

December 20, 2021

Casabella Attn: Legal Department 225 N Route 303, Unit 106 Congers, NY 10920

The Container Store, Inc. Cogency Global, Inc. 1325 J Street, Ste 1550 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AGAINST CASABELLA AND THE CONTAINER STORE, INC. OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.6

To Whom It May Concern and to Public Prosecutors:

Green Initiative LLC, a California limited liability company ("Initiative") 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, Initiative 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 Casabella, and The Container Store, Inc., a Texas corporation (collectively the "Violators"). This letter serves to provide Initiative's notification of these violations to the Violators and elected prosecutors. Pursuant to §25249.7(d) of the statute, Initiative intends to bring an enforcement action sixty (60) days or more after effective service of this 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 wardrobe hooks, including but not limited to UPC #028484311542 ("Products") manufactured/distributed by Casabella and offered for sale by retailers, including The Container Store, 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.

This notice alleges the violation of Proposition 65 with respect to occupational exposures governed by

the California State Plan for Occupational Safety and Health. The State Plan incorporates the provisions of Proposition 65, as approved by Federal OSHA on June 6, 1997. This approval specifically placed certain conditions with regard to occupational exposures on Proposition 65, including that it does not apply to the conduct of manufacturers occurring outside the State of California. The approval also provides that an employer may use the means of compliance in the general hazard communication requirements to comply with Proposition 65. It also requires that supplemental enforcement is subject to the supervision of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Accordingly, any settlement, civil complaint, or substantive court orders in this matter must be submitted to the Attorney General.

Because of this lack of a warning, occupational users were exposed to the following chemicals without the proper required Proposition 65 warnings: 1) Diisononyl phthalate [DINP]. The routes of exposure for this chemical are ingestion and dermal. Such exposure can cause cancer, 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 December 20, 2020, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to occupational users or until this known toxic chemical is removed from the Products.

Initiative 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, Initiative 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 Initiative's attorneys. Such resolution will avoid further unwarned consumer exposures, as well as resource intensive litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to Initiative's attorney, Vineet Dubey (dubey@cd-lawyers.com), Custodio & Dubey LLP, 445 S. Figueroa St., Suite 2520, Los Angeles, CA 90071, 213-593-9095.

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: Green Initiative LLC's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Casabella and The Container Store, 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: December 20, 2021

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 445 S. Figueroa St., Ste 2520, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

On the date shown below, I served the following:

- 1) 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 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:

Casabella Attn: Legal Department 225 N Route 303, Unit 106 Congers, NY 10920

The Container Store, Inc. Cogency Global, Inc. 1325 J Street, Ste 1550 Sacramento, CA 95814

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.

December 20, 2021

Vineet Dubey

		dube
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 Markleeville, CA 96120	Madera County District Attorney 209 W Yosemite Ave	San Joaquin County District Attorney PO Box 990
Amador County District Attorney	Madera, CA 93637 Mariposa County District Attorney	Stockton, CA 95201 -0990 San Francisco County District Attorney
708 Court, Suite 202	P.O. Box 730	850 Bryant St, Rm 322
Jackson, CA 95642	Mariposa, CA 95338	San Francisco, CA 94103
Butte County District Attorney	Marin County District Attorney	San Diego County District Attorney
25 County Center Dr. Oroville, CA 95965-3385	3501 Civic Center Drive, #130 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	P.O. Box 1000	316 N Mountain View Ave
San Andreas, CA 95249	Ukiah, CA 95482	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 Colusa County District Attorney	Los Angeles CA 90012 Inyo County District Attorney	San Francisco, CA 94102 Placer County District Attorney
Courthouse, 547 Market St	P.O. Drawer D	10810 Justice Center Drive
Colusa, CA 95932	Independence, CA 93526	Suite 240
0 . 0 . 0 . 0		Roseville, CA 95678-6231
Contra Costa County District Attorney 725 Court St., Room 402	Orange County District Attorney PO Box 808	Merced County District Attorney 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.	P0 Box 720
Crescent City, CA 95531 El Dorado County District Attorney	Truckee, CA 96161 Plumas County District Attorney	Nana, CA 94559-0720 Riverside County District Attorney
515 Main St.	520 Main Street, Rm 404	3960 Orange Street, Suite 6
Placerville, CA 95667-5697	Ouincv, CA 95971	Riverside, CA 92501
Fresno County District Attorney	Sacramento County District Attorney	San Benito County District Attorney
2220 Tulare St, Ste. 1000 Fresno, CA 93721	901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814	419 4th St 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 825 5th St., 4th Floor	San Mateo County District Attorney 400 County Center	Solano County District Attorney 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 Collio, C/1 72243-2000	Santa Barbara, CA 93101	Rm 212-J Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Kern County District Attorney	Santa Clara County District Attorney	Shasta County District Attorney
1215 Truxtun Ave.	70 W Hedding St. San Jose, CA 95110	1355 West St.
Bakersfield, CA 93301 Kings County District Attorney		Redding, CA 96001-1632
Gov't Ctr, 1400 W Lacey Blvd	Santa Cruz County District Attorney 701 Ocean St., Room 200	Sierra County District Attorney 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
(5), 3)		
Modoc County District Attorney 204 S. Court Street	Sutter County District Attorney 446 Second Street	Yuba County District Attorney 215 5th St
Alturas, CA 96101-4020	Yuba City, CA 95991	Marysville, CA 95901
San Diego City Attorney	Lassen County District Attorney	Monterey County District Attorney
City Center Plaza 1200 3rd Ave # 1100	200 S Lassen St, Suite 8	PO Box 1131
San Diego, CA 92101	Susanville, CA 96130	Salinas, CA 93902
Tuolumne County District Attorney	Tulare County District Attorney	Yolo County District Attorney
2 S Green St	County Civic Center, Rm 224	310 Second St
Sonora, CA 95370	Visalia, CA 93291	Woodland, CA 95695
Ventura County District Attorney 800 S Victoria Ave	Tehama County District Attorney P.O. Box 519	San Jose City Attorney 200 E. Santa Clara St
Ventura, CA 93009	Red Bluff; CA 96080	16th Floor
		San Jose, CA 95110