**RESOLUTION**

CONCERNING THE KROGER-ALBERTSONS MERGER

WHEREAS, On October 13, 2022, it was announced that Kroger and Albertsons would pursue a $24.6 billion mega-merger thus joining together two of the largest standalone grocery chains in the United States; and

WHEREAS, When Safeway merged with Albertsons back in 2014 the Federal Trade Commission or FTC required that 168 stores, including several in Wyoming, be sold to a competitor. However, that competitor filed for bankruptcy soon after, the competitor blamed the bankruptcy on Albertsons, and the stores were resold to Albertsons; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 Safeway-Albertsons merger caused store closures in Wyoming, grocery prices did not decrease as previously promised by Albertsons, consumers lost their choice to shop elsewhere, and many workers lost their jobs; and

WHEREAS, Kroger encompasses King Soopers, Smith’s Food and Drug, and City Market; and

WHEREAS, Several communities across Wyoming have both a Safeway/Albertsons and a Kroger-owned grocery store within their town. This mega-merger will almost certainly lead to store closures; and

WHEREAS, This mega-merger would threaten many Wyoming worker’s jobs through these store closures; and

WHEREAS, This mega-merger would allow for the merged company to pay their workers less money; and

WHEREAS, This mega-merger would lead to the inability of local farmers and small food suppliers to sell their products as they are likely unable to compete in the industry; and

WHEREAS, This mega-merger would eliminate healthy and necessary competition within these Wyoming communities and create a monopoly within the grocery industry; and

WHEREAS, This mega-merger would further threaten consumer’s choice of grocery shopping, particularly in rural areas, and lead to higher food prices for customers; and

WHEREAS, This mega-merger would affect many AFL-CIO Wyoming Chapter organizations connected to the grocery industry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the AFL-CIO Wyoming Chapter:

1. Is publicly against the Kroger-Albertsons merger; and
2. Urges the FTC to block the Kroger-Albertsons merger.