VICTOR C. ROSE (1907-1972) ALFRED M. KLEIN (1913-2000) EUGENE MARIAS (1919-1982)

EUGENE MARIAS (1919-198
\*ROBERT B. STEINBERG
\*HOWARD N. LEHMAN
\*JASON A. GOTTLIEB
\*HERBERT I. GALPERSON
MARVIN N. SHAPIRO
\*BARRY I. GOLDMAN
\*G. RONALD FEENBERG
DENNIS D. WELCH
GREGORY STAMOS
DENNIS J. SHERWIN
\*STEVEN M. HOFFBERG
\*ROBERT I. VINES
\*MANUEL L. NUNES
DAVID A. ROSEN
RICHARD G. BARONE
WILLIAM M. GREWE
CHRISTOPHER P. RIDOUT
TONI RAYKOVICH

LAW OFFICES OF

## ROSE, KLEIN & MARIAS LLP

801 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE 18TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-4645 FAX (213) 623-7755 (213) 626-0571 WENDY HAYWARD-MARSHALL
ANDREW J. SHORENSTEIN
STEVEN C. ROBINSON
BABETTE F. BEMEL
LILIA BALLESTEROS
ESTHER OZ
DAVID S. GALPERSON
ARLYN M. LATIN
/RONNY MARTINSSON
HARRY H. SAMARGHACHIAN
SCOTT M. RUBEL
JANET U. KROPP
ALAN P. RIFFEL
JULIE A. CRABTREE
JOAN L. COLLIER
G. LAUREN BELGER
ROSA E. SAHAGUN
CHRISTEL A. SCHOENFELDER
MONICA D. BATANERO
TRACY K. SMITH

June 29, 2005

\* DENOTES PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION † ADMITTED ONLY IN SWEDEN

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL & U.S. MAIL

Jack H. Brown Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Stater Bros. Market 21700 Barton Road Colton, CA 92324

CC: care of Agent for Service of Process Bruce D. Warner 3750 University Ave., Suite 610 Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Environmental Law Foundation ("ELF") is a California non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of human health and the environment. ELF has a long-standing interest in reducing health hazards to the public posed by toxic chemicals and protecting the public from harmful substances.

This letter constitutes notice that the entity listed below has violated and continues to violate provisions of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.5 et seq. Specifically, this entity has violated and continues to violate the warning requirement at § 25249.6 of the California Health and Safety Code, which provides, "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..."

Alleged Violator: Stater Bros. Market

Stater Bros. Market is a retail distributor of numerous products to the California consumer market. Specifically, Stater Bros. Market sells the snack products Pringles, Lay's, and Cape Cod. These products are available in various types and flavors and may be readily purchased by consumers. Several of these varieties contain the chemical Acrylamide, known to the state to cause

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cancer. These varieties include, but not limited to: Pringles Sweet Mesquite BBQ; Pringles Original Snack Stack; Pringles Pizzalicious Snack Stack; Lay's Baked! Original; Lay's Stax KC Masterpiece BBQ; Cape Cod Classic; and Cape Code Robust Russet. At all relevant times and continuing to the present time, this entity has exposed and continues to expose all consumers of these products, within the state of California, to high levels of Acrylamide, a carcinogen. Exposure has occurred through ingestion of the product by consumers.

Because Acrylamide is a chemical listed in Proposition 65 as a cancer-causing chemical, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 this entity was, and is, required to provide clear and reasonable warnings to all consumers of its product. The warnings must state that products contain a chemical known by the State of California to cause cancer. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d), ELF intends to bring suit in the public interest against the above named entity sixty days hereafter to correct the violation occasioned by the failure to warn all consumers to the exposure of Acrylamide.

Pursuant to 22 California Code of Regulations § 12903(b)(1), attached is a copy of "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary," a summary of Proposition 65 prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d)(1), the undersigned hereby include the attached Certificate of Merit, to wit, that the undersigned have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has or have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of this notice, and that, based on that information, the undersigned believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case. Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of this Certificate of Merit is included with the notice that is served on the Attorney General and is provided to that office in confidence and is not to be disclosed except according to law.

