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# Whole Foods-Wild Oats Deal Opposed by Consumer Groups

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Three consumer groups are siding with antitrust regulators in opposing [Whole Foods Market](#) Inc.'s proposed purchase of rival natural- and organic-food retailer Wild Oats Markets Inc., saying it would lead to higher food prices. The consumer groups said that, without the acquisition, Whole Foods and Wild Oats would expand and compete more aggressively with each other, providing a benefit to shoppers. The brief was filed in federal district court in Washington by the Consumer Federation of America, the American Antitrust Institute and the Organization for Competitive Markets. Whole Foods announced earlier this year that it agreed to buy Wild Oats for \$565 million. The Federal Trade Commission sued to block the sale on antitrust grounds, and a hearing was held last week. A federal judge in Washington is expected to rule soon whether to continue an injunction that has blocked Whole Foods from completing the deal.

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## COMPANIES

Dow Jones, Reuters

<a href="#">Whole Foods Market Inc. (WFMI)</a>	
PRICE	41.17
CHANGE	-0.33
	8/16

\* At Market Close

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