ENPORSED FILED 1 Fredric Evenson (State Bar No. 198059) San Francisco County Superior Court Drevet Hunt (State Bar No. 240487) 2 Heather Kryczka (Cal. Bar No. 314401) JUN 0 8 2018 ECOLOGY LAW CENTER 3 P.O. Box 1000 CLERK OF THE COURT Santa Cruz, California 95061 NEYL WEBB 4 Telephone: (831) 454-8216 Email: evenson@ecologylaw.com Deputy Clerk 5 Christopher Sproul (State Bar No. 126398) 6 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES 5135 Anza Street 7 San Francisco, California 94121 Telephone: (415) 533-3376, (510) 847-3467 8 Facsimile: (415) 358-5695 Email: csproul@enviroadvocates.com 9 10 Counsel for Plaintiff, ECOLOGICAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION 11 12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 13 COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO CGC - 18 - 567066 ECOLOGICAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION, Case No. 15 Plaintiff, ٧. 16 COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL PENALTIES 17 BERGHOFF INTERNATIONAL, INC., BED BATH & BEYOND, INC., TARGET Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq. 18 CORPORATION, SHOPPERSCHOICE.COM, L.L.C., PACIFIC COAST MANUFACTURING, (Other) 19 INC., PATIO SITES, INC., HASTY-BAKE, INC. d.b.a. HASTY-BAKE, AMAZON.COM, INC., 20 Defendants. 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

> BY FAX ONE LEGAL LLC

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EcoRights v. Berghoff International, Inc., et al.

Page 1

Plaintiff, Ecological Rights Foundation, in the public interest, based on information and belief, and knowledge and investigation of counsel allege as follows:

## INTRODUCTION

- 1. This Complaint seeks civil penalties and an injunction against Berghoff International, Inc., Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc., Target Corporation, ShoppersChoice.com, L.L.C., Pacific Coast Manufacturing, Inc., Patio Sites, Inc., Hasty-Bake, Inc. d.b.a. Hasty-Bake, and Amazon.com, Inc. ("Defendants") to remedy Defendants' continuing failure to warn individuals in California about exposures to carbon monoxide, a chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity. Such exposures have occurred and continue to occur, through the use of charcoal grills that Defendants manufacture, distribute and/or sell in the State ("Products"). These Products are intended to be used with charcoal and are used for cooking. The combustion of charcoal in charcoal grills causes carbon monoxide to be released into the air. People using charcoal grills, and those standing near the Products when they are in use, inhale the released carbon monoxide.
- 2. Under California's Proposition 65, California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq., it is unlawful for businesses to knowingly and intentionally expose individuals in California to chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm without providing clear and reasonable warnings to individuals prior to their exposure. Defendants introduce charcoal grills into the California marketplace, exposing users of the Products, including pregnant women, to carbon monoxide. Despite the fact that Defendants expose pregnant women and other consumers and individuals to carbon monoxide, Defendants provide no warnings about the reproductive hazards associated with such exposures. Defendants' conduct thus violates the warning provision of Proposition 65. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.
- 3. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 to compel Defendants to bring their business practices into compliance with Proposition 65 by providing a clear and reasonable warning to each individual who has been and who in the future may be exposed to carbon monoxide in the ways set forth above. Plaintiff seeks an order that Defendants identify and locate each individual person to whom the Defendants conveyed Products during the past three years and to provide to each such individual, as well as new purchasers and Product users, a clear and

reasonable warning that use of the Products causes exposures to a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

4. In addition to injunctive relief, Plaintiff seeks civil penalties to remedy Defendants' failure to provide clear and reasonable warnings regarding exposure to a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