ELF is located at: 1736 Franklin, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, California 94612, telephone (510) 208-4555. ELF is represented in this matter by the law firm of Rose, Klein and Marias LLP: 801 S. Grand Ave., 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017-4645. All communications concerning this matter should be directed to Christopher P. Ridout.

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Christopher P. Ridout

CPR:laa

cc: See attached list

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

## I, Christopher P. Ridout, hereby declare:

- (1) This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notices have violated Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
  - (2) I am an attorney for the Environmental Law Foundation.
- (3) I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.
- (4) Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- (5) The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(h)(2), *i.e.*, (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: June 29, 200

Christopher P. Ridout

Rose, Klein & Marias LLP.

801 South Grand Avenue 18th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017-4645

Attorney on behalf of the Environmental Law Foundation

The Honorable Thomas Orloff District Attorney ALAMEDA COUNTY 1225 Fallon Street, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612

The Honorable Michael Ramsey District Attorney BUTTE COUNTY 25 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965

The Honorable Robert Kochty District Attorney CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PO Box 670 Martinez, CA 94553

The Honorable Elizabeth Egan District Attorney FRESNO COUNTY 2220 Tulare Street, #1000 Fresno; GA 93721

The Honorable Gilbert Otero District Attorney IMPERIAL COUNTY 939 West Main Street El Centro, CA 92243

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The Honorable Ronald Calhoun District Attorney KINGS COUNTY 1400 West Lacey Blvd. Hanford, CA 93230

The Honorable Steve Cooley
District Attorney
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
210 West Temple Street, Ste. 18000
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable William Richmond District Attorney ALPINE COUNTY P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120

The Honorable Jeffrey Tuttle District Attorney CALAVERAS COUNTY 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249

The Honorable Michael Riese District Attorney DEL NORTE COUNTY 450 H Street Crescent City, CA 95531

The Honorable Robert Holzapfel District Attorney GLENN COUNTY P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

The Honorable Arthur Maillet District Attorney INYO COUNTY P.O. Drawer D Independence, CA 93526

The Honorable Gerhard Luck District Attorney LAKE COUNTY 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

The Honorable Ernest LiCalsi District Attorney MADERA COUNTY 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637 The Honorable Todd Riebe District Attorney AMADOR COUNTY 708 Court Street, #202 Jackson, CA 95642

The Honorable John Poyner District Attorney COLUSA COUNTY 547 Market Street Colusa, CA 95932

The Honorable Gary Lacy District Attorney EL DORADO COUNTY 515 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667

The Honorable Paul Gallegos District Attorney HUMBOLDT COUNTY 825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501

The Honorable Edward Jagels District Attorney KERN COUNTY 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

The Honorable Robert Burns District Attorney LASSEN COUNTY 220 S. Lassen Street, Ste. 8 Susanville, CA 96130

The Honorable Edward Berberian District Attorney MARIN COUNTY 3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm. 130 San Rafael, CA 94903 The Honorable Robert Brown District Attorney MARIPOSA COUNTY P.O. BOX 730 Mariposa, CA 95338

The Honorable Jordan Funk District Attorney MODOC COUNTY 204 S. Court Street Alturas, CA 96101

The Honorable Gary Lieberstein District Attorney NAPA COUNTY 931 Parkway Mall Napa, CA 94559

The Honorable Bradford Fenocehia District Attorney PLACER COUNTY 11562 B Avenue Auburn, CA 95603

The Honorable Jan Scully District Attorney SACRAMENTO COUNTY 901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bonnie Dumanis District Attorney SAN DIEGO COUNTY 330 W. Broadway, Suite 1320 San Diego, CA 92101

The Honorable Gerald Shea District Attorney SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY County Govt. Center Fourth Floor, Annex San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 The Honorable Norman Vroman District Attorney MENDOCINO COUNTY P.O. BOX 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

