

1 Daniel H. Silverman (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
 2 dsilverman@cohenmilstein.com
 3 **COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS & TOLL PLLC**
 4 769 Centre Street, Suite 207
 5 Boston, MA 02130
 6 Telephone: (202) 408-4600
 7 *Counsel for Plaintiffs Don Copeland, Joseph*
 8 *Murray, Carol Smith, Patrick Whitney, Phillip*
 9 *Hague, Denise Fotis, Roxann Doriott, Bruce Mims,*
 10 *Lori Ably, Timothy Brown, Peter Costas, and Mike*
 11 *Ballard*
 12 *and Proposed Lead Counsel for Indirect Purchaser*
 13 *Class*

9 Sarah Grossman-Swenson (SBN 259792)
 10 Kimberley C. Weber (SBN 302894)
 11 sgs@msh.law | kweber@msh.law
 12 **MCCRACKEN STEMERMAN & HOLSBERY, LLP**
 13 475 14th Street, Suite 1200
 14 Oakland, CA 94612
 15 sgs@msh.law
 16 kweber@msh.law
 17 (415) 597-7200
 18 *Local Counsel for Plaintiffs*
 19 *[Additional Counsel on Signature Page]*

16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 17 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

19 DON COPELAND, JOSEPH MURRAY,
 20 CAROL SMITH, PATRICK WHITNEY,
 21 PHILLIP HAGUE, DENISE FOTIS,
 22 ROXANN DORIOTT, BRUCE MIMS, LORI
 23 ABLY, TIMOTHY BROWN, PETER
 24 COSTAS, AND MIKE BALLARD, on behalf
 25 of themselves and those similarly situated,

23 Plaintiffs,

24 vs.

25 ENERGIZER HOLDINGS, INC.; AND
 26 WAL-MART, INC.,

26 Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

CLASS ACTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
1		
2		
3	I. INTRODUCTION	1
4	II. THE PARTIES	3
5	III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE	6
6	IV. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT.....	7
7	V. FACTUAL BACKGROUND.....	7
8	A. The Disposable Battery Market	7
9	B. Walmart’s dominance in retail markets makes it a critical relationship for disposable battery suppliers.	9
10	C. Energizer and Walmart agree to the Scheme.....	10
11	D. Energizer and Walmart implement the Scheme.....	11
12	E. Energizer’s price increases cannot be explained by market forces.....	16
13	F. The scheme benefited both Walmart and Energizer to the detriment of competition in the wholesale and retail markets for Energizer Battery Products.....	17
14	VI. THE SCHEME CAUSED AND CONTINUES TO CAUSE ANTITRUST INJURY TO CONSUMERS.....	18
15	VII. MARKET POWER AND MARKET DEFINITION	19
16	VIII. ANTICOMPETITIVE EFFECTS.....	21
17	IX. STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS DO NOT BAR PLAINTIFFS’ CLAIMS.....	22
18	A. Continuing Violation	22
19	B. Fraudulent Concealment	22
20	X. EFFECT ON INTRASTATE AND INTERSTATE COMMERCE.....	24
21	XI. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS	24
22	XII. COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICE AND DEMAND REQUIREMENTS	26
23	XIII. CAUSES OF ACTION.....	26
24	VIOLATIONS OF STATE ANTITRUST LAWS	29
25		
26		
27		
28		

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

VIOLATIONS OF STATE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS 51

XIV. PETITION FOR RELIEF 67

XV. JURY DEMAND 68

1 7. In furtherance of the second component of the Scheme, Energizer created a team known
2 internally as Project Atlas. Project Atlas policed Energizer’s direct purchase customers’ retail prices
3 and warned retailers that tried to undersell Walmart that they had to match or exceed Walmart’s prices.
4 If the retailers nevertheless charged lower prices than Walmart, Energizer would further inflate the
5 wholesale prices it charged to those direct purchasers until it was no longer economically feasible for
6 them to compete with Walmart.

7 8. These two components – Energizer’s agreement with Walmart (1) to inflate its
8 wholesale prices for Energizer Battery Products to direct purchasers other than Walmart and (2) to
9 prevent its wholesale customers from charging retail prices below Walmart’s – formed the Scheme.

10 9. The Scheme was facilitated by Energizer’s power in the market for disposable batteries
11 – over 50% – and its duopolistic power with Duracell – together they control about 85% of the market.
12 In a duopolistic market, a price increase by the largest firm – here, Energizer – will often be met by a
13 comparable price increase by the second-largest firm – here, Duracell, particularly if a dominant
14 retailer – Walmart – limits Duracell’s ability to gain market share by competing on price.

15 10. The Scheme artificially inflated Energizer’s and Duracell’s prices. Walmart is a huge,
16 national retail outlet for Battery Products. To support the Scheme, Walmart offered Duracell battery
17 products at prices that would not undermine its inflated prices for Energizer Battery Products. That
18 deprived Duracell of a crucial opportunity to compete with Energizer for market share based on price.
19 The Scheme thus decreased Duracell’s incentive to compete with Energizer on price and increased
20 Duracell’s incentive to match Energizer’s inflated prices. The result was that Energizer’s and
21 Duracell’s wholesale prices were higher than they would have been without the Scheme.