## **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff, Ecological Rights Foundation ("EcoRights") is a non-profit public benefit organization dedicated to, among other causes, protecting California residents from toxic exposures, environmental and human health education, and consumer rights. Ecological Rights Foundation is incorporated under the laws of the State of California and is a "person" pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.11(a). EcoRights brings this enforcement action in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d).
- 6. Berghoff International, Inc., is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11(b). Berghoff International, Inc. markets, distributes, and/or sells the Products for sale and use in the State of California.
- 7. Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11(b). Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc. markets, distributes, and/or sells the Products for sale and use in the State of California.
- 8. Target Corporation is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11(b). Target Corporation markets, distributes, and/or sells the Products for sale and use in the State of California.
- 9. ShoppersChoice.com, L.L.C. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11(b). ShoppersChoice.com, L.L.C. markets, distributes, and/or sells the Products for sale and use in the State of California.
- 10. Pacific Coast Manufacturing, Inc. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11(b). Pacific Coast Manufacturing, Inc. markets, distributes, and/or sells the Products for sale and use in the State of California.
  - 11. Patio Sites, Inc. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & mplaint

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exposure can prove that it fits within a statutory exemption. Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 states, in pertinent part:

No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual . . .

19. On July 1, 1989, the State of California officially listed carbon monoxide as a chemical known to cause developmental reproductive toxicity, which means harm to the developing fetus. On July 1, 1990, carbon monoxide exposures became subject to the clear and reasonable warning requirements under Proposition 65. 27 C.C.R. § 27001(b); Health & Safety Code Section 25249.10(b).

20. Plaintiff brings this enforcement action against Defendants pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d). Attached hereto and incorporated by reference are copies of the Notices of Violation dated October 10, 2017 and December 4, 2017, which on that date EcoRights sent to California's Attorney General, every county District Attorney in California, and to the City Attorneys of every California City with a population greater than 750,000. On the same day, Plaintiff sent a substantively identical letter to each Defendant. In compliance with Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) and 27 C.C.R. § 25903(b), each of the Notices included the following information: (1) the name and address of each violator; (2) the statute violated; (3) the time period during which violations occurred; (4) specific descriptions of the violations, including (a) the routes of exposure to carbon monoxide from the Products, and (b) the specific type of Products sold and used in violation of Proposition 65; and (5) the name of the specific Proposition 65-listed chemical that is the subject of the violations described in each Notice.

21. Accompanying each of the Notices of Violation sent to the Defendants was a summary of Proposition 65 that was prepared by California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. In addition, the Notices of Violation were accompanied by a Certificate of Service attesting to the service of the Notice of Violation on each entity which received it. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d) and 11 C.C.R. § 3101, Plaintiff also sent a Certificate of Merit with the Notices of Violation attesting to the reasonable and meritorious basis for the action. Plaintiff enclosed factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the Certificate of Merit with the

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EcoRights v. Berghoff International, Inc., et al.

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Notice of Violation letters sent to the Attorney General.

22. None of the public prosecutors with the authority to prosecute violations of Proposition 65 has commenced and/or is diligently prosecuting a cause of action against Defendant under Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 *et seq.*, based on the claims asserted in EcoRights' Notices.

- 23. Defendants know and intend that individuals, including pregnant women, will use the Products for cooking, thus exposing them to carbon monoxide. Under Proposition 65, an exposure is "knowing" where the party responsible for such exposure has "knowledge of the fact that a[n]... exposure to a chemical listed pursuant to [Health & Safety Code § 25249.8(a)] is occurring. No knowledge that ... exposure is unlawful is required." 27 C.C.R. § 25102(n). This knowledge may be either actual or constructive. *See, e.g.*, Final Statement of Reasons Revised (November 4, 1988) (pursuant to former 22 C.C.R. Division 2, § 12201). Defendants have been informed of the carbon monoxide exposures caused by the use of Products by the 60-Day Notice of Violation, and the accompanying Certificate of Merit served on them by EcoRights. Defendants also have constructive knowledge of the carbon monoxide exposures caused by Products. As companies that manufacture, market, distribute and/or sell the Products for use in the State of California, Defendants know or should know that carbon monoxide exposures to users of the Products are a natural and foreseeable consequence of Defendants' placing the Products into the stream of commerce.
- 24. Any person "violating or threatening to violate" Proposition 65 may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7. "Threaten to violate" is defined to mean "to create a condition in which there is a substantial probability that a violation will occur." Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(e). Proposition 65 provides for civil penalties not to exceed \$2,500 per day for each violation of the statute.
- 25. EcoRights has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the claims alleged herein prior to filing this complaint.

### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

## (Violations of Health & Safety Code §25249.6)

26. EcoRights realleges and incorporates the facts and allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though specifically set forth herein.

- 27. That each defendant is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(b) who, by manufacturing, marketing, distribution, sale or otherwise placing the Products into the stream of commerce, violated, violates or threatens to violate Proposition 65.
- 28. Carbon monoxide is a chemical listed by the State of California as known to cause developmental reproductive toxicity.
- 29. Defendants know that the average use of the Products will expose users of the Products to carbon monoxide. Defendants intend that the Products be used in a manner that results in exposures to carbon monoxide.
- 30. Defendants have failed and continues to fail, to provide clear and reasonable warnings regarding the reproductive toxicity of carbon monoxide to users of the Products.
- 31. Since at least three years prior to the Notice of Violation Letters, Defendants have violated Proposition 65 by knowingly and intentionally exposing individuals to carbon monoxide without first giving clear and reasonable warnings to such individuals regarding the reproductive toxicity of carbon monoxide.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 1. Pursuant to the First Cause of Action, that Defendants be enjoined, restrained, and ordered to comply with the provisions of Section 25249.6 of the California Health & Safety Code;
- 2. That Defendants be ordered to make best efforts to identify and locate each individual in California to whom it, or its customers or agents, distributed or sold Products during the past three years, and to provide a warning to each such person that use of the Product will expose that person to a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm;
- 3. That Defendants be assessed a civil penalty in an amount equal to \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposed to carbon monoxide in violation of Section 25249.6 of the

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| 1  |        |        | California Health & Safety Code, as    | s the result of Defendants' marketing, distributing,                 |
|----|--------|--------|--|--|
| 2  |        |        | and/or selling the Products for use i  | in California.   |
| 3  |        | 4.     | That, pursuant to Civil Procedure      | Code § 1021.5, Defendants be ordered to pay to                       |
| 4  |        |        | Plaintiff the attorneys' fees and cos  | ts it incurred in bringing this enforcement action;                  |
| 5  |        |        | and                                    |  |
| 6  |        | 5.     | For such other relief as this court de | eems just and proper.  |
| 7  |        |        |  |  |
| 8  | Dated: | June 7 | 7, 2018                                | ECOLOGY LAW CENTER   |
| 9  |        |        |  |  |
| 10 |        |        |  |  |
| 11 |        |        |  | Fredric Evenson, Attorney for Plaintiff ECOLOGICAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION |
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P.O. BOX 1000 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95061 TELEPHONE: (831) 454-8216 EMAIL: EVENSON@ECOLOGYLAW.COM

OCTOBER 10, 2017

#### NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS

CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT

| Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc.           | Raymond Vandenlangenbergh, Registered Agent |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| c/o The Prentice-Hall Corporation | c/o Berghoff International, Inc.            |
| System, Inc. Registered Agent,    | 11064 State Road 54                         |
| 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr. Ste. 150N   | Odessa, FL 33556                            |
| Sacramento CA 95833               |   |
| Raymond Vandenlangenbergh, CEO    |   |
| Berghoff International, Inc.      |   |
| 11063 State Road 54               |   |
| Odessa, FL 33556                  |   |

## AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST ACCOMPANYING THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 Concerning Carbon Monoxide Exposures from Charcoal Grills

In accord with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, Ecological Rights Foundation ("ERF") hereby gives you notice that the above company has violated and is in ongoing violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, which provides that "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual."

Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, ERF intends to bring an enforcement action 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify the violations discussed in this notice letter. The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this notice of violations are identified in the attached Certificate of Service.

This Notice of Violations ("Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d). Attached for your reference is a summary, "Appendix A: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary" prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). Pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3100, a Certificate of Merit is also attached.

The above-referenced violations occur when California residents use charcoal grills. These products are used primarily for cooking. Combustion of charcoal produces and exposes people to **carbon monoxide**, a chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity. Because the combustion of charcoal causes carbon monoxide to be released into the air, people using charcoal-burning grills, and others standing near the products when charcoal is burning in or on the products, inhale carbon monoxide. Exposure to carbon monoxide is via the inhalation route.