The Honorable George Booth District Attorney MONO COUNTY P.O. BOX 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517

The Honorable Michael Ferguson District Attorney NEVADA COUNTY 201 Church Street, Suite 8 Nevada City, CA 95959

The Honorable Jeff Cunan District Attorney PLUMAS COUNTY 520 Main Street, Room 404 Quincy, CA 95971

The Honorable John Sarsfield District Attorney SAN BENITO COUNTY 419 4th Street, Second Floor Hollister, CA 95023-3801

The Honorable Kamala Harris District Attorney SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY 880 Bryant Street, Room 325 San Francisco, CA 94103

The Honorable James Fox District Attorney SAN MATEO COUNTY 400 County Center, Third Floor Redwood City, CA 94063 The Honorable Gordon Spencer District Attorney MERCED COUNTY 2222 M Street Merced, CA 95340

The Honorable Dean Flippo District Attorney MONTEREY COUNTY 240 Church Street, #101 Salinas, CA 93901

The Honorable Tony Rackauckas District Attorney ORANGE COUNTY 401 Civic Center Drive Santa Ana, CA 92701

The Honorable Grover Trask II District Attorney RIVERSIDE COUNTY 4075 Main Street Riverside, CA 92501

The Honorable Michael Ramos District Attorney SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY 316 N. Mountain View Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415

The Honorable James Willett District Attorney SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY P.O. BOX 990 Stockton, CA 95201

The Hon. Thomas Sneddon, Jr. District Attorney SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 1105 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 The Honorable George Kennedy District Attorney SANTA CLARA COUNTY 70 West Hedding Street, West Wing 701 Ocean Street, Room 200 San Jose, CA 95110

The Honorable Bob Lee District Attorney SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The Honorable Gerald Benito District Attorney SHASTA COUNTY 1525 Court Street, Third Floor Redding, CA 96001-1632

The Honorable Lawrence Allen District Attorney SIERRA COUNTY Courthouse P.O. BOX 457 Downieville, CA 95936

The Honorable James Andrus District Attorney SISKIYOU COUNTY P.O. BOX 986 Yreka, CA 96097

The Honorable David Paulson District Attorney SOLANO COUNTY 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533

The Honorable Stephan Passalacqua The Honorable James Brazelton District Attorney SONOMA COUNTY 600 Administration Drive, Rm. 212J 800 11th Street, Room 200 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

District Attorney STANISLAUS COUNTY P.O. BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353

The Honorable Carl Adams District Attorney SUTTER COUNTY 446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991

The Honorable Gregg Cohen District Attorney TEHAMA COUNTY P.O. BOX 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080

The Honorable David Cross District Attorney TRINITY COUNTY P.O. BOX 1310 Weaverville, CA 96093

The Honorable Phillip Cline District Attorney TULARE COUNTY 221 South Mooney Blvd., Ste 224 Visalia, CA 93291

The Hon. Donald Segerstrom, Jr. District Attorney TUOLUMNE COUNTY 423 No. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370

The Honorable Gregory Totten District Attorney VENTURA COUNTY 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

The Honorable David Henderson District Attorney YOLO COUNTY 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695

The Honorable Patrick McGrath District Attorney YUBA COUNTY 215 Fifth Street Marysville, CA 95901

The Honorable Rockard Delgadillo City Attorney CITY OF LOS ANGELES 200 N. Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Michael Aguirre City Attorney CITY OF SAN DIEGO 1200 Third Avenue, 3rd Floor San Diego, CA 92101

The Honorable Dennis Herrera City Attorney CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO City Hall, Room 234 San Francisco, CA 94102

The Honorable Richard Doyle City Attorney CITY OF SAN JOSE 151 W. Mission St. San Jose, CA 95110

Attorney General of California Prop. 65 Enforcement Reporting Attention: Prop. 65 Coordinator 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, California 94612-0550