

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 20, 2024

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden:

I write to request that you, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, request a confidential briefing from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for both our offices on the failed acquisition of Instant Brands' housewares division—including the Pyrex manufacturing operation in Charleroi, Pennsylvania—by the private equity firm, Centre Lane Partners (“Centre Lane”) during Instant Brands' chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings in 2023, and any other actions the FTC has considered related to this facility.

After this failed acquisition, I have been informed that Anchor Hocking, a Centre Lane company, assumed control over the Charleroi Pyrex plant in March.¹ This raises questions, especially given the subsequent actions taken by Anchor Hocking. Earlier this month, Anchor Hocking informed the over 300 employees at the Charleroi plant that it would be closing the factory's doors after 132 years of operations.² Glass manufacturing in Charleroi has a proud legacy, and this plant has served as the backbone of this community for generations. Shutting down this factory will not only cost over 300 hardworking Pennsylvanians their jobs, but for a community of over 4,000 residents—it will be devastating to morale and to all the families who call Charleroi “home.”

Yesterday, I sent a letter to the Anchor Hocking CEO demanding answers on how Anchor Hocking came to control the Charleroi Pyrex plant, as well as his decision to close it.³ With the livelihoods of hundreds of Pennsylvanians hanging in the balance, however, we must have all the information available to demand answers and exhaust all federal avenues to fight for these Pennsylvania workers.

¹ <https://www.monvalleyindependent.com/2024/09/06/glass-making-is-important-part-of-charlerois-history/>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/charleroi-glassmaking-plant-shutting-down/>

³ <https://www.casey.senate.gov/news/releases/casey-to-ceo-keep-glass-plant-jobs-in-charleroi>

Pursuant to the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act's disclosure clause,⁴ I understand the sensitivity of such matters, and I can assure you that neither I nor my staff will disclose any non-public information provided during the briefing. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Casey, Jr." in a cursive style.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

⁴ 15 U.S.C. § 18a(h)