Below is a list of the products subject to this notice. Though specific models or SKU or product

numbers are given as examples, this Notice also pertains to all models, and all variations, of these vendors' charcoal grills sold through Bed Bath & Beyond.

## BergHOFF Manual Table BBQ, UPC# 5413821057712

This non-exclusive list of examples of the type of products that are subject to this Notice is for the recipient's benefit and is not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product. It is ERF's position that the alleged Violator is obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other specific products within the identified category or type that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipient's custody or control) during the past three years, to ensure that clear and reasonable warnings are provided to California citizens prior to purchase, or retroactively if necessary.

These products cause carbon monoxide exposures to occur in people's yards and everywhere else throughout California where these products are used. These violations are alleged for consumer and environmental exposures.

The noticed party did not and does not provide people with clear and reasonable warnings before they expose them in California to carbon monoxide. The above-referenced violations have occurred every day since at least October 10, 2014 and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are given.

ERF is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting human and environmental health, including raising awareness of, and reducing exposures to, toxic chemicals. The following individual is the responsible individual within ERF for purposes of this Notice:

James Lamport, Executive Director Ecological Rights Foundation 867 B Redwood Drive Garberville, California 95542 Telephone: (707) 923-4372

ERF has retained the following counsel to represent them in this matter (please direct communications to counsel):

Fredric Evenson
Ecology Law Center
P.O. Box 1000
Santa Cruz, California 95061
Telephone: (831) 454-8216

Email: evenson@ecologylaw.com

#### Resolution of Noticed Claims:

ERF is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that advances the public interest without engaging in costly and protracted litigation. ERF is willing to settle this matter to the extent legally possible prior to the commencement of any enforcement action. Settlement terms would require that the unwarned exposures described in this Notice of Violation be stopped. That would require at least the following: 1) a potential recall of products already sold; 2) that either warnings be given to all future purchasers in California of the products subject to this Notice, that the products be reformulated to eliminate the exposures described in the Notice,

or that you stop marketing, distributing or selling the products in California; 3) that you locate and provide a warning compliant with 27 Cal. Code Regs Section 25601 to each person who has been subject to the unwarned exposures described in the Notice to the extent those exposures are caused by products that were sold in California during the past three years; and 4) that you pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249(b). It should be noted that ERF cannot finalize any settlement of this matter until 70 days have elapsed since the sending of the Notice and unless no public enforcer has begun an enforcement action concerning the violations described in the Notice. Any settlement on behalf of the public interest must be approved by the California Superior Court on noticed motion with 45 days' notice to the California Attorney General. The Attorney General may appear at any approval hearing and oppose a settlement if he or she believes the proposed settlement is not in the public interest. If you wish to discuss settlement of this matter before ERF files suit, please promptly contact ERF's counsel.

Sincerely,

Fredric Evenson

P.O. Box 1000
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95061
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-8216
EMAIL: EVENSON@ECOLOGYLAW.COM

OCTOBER 10, 2017

## NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS

CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT

| Target Corporation                       | Brian C. Cornell, CEO |
|--|-----------------------|
| c/o CT Corporation System, Registered    | Target Corporation    |
| Agent                                    | 1000 Nicollet Mall    |
| 111 Eighth Ave, 13th FL                  | Mpls, MN 55403        |
| New York, NY 10011                       |                       |
| Royal Gourmet Corp.                      |                       |
| c/o Xiaowei Zheng, Registered Agent      |                       |
| 5425 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Ste. F/G |                       |
| Norcross, GA, 30092                      |                       |

# AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST ACCOMPANYING THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 Concerning Carbon Monoxide Exposures from Charcoal Grills

In accord with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, Ecological Rights Foundation ("ERF") hereby gives you notice that the above company has violated and is in ongoing violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, which provides that "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual."

Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, ERF intends to bring an enforcement action 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify the violations discussed in this notice letter. The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this notice of violations are identified in the attached Certificate of Service.

This Notice of Violations ("Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d). Attached for your reference is a summary, "Appendix A: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary" prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). Pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3100, a Certificate of Merit is also attached.