22 11. The Scheme was anticompetitive. First, it harmed competition at the retail level by
23 eliminating retail price competition between Walmart and other retailers for the sale of Energizer
24 Battery Products. The Scheme focused on impairing competition from discount retailers – in particular
25 those who could distribute batteries more efficiently by selling them on the internet. This directly
26 harmed consumers by inflating retail prices for Energizer Battery Products, both those charged by
27 Walmart as well as those charged by other retailers. Second, the Scheme also reduced competition on
28 the wholesale level by reducing competition between Energizer and its primary rival – Duracell,

1 increasing Energizer’s market power, and thus the prices it charged to retailers. This resulted in
2 inflated wholesale prices for both Energizer Battery Products and Duracell battery products which
3 were then passed on to consumers.

4 12. As a result of the Scheme, Plaintiffs and other consumers paid inflated prices for
5 Energizer Battery Products.

6 13. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves individually and on behalf of an
7 Indirect Purchaser Plaintiff (“IPP”) class (“the Class” or the “Indirect Purchase Plaintiff Class”)
8 consisting of all persons and entities in Repealer Jurisdictions who indirectly purchased Energizer
9 Battery Products, other than for resale, at any time during the period from January 1, 2018 through
10 and until the anticompetitive effects of Defendants’ challenged conduct cease (the “Class Period”). A
11 Repealer Jurisdiction is a state, district, or territory that has repealed the bar on indirect purchaser
12 plaintiffs recovering under *Illinois Brick Co. v. Illinois*, 431 U.S. 720 (1977), and includes: Arizona,
13 California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine,
14 Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada,
15 New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode
16 Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.
17 Plaintiffs bring this action against Defendants for injunctive relief under Section 1 of the Sherman Act,
18 15 U.S.C. § 1, and for treble damages under the antitrust laws and consumer protection laws of the
19 several states, and demand a trial by jury.

20 **II. THE PARTIES**

21 14. Plaintiff Don Copeland is a resident of San Francisco, California and a citizen of the
22 United States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Mr. Copeland has purchased Energizer
23 Battery Products from Amazon for their own use and not for resale. Mr. Copeland has purchased
24 Energizer products in California. Mr. Copeland has paid supracompetitive prices for each Energizer
25 Battery Product they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and has therefore
26 suffered antitrust injury.

27 15. Plaintiff Joseph Murray is a resident of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida and a citizen of
28 the United States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Mr. Murray has purchased Energizer

1 Battery Products from Publix and Home Depot for their own use and not for resale. Mr. Murray has
2 purchased Energizer products in Florida. Mr. Murray has paid supracompetitive prices for each
3 Energizer Battery Product they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and
4 has therefore suffered antitrust injury.

5 16. Plaintiff Carol Smith is a resident of Chicago, Illinois and a citizen of the United States.
6 Throughout the Class Period defined below, Ms. Smith has purchased Energizer Battery Products from
7 Fingerhut for their own use and not for resale. Ms. Smith has purchased Energizer products in Illinois.
8 Ms. Smith has paid supracompetitive prices for each Energizer Battery Product they purchased as a
9 result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and has therefore suffered antitrust injury.

10 17. Plaintiff Patrick Whitney is a resident of Cambridge, Massachusetts and a citizen of
11 the United States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Mr. Whitney has purchased Energizer
12 Battery Products from Home Depot for their own use and not for resale. Mr. Whitney has purchased
13 Energizer products in Massachusetts. Mr. Whitney has paid supracompetitive prices for each
14 Energizer Battery Product they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and
15 has therefore suffered antitrust injury.

16 18. Plaintiff Phillip Hague is a resident of Oakland, Maine and a citizen of the United
17 States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Mr. Hague has purchased Energizer Battery
18 Products from Amazon for their own use and not for resale. Mr. Hague has purchased Energizer
19 products in Maine. Mr. Hague has paid supracompetitive prices for each Energizer Battery Product
20 they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and has therefore suffered
21 antitrust injury.

22 19. Plaintiff Denise Fotis is a resident of Canton, Michigan and a citizen of the United
23 States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Ms. Fotis has purchased Energizer Battery
24 Products from Lowe's Home Improvement and Meijers for their own use and not for resale. Ms. Fotis
25 has purchased Energizer products in Michigan. Ms. Fotis has paid supracompetitive prices for each
26 Energizer Battery Product they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and
27 has therefore suffered antitrust injury.

28 20. Plaintiff Roxann Doriott is a resident of West Saint Paul, Minnesota and a citizen of

1 the United States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Ms. Doriott has purchased Energizer
2 Battery Products from Target for their own use and not for resale. Ms. Doriott has purchased Energizer
3 products in Minnesota. Ms. Doriott has paid supracompetitive prices for each Energizer Battery
4 Product they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and has therefore suffered
5 antitrust injury.

6 21. Plaintiff Bruce Mims is a resident of Cape Girardeau, Missouri and a citizen of the
7 United States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Mr. Mims has purchased Energizer Battery
8 Products from Menard's for their own use and not for resale. Mr. Mims has purchased Energizer
9 products in Missouri. Mr. