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March 19, 2024  
ATTN: Senator Ann Rest  
Chair, Senate Taxes Committee  
328 Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Chair Rest & Members of the Tax Committee,

We are writing to you in support of Senator Marty's proposed legislation SF 4750. The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 663 represents 17,000 essential workers in total, including retail grocery stores, food cooperatives, retail, and healthcare facilities. We strive to improve the lives of our members and of all working families by fighting for economic, political, and social justice in our workplaces and communities.

Right now, the largest and most powerful corporations are exerting undue influence on Minnesota workers, families, and small businesses. We welcome SF 4750 legislation as an important step towards creating a more just and balanced economy that meets the needs of regular Minnesotans.

Our members perform a wide range of jobs that are essential to maintaining our nation's food supply. In that work, we experience firsthand the impact of rising corporate consolidation and the increasing corporate power that comes with it. According to the USDA, the nation-wide market for groceries is five-times more concentrated now than it was 1990. Walmart alone controls a 25% share of the industry, while Kroger and Albertson's will control a combined 22% of the market if their proposed merger is approved by the FTC.

Increasing market share means less pressure to provide good pay and benefits for the workers that keep our shelves stocked. It also means less competition to provide healthy foods at a reasonable price. The results of this top-heavy economy are apparent to every Minnesotan who has struggled to put food on the table amidst unprecedented price hikes of the last several years.

Most importantly, we know that the profits generated by these price increases are not going to our members, to small farmers, or back into our communities. Despite earning record profits, corporate tax receipts have fallen precipitously for decades.

This is unacceptable. SF 4750 will add needed transparency to our opaque corporate tax code. It will help us understand which corporations are earning outsized profits and which are benefiting from preferential loopholes and tax breaks.

Sincerely,

Rena Wong  
President,  
UFCW Local 663