The above-referenced violations occur when California residents use the charcoal grills listed below. These products are used primarily for cooking. Combustion of charcoal produces and exposes people to **carbon monoxide**, a chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity. Because the combustion of charcoal causes carbon monoxide to be released into the air, people using charcoal grills, and others standing near the products when charcoal is

burning in or on the products, inhale carbon monoxide. Exposure to carbon monoxide is via the inhalation route.

Below are examples of products subject to this notice. Though specific models or SKU or product numbers are given as examples, this Notice also pertains to all models, and all variations, of the charcoal grills manufactured and/or distributed by the vendors of the following products.

RoyalGourmet® 30-inch Charcoal Grill with Offset Smoker CC1830F, UPC# 853252006081

It is ERF's position that the alleged Violator is obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other specific products within the identified category or type that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipient's custody or control) during the past three years, to ensure that clear and reasonable warnings are provided to California citizens prior to purchase, or retroactively if necessary.

These products cause carbon monoxide exposures to occur in people's yards and everywhere else throughout California where these products are used. These violations are alleged for consumer and environmental exposures.

The noticed party did not and does not provide people with clear and reasonable warnings before they expose them in California to carbon monoxide. The above-referenced violations have occurred every day since at least October 10, 2014 and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are given.

ERF is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting human and environmental health, including raising awareness of, and reducing exposures to, toxic chemicals. The following individual is the responsible individual within ERF for purposes of this Notice:

James Lamport, Executive Director Ecological Rights Foundation 867 B Redwood Drive Garberville, California 95542 Telephone: (707) 923-4372

ERF has retained the following counsel to represent them in this matter (please direct communications to counsel):

Fredric Evenson Ecology Law Center P.O. Box 1000 Santa Cruz, California 95061 Telephone: (831) 454-8216

Email: evenson@ecologylaw.com

## Resolution of Noticed Claims:

ERF is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that advances the public interest without engaging in costly and protracted litigation. ERF is willing to settle this matter to the extent legally possible prior to the commencement of any enforcement action. Settlement

terms would require that the unwarned exposures described in this Notice of Violation be stopped. That would require at least the following: 1) a potential recall of products already sold; 2) that either warnings be given to all future purchasers in California of the products subject to this Notice, that the products be reformulated to eliminate the exposures described in the Notice, or that you stop marketing, distributing or selling the products in California; 3) that you locate and provide a warning compliant with 27 Cal. Code Regs Section 25601 to each person who has been subject to the unwarned exposures described in the Notice to the extent those exposures are caused by products that were sold in California during the past three years; and 4) that you pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249(b). It should be noted that ERF cannot finalize any settlement of this matter until 70 days have elapsed since the sending of the Notice and unless no public enforcer has begun an enforcement action concerning the violations described in the Notice. Any settlement on behalf of the public interest must be approved by the California Superior Court on noticed motion with 45 days' notice to the California Attorney General. The Attorney General may appear at any approval hearing and oppose a settlement if he or she believes the proposed settlement is not in the public interest. If you wish to discuss settlement of this matter before ERF files suit, please promptly contact ERF's counsel.

Sincerely,

Fredric Evenson

P.O. Box 1000 Santa Cruz, California 95061 Telephone: (831) 454-8216

EMAIL: EVENSON@ECOLOGYLAW.COM

OCTOBER 10, 2017

## NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS

CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT

| ShoppersChoice.com, L.L.C.            | President or CEO           |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| c/o Michael Hackley, Registered Agent | ShoppersChoice.com, L.L.C. |
| 10920 Coursey Blvd.                   | 8151 Airline Hwy           |
| Baton Rouge, LA 70816                 | Baton Rouge, LA 70815      |
| President or CEO                      |                            |
| Cajun Cast Iron                       |                            |
| 203 Lanse Meg Road                    |                            |
| Mamou, LA 70554                       |                            |

# AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST ACCOMPANYING THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 Concerning Carbon Monoxide Exposures from Charcoal Grills and Hibachis

In accord with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, Ecological Rights Foundation ("ERF") hereby gives you notice that the above company has violated and is in ongoing violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, which provides that "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual."

Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, ERF intends to bring an enforcement action 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify the violations discussed in this notice letter. The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this notice of violations are identified in the attached Certificate of Service.

This Notice of Violations ("Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d). Attached for your reference is a summary, "Appendix A: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary" prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). Pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3100, a Certificate of Merit is also attached.

The above-referenced violations occur when California residents use charcoal-burning grills and hibachi grills. These products are used primarily for cooking. Combustion of charcoal produces and exposes people to **carbon monoxide**, a chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity. Because the combustion of charcoal causes carbon monoxide to be released into the air, people using charcoal-burning grills and hibachi grills, and others standing near the

products when charcoal is burning in or on the products, inhale carbon monoxide. Exposure to carbon monoxide is via the inhalation route.

Below are examples of the products subject to this notice. Though specific models or SKU or product numbers are given as examples, this Notice also pertains to all models, and all variations, of these vendors' charcoal grills and hibachi grills sold through ShoppersChoice.com.

## #10447 Cajun Classic Cast Iron Hibachi Grill 15" Round, UPC#838040001981

This non-exclusive list of examples of the type of products that are subject to this Notice is for the recipient's benefit and is not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product. It is ERF's position that the alleged Violator is obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other specific products within the identified category or type that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipient's custody or control) during the past three years, to ensure that clear and reasonable warnings are provided to California citizens prior to purchase, or retroactively if necessary.

These products cause carbon monoxide exposures to occur in people's yards and everywhere else throughout California where these products are used. These violations are alleged for consumer and environmental exposures.

The noticed party did not and does not provide people with clear and reasonable warnings before they expose them in California to carbon monoxide. The above-referenced violations have occurred every day since at least October 10, 2014 and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are given.

ERF is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting human and environmental health, including raising awareness of, and reducing exposures to, toxic chemicals. The following individual is the responsible individual within ERF for purposes of this Notice:

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Ecology Law Center
P.O. Box 1000
Santa Cruz, California 95061
Telephone: (831) 454-8216
Email: evenson@ecologylaw.com

#### Resolution of Noticed Claims:

ERF is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that advances the public interest without engaging in costly and protracted litigation. ERF is willing to settle this matter to the extent legally possible prior to the commencement of any enforcement action. Settlement terms would require that the unwarned exposures described in this Notice of Violation be

stopped. That would require at least the following: 1) a potential recall of products already sold; 2) that either warnings be given to all future purchasers in California of the products subject to this Notice, that the products be reformulated to eliminate the exposures described in the Notice, or that you stop marketing, distributing or selling the products in California; 3) that you locate and provide a warning compliant with 27 Cal. Code Regs Section 25601 to each person who has been subject to the unwarned exposures described in the Notice to the extent those exposures are caused by products that were sold in California during the past three years; and 4) that you pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249(b). It should be noted that ERF cannot finalize any settlement of this matter until 70 days have elapsed since the sending of the Notice and unless no public enforcer has begun an enforcement action concerning the violations described in the Notice. Any settlement on behalf of the public interest must be approved by the California Superior Court on noticed motion with 45 days' notice to the California Attorney General. The Attorney General may appear at any approval hearing and oppose a settlement if he or she believes the proposed settlement is not in the public interest. If you wish to discuss settlement of this matter before ERF files suit, please promptly contact ERF's counsel.

Sincerely,

Fredric Evenson

P.O. Box 1000 Santa Cruz, California 95061 Telephone: (831) 454-8216

EMAIL: <u>EVENSON@ECOLOGYLAW.COM</u>

**DECEMBER 4, 2017** 

## NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS

CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT

| James Poremba, Registered Agent   | Todd Raemond Maltbie, Registered Agent |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Pacific Coast Manufacturing, Inc. | Patio Sites, Inc.                      |
| 5270 Edison Ave.                  | 234 Oak St.                            |
| Chino, CA 91710                   | Brentwood, CA 94513                    |

# AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST ACCOMPANYING THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 Concerning Carbon Monoxide Exposures from Charcoal Grills

In accord with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, Ecological Rights Foundation ("ERF") hereby gives you notice that the above company has violated and is in ongoing violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, which provides that "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual."

Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, ERF intends to bring an enforcement action 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify the violations discussed in this notice letter. The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this notice of violations are identified in the attached Certificate of Service.

This Notice of Violations ("Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d). Attached for your reference is a summary, "Appendix A: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary" prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). Pursuant to Title 11, C.C.R. § 3100, a Certificate of Merit is also attached.

The above-referenced violations occur when California residents use charcoal-burning grills. These products are used primarily for cooking. Combustion of charcoal produces and exposes people to **carbon monoxide**, a chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity. Because the combustion of charcoal causes carbon monoxide to be released into the air, people using charcoal-burning grills, and others standing near the products when charcoal is burning in or on the products, inhale carbon monoxide. Exposure to carbon monoxide is via the inhalation route

Below is a list of the products subject to this notice. Though specific models or SKU or product numbers are given as examples, this Notice also pertains to all models, and all variations, of these

vendors' charcoal grills.

PCM 30-Inch Built-In Stainless Steel Charcoal Grill with Adjustable Charcoal Tray, Model# 400-CG30

This non-exclusive list of examples of the type of products that are subject to this Notice is for the recipient's benefit and is not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product. It is ERF's position that the alleged Violator is obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other specific products within the identified category or type that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipient's custody or control) during the past three years, to ensure that clear and reasonable warnings are provided to California citizens prior to purchase, or retroactively if necessary.

These products cause carbon monoxide exposures to occur in people's yards and everywhere else throughout California where these products are used. These violations are alleged for consumer and environmental exposures.

The noticed party did not and does not provide people with clear and reasonable warnings before they expose them in California to carbon monoxide. The above-referenced violations have occurred every day since at least December 4, 2014 and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are given.

ERF is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting human and environmental health, including raising awareness of, and reducing exposures to, toxic chemicals. The following individual is the responsible individual within ERF for purposes of this Notice:

James Lamport, Executive Director Ecological Rights Foundation 867 B Redwood Drive Garberville, California 95542 Telephone: (707) 923-4372

ERF has retained the following counsel to represent them in this matter (please direct communications to counsel):

Fredric Evenson Ecology Law Center P.O. Box 1000 Santa Cruz, California 95061 Telephone: (831) 454-8216

Email: evenson@ecologylaw.com

## Resolution of Noticed Claims:

ERF is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that advances the public interest without engaging in costly and protracted litigation. ERF is willing to settle this matter to the extent legally possible prior to the commencement of any enforcement action. Settlement terms would require that the unwarned exposures described in this Notice of Violation be stopped. That would require at least the following: 1) a potential recall of products already sold; 2) that either warnings be given to all future purchasers in California of the products subject to

this Notice, that the products be reformulated to eliminate the exposures described in the Notice, or that you stop marketing, distributing or selling the products in California; 3) that you locate and provide a warning compliant with 27 Cal. Code Regs Section 25601 to each person who has been subject to the unwarned exposures described in the Notice to the extent those exposures are caused by products that were sold in California during the past three years; and 4) that you pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249(b). It should be noted that ERF cannot finalize any settlement of this matter until 70 days have elapsed since the sending of the Notice and unless no public enforcer has begun an enforcement action concerning the violations described in the Notice. Any settlement on behalf of the public interest must be approved by the California Superior Court on noticed motion with 45 days' notice to the California Attorney General. The Attorney General may appear at any approval hearing and oppose a settlement if he or she believes the proposed settlement is not in the public interest. If you wish to discuss settlement of this matter before ERF files suit, please promptly contact ERF's counsel.

Sincerely,

Fredric Evenson

P.O. Box 1000 Santa Cruz, California 95061 Telephone: (831) 454-8216

EMAIL: EVENSON@ECOLOGYLAW.COM

**DECEMBER 4, 2017** 

## NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS

CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT

| Richard C Alexander, Registered Agent | Jeff Bezos, President                   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Hasty-Bake, Inc. d.b.a. Hasty-Bake    | Amazon.com, Inc.                        |
| 1313 S. Lewis Ave.                    | c/o CSC - Lawyers Incorporating Service |
| Tulsa, OK 74104                       | 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr. Ste. 150N         |
|                                       | Sacramento CA 95833                     |

## AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE DISTRIBUTION LIST ACCOMPANYING THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Violations of Proposition 65 Concerning Carbon Monoxide Exposures from Charcoal Grills

In accord with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, Ecological Rights Foundation ("ERF") hereby gives you notice that the above company has violated and is in ongoing violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, which provides that "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual."

Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7, ERF intends to bring an enforcement action 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify the violations discussed in this notice letter. The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this notice of violations are identified in the attached Certificate of Service.

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These products are used primarily for cooking. Combustion of charcoal produces and exposes people to **carbon monoxide**, a chemical known to the State of California to cause reproductive toxicity. Because the combustion of charcoal causes carbon monoxide to be released into the air, people using charcoal-burning grills, and others standing near the products when charcoal is burning in or on the products, inhale carbon monoxide. Exposure to carbon monoxide is via the inhalation route.

Below is a list of the products subject to this notice. Though specific models or SKU or product

numbers are given as examples, this Notice also pertains to all models, and all variations, of these vendors' charcoal grills sold through Amazon.com.

## Hasty-Bake 131 Legacy Powder Coated Charcoal Grill

This non-exclusive list of examples of the type of products that are subject to this Notice is for the recipient's benefit and is not meant to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending product. It is ERF's position that the alleged Violator is obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other specific products within the identified category or type that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the notice recipient's custody or control) during the past three years, to ensure that clear and reasonable warnings are provided to California citizens prior to purchase, or retroactively if necessary.

These products cause carbon monoxide exposures to occur in people's yards and everywhere else throughout California where these products are used. These violations are alleged for consumer and environmental exposures.

The noticed party did not and does not provide people with clear and reasonable warnings before they expose them in California to carbon monoxide. The above-referenced violations have occurred every day since at least December 4, 2014 and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are given.

ERF is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting human and environmental health, including raising awareness of, and reducing exposures to, toxic chemicals. The following individual is the responsible individual within ERF for purposes of this Notice:

James Lamport, Executive Director Ecological Rights Foundation 867 B Redwood Drive Garberville, California 95542 Telephone: (707) 923-4372

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Fredric Evenson Ecology Law Center P.O. Box 1000 Santa Cruz, California 95061 Telephone: (831) 454-8216

Email: evenson@ecologylaw.com

#### Resolution of Noticed Claims:

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or that you stop marketing, distributing or selling the products in California; 3) that you locate and provide a warning compliant with 27 Cal. Code Regs Section 25601 to each person who has been subject to the unwarned exposures described in the Notice to the extent those exposures are caused by products that were sold in California during the past three years; and 4) that you pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249(b). It should be noted that ERF cannot finalize any settlement of this matter until 70 days have elapsed since the sending of the Notice and unless no public enforcer has begun an enforcement action concerning the violations described in the Notice. Any settlement on behalf of the public interest must be approved by the California Superior Court on noticed motion with 45 days' notice to the California Attorney General. The Attorney General may appear at any approval hearing and oppose a settlement if he or she believes the proposed settlement is not in the public interest. If you wish to discuss settlement of this matter before ERF files suit, please promptly contact ERF's counsel.

Sincerely,

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| Jeff Bezos, President                   |  |
|---|--|
| Amazon.com, Inc.                        |  |
| c/o CSC - Lawyers Incorporating Service |  |
| 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr. Ste. 150N         |  |
| Sacramento CA 95833                     |  |

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Below is a non-exclusive list of examples of these types of products. Though specific models or SKU or product numbers are given as examples, this Notice pertains to all models, and all variations, of the specific type of product of which the named model is an example.

## VMI Outdoor Living 14" Portable Charcoal Barbecue Kettle, UPC# 696901001187

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These products cause carbon monoxide exposures to occur in peoples yards and everywhere else throughout California where these products are used. These violations are alleged for consumer and environmental exposures.

The noticed parties did not and do not provide people with clear and reasonable warnings before they expose them in California to carbon monoxide. The above-referenced violations have occurred every day since at least December 4, 2014 and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are given.

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Sincerely,

Frédric Evenson