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15 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

16 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

17 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES,
18 INC.,

19 Plaintiff,

20 v.

21 C.J. DANNEMILLER CO., an Ohio
22 corporation; and DOES 1 through 100,
23 inclusive,

24 Defendants.

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

(Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)

ELECTRONICALLY
FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Francisco

04/09/2026
Clerk of the Court

BY: MARIVIC VIRAY
Deputy Clerk

CGC-26-635749

I.
INTRODUCTION

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2 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by Environmental Health Advocates,
3 Inc. (“Plaintiff”) in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California (“the People”). Plaintiff
4 seeks to remedy Defendants’ failure to inform the People of exposure to cadmium, a known carcinogen
5 and reproductive/developmental toxin. Defendants expose consumers to cadmium by manufacturing,
6 importing, selling, and/or distributing nut mix including, but not limited to, Diet Mix - C.J. Dannemiller
7 Co (“Products”). Defendants know and intend that customers will ingest Products containing cadmium.

8 2. Under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California
9 Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. (“Proposition 65”), “[n]o person in the course of doing
10 business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to
11 cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such
12 individual. . . .” (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.6.)

13 3. California identified and listed cadmium as a chemical known to cause developmental/
14 reproductive toxicity as early as May 1, 1997.

15 4. Defendants failed to sufficiently warn consumers and individuals in California about
16 potential exposure to cadmium in connection with Defendants’ manufacture, import, sale, or distribution
17 of Products. This is a violation of Proposition 65.

18 5. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief compelling Defendants to sufficiently warn consumers
19 in California before exposing them to cadmium in Products. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7(a).)
20 Plaintiff also seeks civil penalties against Defendants for violations of Proposition 65 along with
21 attorney’s fees and costs. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7(b).)

II.
PARTIES

22
23 6. Plaintiff ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES, INC. (“Plaintiff”) is a
24 corporation in the State of California dedicated to protecting the health of California citizens through
25 the elimination or reduction of toxic exposure from consumer products. It brings this action in the public
26 interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7.

27 7. Defendant C.J. DANNEMILLER CO. ("C.J. Dannemiller") is a corporation organized
28 and existing under the laws of Ohio. C.J. Dannemiller is registered to do business in California, and

1 does business in the County of San Francisco, within the meaning of Health and Safety Code, section
2 25249.11. C.J. Dannemiller manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes the Products in California and
3 San Francisco County.

4 8. Plaintiff does not know the true names and/or capacities, whether individual, partners,
5 or corporate, of the Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and for that reason sues
6 said Defendants under fictitious names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. § 474. Plaintiff will seek leave to
7 amend this Complaint when the true names and capacities of these Defendants have been ascertained.
8 Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that these Defendants are responsible in whole or
9 in part for the remedies and penalties sought herein.

10 9. At all times mentioned, Defendants were the agents, alter egos, servants, joint venturers,
11 joint employers, or employees for each other. Defendants acted with the consent of the other Co-
12 Defendants and acted within the course, purpose, and scope of their agency, service, or employment.
13 All conduct was ratified by Defendants, and each of them.

14 **III.**
15 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

16 10. California Constitution Article VI, Section 10 grants the Superior Court original
17 jurisdiction in all cases except those given by statute to other trial courts. The Health and Safety Code
18 statute upon which this action is based does not give jurisdiction to any other court. As such, this Court
19 has jurisdiction.

20 11. Venue is proper in San Francisco County Superior Court pursuant to Code of Civil
21 Procedure, sections 394, 395, and 395.5. Wrongful conduct occurred and continues to occur in this
22 County. Defendants conducted and continue to conduct business in this County as it relates to Products.

23 12. Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California or otherwise
24 purposefully avail themselves of the California market. Exercising jurisdiction over Defendants would
25 be consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

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1 **IV.**
2 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

3 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **(Violation of Proposition 65 – Against all Defendants)**

5 13. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained above.

6 14. Proposition 65 mandates that citizens be informed about exposures to chemicals that
7 cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm.

8 15. Defendants manufactured, imported, sold, and/or distributed Products containing
9 cadmium in violation of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. Plaintiff is informed and
10 believes such violations have continued after receipt of the Notice (defined *infra*) and will continue to
11 occur into the future.

12 16. In manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing Products, Defendants failed to
13 provide a clear and reasonable warning to consumers and individuals in California who may be exposed
14 to cadmium through reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.

15 17. Products expose individuals to cadmium through direct ingestion. This exposure is a
16 natural and foreseeable consequence of Defendants placing Products into the stream of commerce. As
17 such, Defendants intend that consumers will ingest Products, exposing them to cadmium.

18 18. Defendants knew or should have known that the Products contained cadmium and
19 exposed individuals to cadmium in the ways provided above. The Notice informed Defendants of the
20 presence of cadmium in the Products. Likewise, media coverage concerning cadmium and related
21 chemicals in consumer products provided constructive notice to Defendants.

22 19. Defendants' actions in this regard were deliberate and not accidental.

23 20. More than sixty days prior to naming each defendant in this lawsuit, Plaintiff issued a
24 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice") as required by and in compliance with Proposition 65. Plaintiff
25 provided the Notice to the various required public enforcement agencies along with a certificate of merit.
26 The Notice alleged that Defendants violated Proposition 65 by failing to sufficiently warn consumers in
27 California of the health hazards associated with exposures to cadmium contained in the Products.

28 21. The appropriate public enforcement agencies provided with the Notice failed to
commence and diligently prosecute a cause of action against Defendants.

1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 3 1. Civil penalties in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation. Plaintiff alleges that
4 damages total a minimum of \$1,000,000;
- 5 2. A preliminary and permanent injunction against Defendants from manufacturing,
6 importing, selling, and/or distributing Products in California without providing a clear and reasonable
7 warning as required by Proposition 65 and related Regulations;
- 8 3. Reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of suit; and
- 9 4. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.
- 10
- 11

12 Respectfully submitted:

13 Dated: April 9, 2026

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