# 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d) (PROPOSITION 65)

Date: July 9, 2021

To: Larry Zhou, President, Richpower Industries, Inc.;

CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service Agents for Service of Process for Amazon.com, Inc.;

California Attorney General's Office;

District Attorney's Office for 58 Counties; and

City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Sacramento & Los Angeles

From: Keep America Safe and Beautiful

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Keep America Safe and Beautiful is a California nonprofit corporation acting in the interest of the general public, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d). Keep America Safe and Beautiful seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and, if possible, to improve human health by eliminating hazardous substances contained in such items, promoting corporate responsibility.

This 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice") is being provided to the alleged violators, Richpower Industries, Inc. and Amazon.com, Inc. ("Notice Recipients"), as well as the California Attorney General's Office, the District Attorney's Offices for 58 Counties, and City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Sacramento, and Los Angeles.

Keep America Safe and Beautiful provides this Notice after identifying violations of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq. ("Proposition 65"), based on the failure to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the products, listed below, in the State of California. The Notice Recipients are hereby given notice they violated and continue to violate Proposition 65 with respect to the warning requirement, codified at California's Health & Safety Code § 25249.6: "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 a clear and reasonable warning to such individual." Without proper warnings about the toxic effects of exposures to listed chemicals, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions as to whether or how to eliminate or reduce their risk of exposure from the reasonably foreseeable use of products containing listed chemicals.

#### II. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

**<u>Product.</u>** The specific type or category of products ("**Products**") that are the subject of this Notice are as follows:

<b>Exemplar Product</b>	Category/Type	Retailer	Manufacturer/Distributor
PowerSmith Ash Vacuum	Hose	Amazon.com	Richpower Industries, Inc.;
Cleaning Kit, Model			Amazon.com, Inc.
#PAAC302, ASIN			
#B00F8C9J8O, UPC #8			
91365 00070 1			

Identified above is a specific example of Products recently purchased and witnessed as being available for sale or use in the State of California, within the *category* of offending products covered by this Notice. The identified retailers, manufacturers and/or distributors of the Products are based on publicly available information.

The Exemplar Product is identified for the Notice Recipients' benefit to assist in their investigation into the alleged violations that are the subject of this Notice. The specific identified Exemplar Product is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all such products potentially in violation of Proposition 65. It is Keep America Safe and Beautiful's position the Notice Recipients are obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other products within the category or of the type, identified above, that were manufactured, imported, sold or distributed for sale, or that have otherwise been in the Notice Recipients' custody or control during the relevant period, identified below, to ensure the requisite health hazard warnings are provided to individuals in California prior to purchase.

<u>Listed Chemical</u>. The chemical that is the subject of this Notice is Di-n-butyl Phthalate ("**DBP**".) The State of California listed DBP as a chemical known to cause reproductive and developmental toxicity on December 2, 2005.

Routes of Exposure. The exposures subject to this Notice result from the purchase, acquisition and handling or use of Products containing DBP. Exposures occur when individuals, including women of childbearing age, handle, touch or otherwise utilize hoses containing DBP in accordance with the Products' intended uses, resulting in exposures through dermal absorption and ingestion. Dermal exposures occur when individuals handle, touch or use the Products in accord with their intended uses. Individuals ingest DBP when they touch or handle the Products and transfer the chemical from their fingers or hands to their mouths or directly contact Products with the mouth.

<u>Violations and Time Period of Exposure.</u> Keep America Safe and Beautiful alleges the Notice Recipients knowingly and intentionally exposed, and continue to knowingly and intentionally expose, individuals within the State of California to DBP and failed to provide clear and reasonable health hazard warning, as required by Proposition 65, to consumers and users the Products can expose users to DBP, a toxic chemical.

Exposures caused by the use of the Products have occurred each day since the Products were introduced into the California marketplace, but, at a minimum, since July 9, 2020, and, potentially, as far back as July 9, 2018. Because the Products lack clear and reasonable warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to DBP, each Product sold during this period and not accompanied by a warning constitutes a violation by the Notice Recipients and/or other sellers of the Products, whether sold directly through retailers located in, or with locations in, California, via the internet, or through catalog purchases by customers and individuals located in California. Moreover, these exposures are ongoing and will continue either until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to protect consumers and users or until this known toxic chemical is removed from the Products or reduced to allowable levels.

#### III. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65, Keep America Safe and Beautiful seeks to pursue a constructive resolution of this matter to quickly rectify ongoing violations of California law. To that end, based on the allegations set forth in this Notice and pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d), Keep America Safe and Beautiful intends to file a private

enforcement action in the public interest sixty (60) days after effective service of this Notice, unless the appropriate public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these allegations. If the Notice Recipients seek to resolve the claims alleged in this Notice without litigation, they may contact Keep America Safe and Beautiful's counsel at the address listed below.

