

June 17, 2015

Mr. Heater, Inc. c/o John Duross 4560 W. 160th Street Cleveland, OH 44135

Denault's Hardware-Home Centers, Inc. c/o Ruth E. Denault 23281 Antonio Pkwy Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Re: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AGAINST MR. HEATER, INC. AND DENAULT'S HARDWARE-HOME CENTERS, INC., OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.6

To Whom It May Concern and to Public Prosecutors:

Ecological Alliance, LLC, a California limited liability company ("Alliance") is a California company acting in the interest of the general public seeking to further, among other causes, the protection of the environment, toxics reduction, the promotion and improvement of human health, the improvement of workers and consumer rights, environmental education and corporate accountability. As described below, Alliance has identified violations of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65" or "Act"), codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.* by Mr. Heater, Inc., an Ohio corporation and Denault's Hardware-Home Centers, Inc., a California corporation (collectively the "Violators"). This letter serves to provide Alliance's notification of these violations to the Violators and elected prosecutors. Pursuant to §25249.7(d) of the statute, Alliance intends to bring an enforcement action sixty (60) days or more after effective service of this amended notice unless the appropriate public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

The products which are causing an exposure without a warning in violation of Proposition 65, are Propane Fittings, UPC #089301761391 ("Products") manufactured by Mr. Heater, Inc. and offered for sale by Denault's Hardware-Home Centers, Inc., to California consumers.

A copy of the Proposition 65 summary prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard

Assessment is attached, to the copy of this letter served to the Violators.

Because of this lack of a warning, consumers were exposed to the following chemicals without the proper required Proposition 65 warnings: 1) Lead. The routes of exposure for this chemical are ingestion and dermal. Such exposure can cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. Exposures to the listed chemical from the use of the Products have been occurring without the clear and reasonable warnings required by Proposition 65, dating as far back as June 17, 2014, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until this known toxic chemical is removed from the Products. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the listed chemical resulting from contact with the Products, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the listed chemical from reasonable foreseeable use of the Products.

Alliance intends to file a private enforcement action as provided for in the Act for the alleged violations by the Violators, unless Violaters agree in an enforceable written instrument to: (1) recall the listed products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals; or (2) affix clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning labels for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65, Alliance is interested in seeking a constructive resolution to this matter, and invites Violators, should they seek early resolution of this matter, to communicate directly with Alliance's attorneys. Such resolution will avoid further unwarned consumer exposures, as well as resource intensive litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to Alliance's attorney, Vineet Dubey (dubey@cd-lawyers.com), Custodio & Dubey LLP, 448 S. Hill St., Suite 850, Los Angeles, CA 90013, 213-785-2909.

Sincerely,

Vineet Dubey

Custodio & Dubey LLP

cc: see attached distribution list

Attachments:

Proposition 65 summary Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

Re: Ecological Alliance, LLC's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Mr. Heater, Inc. and Denault's Hardware-Home Centers, Inc.

- I, Vineet Dubey, hereby declare:
- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice violated California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- 2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.
- 3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience and have assembled evidence attached to the copy for the California Attorney General as Exhibit 1 to this Certificate of Merit regarding the lack of warnings for the listed chemical that is the subject of the notice.
- 4. Based on the information obtained and on 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 plaintiff's case can be established and that 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 California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2).

Dated: June 17, 2015

Vineet Dubey, Attorney at Law

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this case. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. My business address is 448 S. Hill St., Ste 850, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

On the date shown below, I served the following:

- 1) Amended 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue Under Health and Safety Code section 25249.6
- 2) Certificate of Merit; Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)
- 3) Certificate of Merit (Attorney General Copy); Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the certificate of merit (only sent to Attorney General)
- 4) The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65); A Summary

on the alleged violator listed below via First Class Certified Mail through the United States Postal Service by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to the entity listed below and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

Mr. Heater, Inc. c/o John Duross 4560 W. 160th Street Cleveland, OH 44135

Denault's Hardware-Home Centers, Inc. c/o Ruth E. Denault 23281 Antonio Pkwy Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

as well as providing copies of the notice to the public enforcers by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to the parties listed on the attached Distribution List.

