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NUTRITION, OVERSIGHT, AND DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

November 5, 2021

The Honorable Lina M. Khan
Chair
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580-0001

Dear Chair Khan:

I am writing to you today to express serious concerns about the drastically rising prices that have resulted from the ongoing, systemic issues in our supply chain. While the price increases, alone, are distressing for struggling businesses across a variety of industries, I am concerned that bad actors may be taking advantage of these supply chain issues in order to profit. As such, I call on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to immediately investigate and take action against price gouging in the supply chain.

In a hearing earlier this week in the House Agriculture Committee on the “Immediate Challenges to our Nation’s Food Supply Chain,” witnesses lamented how prices and costs have gone up considerably. Furthermore, I have heard from businesses in my district and around the nation about unsustainable and dramatic increases in costs. While it is clear that these cost increases come from a number of factors, it is not clear whether bad actors are abusing the chaos that confronts small businesses throughout the supply chain.

It is, therefore, imperative that the FTC proactively works to understand if and where price gouging is or may be occurring and to take decisive action to stop or prevent this practice. Swift action is imperative in order to protect our supply chain, our economy, and the consumers who will ultimately bear the brunt.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If you or your staff should have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby L. Rush".

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress