

JOSH HAWLEY
MISSOURI

115 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: (202) 224-6154
FAX: (202) 228-0526
WWW.HAWLEY.SENATE.GOV

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
ENERGY
SMALL BUSINESS
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

July 9, 2024

Donnie D. King
Chief Executive Officer
Tyson Foods
2200 W. Don Tyson Parkway
Springdale, AR 72762

Dear Mr. King:

Last summer, your company announced plans to close its poultry plants in Noel and Dexter, Missouri. On September 15, 2023, you personally assured me that you would not prevent a competitor from acquiring these plants. Now, a class-action lawsuit filed against your company alleges that this was a lie.

Your plant closures last year didn't just affect the plant workers themselves. The closures affected all the farmers who had previously contracted with your company. This recent lawsuit was filed by Grandview Poultry, on behalf of similarly situated chicken farms, who had contracted with Tyson to produce chickens for the processing plant. The farmers built their farms for chicken production in reliance on those contracts. And if Tyson had sold the Dexter plant to a competitor, these farms would have been well positioned to continue in the same business.

That, apparently, did not happen. The lawsuit alleges that your company sold the Dexter plant to Cal-Maine Foods, a *non-competitor* which does not process broiler chickens, but produces table eggs. Farmers who built their farms for chicken production, reasonably assuming that your company would be there for them or at least not block a sale to a competitor, have now allegedly been left out in the cold.

Crucially, the lawsuit alleges that you "misled" me and Congressman Jason Smith about your intentions for the Dexter plant, and that "internal documents" contravene commitments you made to me and Rep. Smith. However, the key details on this point have been redacted from the publicly available court filings. I understand that this information is currently subject to a protective order issued by the Circuit Court of New Madrid County that would preclude the plaintiffs from disclosing it.

These are serious allegations, and the people of Missouri deserve to know the truth. You should immediately make this redacted information public, and additionally provide my office with an unredacted copy of the class action petition and all internal documents it references. I will follow up with you upon receipt.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley
United States Senator