I declare under penalty of perjury that under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

June 17, 2015

Vineet Dubey

Distribution List

Alameda County District Attorney 1225 Fallon St, Room 900	Los Angeles County District Attorney 210 W Temple St, 18th Floor	Mono County District Attorney P0 Box 617
Oakland, CA 94612	Los Angeles, CA 90012	Bridgeport, CA 93517
Alpine County District Attorney PO Box 248	Madera County District Attorney 209 W Yosemite Ave	San Joaquin County District Attorney PO Box 990
Markleeville, CA 96120	Madera, CA 93637	Stockton, CA 95201 -0990
Amador County District Attorney 708 Court, Suite 202	Mariposa County District Attorney P.O. Box 730	San Francisco County District Attorney 850 Bryant St, Rm 322
Jackson, CA 95642	Mariposa, CA 95338	San Francisco, CA 94103
Butte County District Attorney 25 County Center Dr.	Marin County District Attorney 3501 Civic Center Drive, #130	San Diego County District Attorney
Oroville, CA 95965-3385	San Rafael, CA 94903	San Diego, CA 92101-3803
Calaveras County District Attorney	Mendocino County District Attorney	San Bernardino County District Attorney
891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	316 N Mountain View Ave San Bernardino, CA 92415-0004
Office of the Attorney General	Los Angeles City Attorney	San Francisco City Attorney
P.O. Box 70550	200 N Main St Ste 1800	# 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 234
Oakland, CA 94612-0550	Los Angeles CA 90012	San Francisco, CA 94102
Colusa County District Attorney	Inyo County District Attorney	Placer County District Attorney
Column CA 05033	P.O. Drawer D	10810 Justice Center Drive
Colusa, <i>CA</i> 95932	Independence, CA 93526	Suite 240
Contra Costa County District Attorney	Orange County District Attorney	Roseville, CA 95678-6231 Merced County District Attorney
725 Court St., Room 402	PO Box 808	550 W. Main St.
Martinez, CA 94553	Santa Ana, CA 92702	Merced, CA 95340
Del Norte County District Attorney	Nevada County District Attorney	Napa County District Attorney
450 "H" St.	10075 Levon Ave.	PO Box 720
Crescent City, CA 95531	Truckee, CA 96161	Nana. CA 94559-0720
El Dorado County District Attorney	Plumas County District Attorney	Riverside County District Attorney
515 Main St.	520 Main Street, Rm 404	3960 Orange Street, Suite 6
Placerville, CA 95667-5697	Ouincy, CA 95971	Riverside, CA 92501
Fresno County District Attorney	Sacramento County District Attorney	San Benito County District Attorney 419 4th St
2220 Tulare St. Ste. 1000 Fresno. CA 93721	901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814	Hollister, CA 95023
Glenn County District Attorney	San Luis Obispo County District Attorney	Siskiyou County District Attorney
PO Box 430	County Government Center, Rm 450	PO Box 986
Willows, CA 95988	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	Yreka, CA 96097
Humboldt County District Attorney	San Mateo County District Attorney	Solano County District Attorney
825 5th St., 4th Floor	400 County Center	600 Union Ave
Eureka, CA 95501	Redwood City, CA 94063	Fairfield, CA 94533
Imperial County District Attorney	Santa Barbara County District Attorney	Sonoma County District Attorney
939 W. Main St., 2nd Floor El Centro, CA 92243-2860	1112 Santa Barbara St.	600 Administration Dr.
El Centro, CA 92245-2000	Santa Barbara, CA 93101	Rm 212-J
Kern County District Attorney	Santa Clara County District Attorney	Santa Rosa. CA 95403 Shasta County District Attorney
1215 Truxtun Ave.	70 W Hedding St.	1355 West St.
Bakersfield, CA 93301	San Jose, CA 95110	Redding, CA 96001-1632
Kings County District Attorney	Santa Cruz County District Attorney	Sierra County District Attorney
Gov't Ctr, 1400 W Lacey Blvd	701 Ocean St., Room 200	P0 Box 457
Hanford, CA 93230	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	Downieville, CA 95936-0457
Lake County District Attorney	Stanislaus County District Attorney	Trinity County District Attorney
255 N Forbes St Lakeport, CA 95453-4790	P0 Box 442 Modesto, CA 95353	PO Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093
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Modoc County District Attorney 204 S. Court Street	Sutter County District Attorney	Yuba County District Attorney
Alturas. CA 96101-4020	446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991	215 5th St Marysville, CA 95901
San Diego City Attorney	Lassen County District Attorney	Monterey County District Attorney
City Center Plaza	200 S Lassen St, Suite 8	PO Box 1131
1200 3rd Ave # 1100	Susanville. CA 96130	Salinas, CA 93902
San Diego, CA 92101 Tuolumne County District Attorney	Tulare County District Attorney	Valo County District Augus
2 S Green St	County Civic Center. Rm 224	Yolo County District Attorney 310 Second St
Sonora. CA 95370	Visalia. CA 93291	Woodland, CA 95695
Ventura County District Attorney	Tehama County District Attorney	San Jose City Attorney
800 S Victoria Ave	P.O. Box 519	200 E. Santa Clara St
Ventura, CA 93009	Red Bluff; CA 96080	16th Floor