned, Sysco's largest shareholders are private equity firms including BlackRock and Vanguard. America's food supply chain is an essential part of our nation's national security, not a profit center for private equity to "optimize."

Equally concerning, private equity has consistently inserted itself into critical sectors of the American economy, often prioritizing profits over long-term stability. In fact, in my home state, thousands of Georgia families have had their dreams of home ownership deferred or delayed because they are being forced to compete with firms like BlackRock to purchase single family homes. That is unacceptable.

The Trump Administration has made it clear its commitment to a farmer-first agenda. In the spirit of that commitment, I strongly urge the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to closely examine this acquisition and take appropriate action to prevent further harmful consolidation in the food supply chain.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tyler J Harper  
Commissioner of Agriculture