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NORTH COUNTY DIVISION  
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SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CA

7  
8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
9 **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**  
10 **UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION**  
11

12  
13 **MAUREEN PARKER,** ) **CASE NO.:** 37-2017-00042751-CU-NP-NC  
14 )  
15 **Plaintiff,** ) **COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES**  
16 ) **AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**  
17 **and** ) *(Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)*  
18 )  
19 **RITE AID CORPORATION.,** )  
20 **AND DOES 1 -25 INCLUSIVE** )  
21 **Defendant.** )

22 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

23 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff Maureen Parker, in  
24 the public interest of the citizens of the State of California, to enforce the people's right to be  
25 informed of the dangers from exposures to carbon monoxide, (hereafter "Listed Chemical").

26 2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy DEFENDANTS continuing failures to  
27 warn California citizens about their exposure to the Listed Chemical produced as a result of  
28 combustion during the normal and intended use of the Kettle Grill 14 Inch  
(UPC637503000703) (hereafter "Product(s)"), that the DEFENDANTS manufactured,

1 distributed and sold, in the State of California and Products that DEFENDANTS continue to  
2 manufacture, distribute and offer for sale in the State of California.

3 3. High levels of the listed Chemicals are common combustion byproducts produced  
4 during the normal and intended use of the PRODUCT that DEFENDANTS manufacture,  
5 distribute and/or offer for sale to consumers throughout the State of California.

6 4. Under California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986,  
7 California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq. (Proposition 65), "No person in the course of  
8 doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to  
9 the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable  
10 warning to such individual..." (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

11 5. California identified and listed Carbon Monoxide as a chemical known to cause  
12 birth defects and other reproductive harm. Carbon Monoxide became subject to the warning  
13 requirements of Proposition 65 for developmental toxicity beginning on July 1, 1989. (*27 CCR §*  
14 *27002; Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

15 6. California identified and listed Soot as a chemical known to cause birth defects and  
16 other reproductive harm. Soot became subject to the warning requirements of Proposition 65 for  
17 developmental toxicity beginning on July 1, 1989. (*27 CCR § 27002; Cal. Health & Safety Code*  
18 *§ 25249.6.*)

19 7. DEFENDANT'S past and continuing failure to warn consumers and/or other  
20 individuals in the State of California about their exposure to the LISTED CHEMICALS in  
21 conjunction with DEFENDANT'S sale of the PRODUCTS is a violation of Proposition 65 and  
22 subjects DEFENDANTS to enjoinder of such conduct as well as civil penalties for each such  
23 violation.

24 8. For DEFENDANT'S violations of Proposition 65, Plaintiff seeks preliminary  
25 injunctive and permanent injunctive relief to compel DEFENDANTS to provide purchasers or  
26 users of the PRODUCTS with the required warning regarding the health hazards of the LISTED  
27 CHEMICAL. (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a).*)  
28



1 DEFENDANTS' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by California  
2 courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

3 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **(Violation of Proposition 65 – Against Defendant)**

5 16. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if full reference, as if full set  
6 forth herein, Paragraphs 1 through 19, inclusive.

7 17. The citizens of the State of California have expressly stated in the Safe Drinking  
8 Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq.  
9 (Proposition 65) that they must be informed “about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer,  
10 birth defects and order reproductive harm.” (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

11 18. Proposition 65 states, “No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly  
12 and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or  
13 productive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual (*Id.*)”

14 19. On or about May 22, 2017 , a sixty-day notice violation, together with the requisite  
15 certificate of merit, was provided to DEFENDANTS and various public enforcement agencies  
16 stating that as a result of the DEFENDANTS' sales of the PRODUCTS, purchasers and users in  
17 the State of California were being exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL resulting from the  
18 reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS, without the individual purchasers and users first  
19 having been provided with a “clear and reasonable warning” regarding such toxic exposures.

20 20. DEFENDANTS have engaged in the manufacture, distribution and/or offering of  
21 the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 and  
22 DEFENDANTS' manufacture, distribution and/or offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use in  
23 violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 has intentionally continued to occur  
24 beyond DEFENDANTS' receipt of Plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation. Plaintiff further  
25 alleges and believes that such violations will continue to occur into the future.

26 21. After receipt of the claims asserted in the sixty-day notices of violation, the  
27 appropriate public enforcement agencies failed to commence and diligently prosecute a cause of  
28 action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65.

1           22. The PRODUCTS manufactured, distributed, and/or offered for sale or use in  
2 California by DEFENDANTS expose users to the LISTED CHEMICALS above the allowable  
3 state limits.

4           23. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS manufactured,  
5 distributed, and/or for sale or use in California would expose users to the LISTED CHEMICALS.

6           24. The PRODUCTS, through normal use produces the LISTED CHEMICALS in  
7 such a way as to expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICALS through inhalation, dermal  
8 contact and/or ingestion during the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

9           25. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS has caused and  
10 continues to cause consumer exposures to the LISTED CHEMICALS, as such exposure is  
11 defined by 27 CCR§ 25602(b).

12           26. DEFENDANTS had knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of  
13 the PRODUCTS would expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICALS.

14           27. DEFENDANTS intended that such exposures to the LISTED CHEMICALS from  
15 the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS would occur by their deliberate, non-  
16 accidental participation in the manufacture, distribution and/or offer for sale or use of  
17 PRODUCTS to individuals in the State of California.

18           28. DEFENDANTS failed and continue to fail to provide a “clear and reasonable  
19 warning” to those consumers and/or other individuals in the State of California who were or who  
20 could become exposed to the LISTED CHEMICALS during the reasonably foreseeable use of  
21 the PRODUCTS.

22           29. Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65, enacted  
23 directly by California voters, individuals exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL resulting from the  
24 reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS, sold by DEFENDENT without a “clear and  
25 reasonable warning,” have suffered, and continue to suffer, irreparable harm, for which harm  
26 they have no plain, speedy or adequate remedy at law.

1 30. As a consequence of the above-described acts, each DEFENDANT is liable for a  
2 maximum civil penal of \$2,500 per day for each violation pursuant to California Health & Safety  
3 Code § 25249.7(b).

4 31. As a consequence of the above-described acts, California Health & Safety Code §  
5 25249.7(a) also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against  
6 DEFENDANTS.

7 32. Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as set forth  
8 hereinafter.

9 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

10 Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as follows:

11 1. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), assess  
12 civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation  
13 alleged herein;, pursuant to

14 2. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a),  
15 preliminarily and permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS from manufacturing, distributing or  
16 offering the PRODUCTS for sale or use in California, without providing “clear and reasonable  
17 warnings” as detailed by 27 CCR § 25601, as to the harms associated with exposures to the  
18 LISTED CHEMICAL;

19 3. That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorneys’ fees and cost of suit; and

20 4. That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

21  
22  
23 Dated: 11/9/17

Respectfully Submitted,  
Law Offices of Stephen Ure, PC.

24  
25 By: 

Stephen Ure, Esq.  
Attorney for Plaintiff