

United States Senate

February 2, 2023

Chair Lina Khan
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Administrator Bruce Summers
Agriculture Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chair Khan and Administrator Summers:

I write to you and your respective agencies today regarding continued reports of price spikes for eggs in Nevada and across the country. According to recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), American consumers experienced a 60 percent increase in prices for a dozen eggs in December 2022 compared to the previous year.¹ This increase has resulted in the national average retail price of a dozen eggs to reach \$4.25 at the end of 2022, while the average price in Nevada has surged to \$6.07 per carton, or the fourth highest in the nation.² As grocery prices for essential items continue to rise, I echo recent calls for the Biden Administration to examine the markets and investigate any potential unlawful price manipulation in the egg industry. Moreover, I urge both of your agencies to bolster coordination and oversight efforts to ensure that American families and small businesses are receiving fair prices at the grocery store.

As you know, transparency is crucial for American consumers. This is especially the case after the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Price Outlook for 2023 projected that egg prices will increase by another 27.3 percent in 2023.³ This report comes on the heels of the December 2022 BLS Consumer Price Index findings, which determined that at-home food prices increased by 11.4 percent in 2022 – with eggs representing the largest category for price spikes at 32.2 percent.⁴ I urge your agencies to provide clear and constant communication to the public regarding updates on efforts taken to combat this market volatility, and ask that you provide recommendations for action items that Congress can pursue to provide any necessary assistance.

Because today's high egg prices stem from a multitude of factors, including the avian flu, it is imperative for the Administration to leverage all available resources and reports to expose any unfair pricing. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and extend my appreciation for your vital work to assist American families.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

¹ Brooks, Christopher J. "Egg prices have soared 60% in a year. Here's why." CBS News. Last modified January 17, 2023. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/eggs-prices-2022-chicken-bird-flu-inflation-cpi/>.

² Verastigue, Justine. "Nevadans are buying the 4th most expensive eggs across the US, report shows." KTNV Las Vegas. Last modified January 18, 2023. <https://www.ktnv.com/news/nevadans-are-buying-the-4th-most-expensive-eggs-across-the-us-report-shows>.

³ MacLachlan, Matthew, and Megan Sweitzer. "Summary Findings: Food Price Outlook, 2023." U.S. Department of Agriculture. Last modified January 25, 2023. Accessed January 28, 2023. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings/>.

⁴ MacLachlan, Matthew, and Megan Sweitzer. "Food Price Outlook." U.S. Department of Agriculture. Last modified January 25, 2023. Accessed January 28, 2023. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings/>.