It should be noted neither Keep America Safe and Beautiful nor its counsel can: (1) finalize any settlement until after the expiration of the 60-day Notice period; or (2) speak for the California Attorney General or any District or City attorney in receipt of this Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with Keep America Safe and Beautiful will satisfy its claims, the agreement may not satisfy any public prosecutors.

# IV. GENERAL INFORMATION AND SUMMARY OF PROPOSITION 65

A copy of a summary of Proposition 65's provisions, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("**OEHHA**") is enclosed with the copy of the Notice served on the Notice Recipients for their reference. For further general information concerning Proposition 65, contact OEHHA's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900.

#### V. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) and Cal. Code. Regs. tit 11, § 3100, a Certificate of Merit is attached hereto. A copy of the Notice and Certificate of Merit is served on the California Attorney General and marked "Attorney General Copy: Contains Official Information Pursuant to Evidence Code Section 1040" with all supporting documentation, as required by Cal. Code. Regs. tit 11, § 3102, attached thereto.

#### VI. <u>CONTACT INFORMATION</u>

Please direct all questions, issues or communications regarding this 60-Day Notice of Violation and its potential resolution to Keep America Safe and Beautiful's counsel at the following address:

Keep America Safe and Beautiful c/o Kimberly Gates Johnson, Esq. Seven Hills LLP 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400 San Francisco, California 94111 Telephone: (415) 926-7247

<u>Attachments:</u> Certificate of Merit; Proof of Service; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary (to Violator only); & Additional Confidential Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only.)

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d)

Re: Keep America Safe and Beautiful's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations

- I, Kimberly Gates Johnson, hereby declare and certify:
- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the party identified in the notice violated California Health & Safety Code § 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 or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of this action 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) (i.e. the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier and the facts, studies and data reviewed by that person.)

Dated: July 9, 2021

Kimberly Gates Johnson

#### **PROOF OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury:

I am over the age of 18 years of age and not a party to this case. Seven Hills LLP's business address is 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA 94111.

On July 9, 2021, I caused to be served the following:

HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d); THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY; and CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

XXXX by **Certified First Class Mail** through the United States Postal Service by placing true and correct copies of the above documents in a sealed envelope, individually addressed to each alleged violator listed below and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

Larry Zhou, President Richpower Industries, Inc. 736 Hampton Rd. Williamston, SC 29697 CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service Agents for Service of Process for Amazon.com, Inc. 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr., Ste. 150 Sacramento, CA 95833-3505

On July 9, 2021, I caused to be served true and correct copies of the following documents:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d); and CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

XXXX by **First Class Mail** through the United States Postal Service by placing copies of the above documents in a sealed envelope, addressed to each entity on the attached "Service List" and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Representative, with correct postage.

XXXX via **Electronic Mail**, by sending copies of the above documents, addressed individually, to the Recipient listed on the attached "Electronic Mail Service List".

On July 9, 2021, I caused to be served true and correct copies of the following documents:

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d); CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; and CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS

XXXX via **Electronic Mail**, by uploading the documents, addressed to California Attorney General at their website address, listed under the "Electronic Upload Service List". Executed on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021, at Folsom, California.

