

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 26, 2024

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

The Honorable Jonathan Kanter  
Assistant Attorney General  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chair Khan and Assistant Attorney General Kanter:

I write regarding the impending closure of Anchor Hocking's glass manufacturing plant in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. This announced closure would result in more than 300 workers losing their jobs, causing dire impacts for their families and the entire community. Anchor Hocking's decision to fire these workers comes at the end of a long chain of transactions that shuffled this productive factory between various private equity raiders. I urge you to scrutinize, investigate, and review the bankruptcy proceedings and apparent ownership transactions that preceded this decision to determine if any laws were broken by Anchor Hocking or its private equity partners and, if so, to hold these wrongdoers fully accountable.

The story of corporations coming into Western Pennsylvania's communities and stripping them for parts is all too common. For 14 years, I was mayor of a town that saw 90% of its people leave after the steel industry abandoned the very workers who built our country. Now, we're seeing private equity firms do the same thing in Charleroi: buy up a productive factory, strip it for parts, fire the workers, and let corporate executives collect fat bonuses. It's despicable.

As I understand it, private equity vultures have been circling the factory in Charleroi for some time. In a series of events that remains unclear, Anchor Hocking—which is owned by a private equity firm called Centre Lane Partners—took control of the facility in Charleroi in March 2024. Just six months later, Anchor Hocking announced its decision to close the factory at the end of the year. This brazen display of corporate greed is a slap in the face to the thousands of Pennsylvanians who have contributed to the factory and the nation's glass manufacturing industry for more than 130 years.

This plant has been the lifeblood of Charleroi for more than a century. Odds are that if someone in Charleroi doesn't work in that plant themselves, they know someone who does. Anchor Hocking and the private equity firms responsible for this decision aren't just putting more than 300 Pennsylvanians out of a job, they're also taking a swing at Charleroi's identity. I want to be absolutely certain that the federal government has pursued all possible avenues for recourse, so I urge you to investigate the events and transactions that preceded this announcement, including

Instant Brands's bankruptcy proceedings in 2023 and the apparent acquisition of Instant Brands's housewares division by Anchor Hocking and Center Lane in March 2024.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. I am ready to assist in any way possible, and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fetterman', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and 'F'.

John Fetterman  
United States Senator