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# **SERVICE LIST**

	T	
The Honorable Michael Atwell	The Honorable Jackie Lacey	The Honorable Todd Riebe
Alpine County District Attorney	Los Angeles County District Attorney	Amador County District Attorney
P.O. Box 248	211 West Temple Street, Ste 1200	708 Court Street, #202
Markleeville, CA 96120	Los Angeles, CA, 90012	Jackson, CA 95642
The Honorable Michael Ramsey	The Honorable Matthew R. Beauchamp	Del Norte County District Attorney
Butte County District Attorney	Colusa County District Attorney	450 H street, Room 171
25 County Center Drive, Suite 245	346 5th Street, Suite 101	Crescent City, CA 95531
Oroville, CA 95965	Colusa, CA 95932	
The Honorable Vern Pierson	The Honorable Lisa Smittcamp	The Honorable Dwayne Stewart
El Dorado County District Attorney	Fresno County District Attorney	Glenn County District Attorney
778 Pacific Street	2220 Tulare street, Suite 1000	P.O. Box 430
Placerville, CA 95667	Fresno, CA 93721	Willows CA 95988
The Honorable Maggie Fleming	The Honorable Gilbert Otero	The Honorable Lisa Green
Humboldt County District Attorney	Imperial County District Attorney	Kern County District Attorney
825 5th Street, 4th Floor	940 West Main Street, Suite 102	1215 Truxtun Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501	El Centro, CA 92243	Bakersfield, CA 93301
	The Honorable Donald Anderson	The Honorable David Linn
The Honorable Keith Fagundes		Madera County District Attorney
Kings County District Attorney 1400	Lake County District Attorney	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
West Lacey Blvd.	255 N. Forbes Street	209 West Yosemite Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230	Lakeport, CA 95453	Madera, CA 93637
The Honorable Edward Berberian	The Honorable Mike Feuer	The Honorable C. David Eyster
Marin County District Attorney	Office of the City Attorney, Los Angeles	Mendocino County District
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130	Kames K. Hahn Hall East	Attorney
San Rafael, CA 94903	200 North Main Street, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor	P.O. Box 1000
	Los Angeles, CA 90012	Ukiah, CA 9548
The Honorable Richard Doyle	The Honorable Todd Spitzer	The Honorable Tim Kendall
Office of the City Attorney, San Jose	Orange County District Attorney	Mono County District Attorney
200 East Santa Clara Street, 16 <sup>th</sup> Floor	300 North Flower Street	P.O. Box 2053
San Jose, CA 95113	Santa Ana, CA 92703	Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
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San Mateo County District Attorney	San Benito District Attorney	Shasta County District Attorney
400 County Center, Third Floor	419 4th Street	1355 West Street
Redwood City, CA 94063	Hollister, CA 95023	Redding, CA 96001
The Honorable James Kirk Andrus	The Honorable Michael Ramos	The Honorable Amanda Hopper
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P.O. Box 986	303 W. Third Street	446 Second Street, Suite 102
Redding, CA 96097	San Bernardino, CA 92415	Yuba City, CA 95991
The Honorable Laura Krieg	The Honorable Krishna Abrams	The Honorable Eric Heryford
Tuolumne County District Attorney	Solano County District Attorney	Trinity County District Attorney
423 N. Washington Street	675 Texas Street, Suite 4500	P.O. Box 310
Sonora, CA 95370	Fairfield, CA 94533	Weaverville, CA 96093
The Honorable Lawrence Allen	The Honorable James Sanchez	The Honorable Patrick McGrath
Sierra County District Attorney	Office of the City Attorney, Sacramento	Yuba County District Attorney
100 Courthouse Square	915 I Street, 4th Floor	215 Fifth street, Suite 152
Downieville, CA 95936	Sacramento, CA 95814	Marysville, CA 95901
The Honorable Jordan Funk	The Honorable Gregg Cohen	The Honorable Birgit Fladager
Modoc County District Attorney	Tehama County District Attorney	Stanislaus County District Attorney
204 S. Court Street Room 202	P.O. Box 519	832 12th street, Suite 300
		Modesto, CA 95353
Alturas, CA 96101	Red Bluff, CA 96080	Modesio, CA 93333

## **ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE LIST**

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The Honorable Nancy O'Malley	The Honorable Tori Verber Salzar	Honorable Anne Marie Schubert
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Supervising Deputy District Attorney	Assistant District Attorney San Francisco District Attorney's Office	Attorney Santa Barbara County
Santa Clara County		I
70 W Hedding Street	350 Rhode Island Street	1112 Santa Barbara Street
San Jose, CA 95110	San Francisco, CA 94103	Santa Barbara, CA 93101
EPU@da.sccgov.org	alethea.sargent@sfgov.org	DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
The Honorable Gregory D. Totten,	The Honorable Barbara Yook	Valerie Lopez, Deputy City Attorney
Ventura County District Attorney	Calaveras County District Attorney	Office of the City Attorney
800 S Victoria Avenue	891 Mountain Ranch Road	1390 Market Street, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Ventura, CA 93009	San Andreas, CA 95249	San Francisco, CA 94102
daspecialops@ventura.org	Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us	Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org
Stacey Grassini	Eric J. Dobroth	Jeannine M. Pacioni
Deputy District Attorney	Deputy District Attorney	Deputy District Attorney
Contra Costa County	San Luis Obispo County	Monterey County
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sgrassini@contracostada.org	edobroth@co.slo.ca.us	Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us
The Honorable Thomas Hardy	The Honorable Phillip J. Cline	The Honorable Clifford Newell
Inyo County District Attorney	Tulare County District Attorney	Nevada County District Attorney
168 N. Edwards Street	221 S Mooney Blvd	201 Commercial Street
Independence, CA 93526	Visalia, CA 95370	Nevada City, CA 95959
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The Honorable Paul E. Zellerbach	The Honorable Stephan Passalacqua	The Honorable David Hollister
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3072 Orange Street	600 Administration Drive	520 Main Street, Room 404
Riverside, CA 92501	Sonoma, CA 95403	Quincy, CA 95971
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The Honorable Walter W. Wall	The Honorable Kimberly Lewis	The Honorable Morgan Briggs Gire
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meadwinariposacounty.org	1 10p05@countyonnercoa.com	proposicipiacor.ca.gov

### **ELECTRONIC UPLOAD SERVICE LIST**

Office of the California Attorney General
Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting
ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator
P.O. Box 70550
Oakland, CA 94612-0550
https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice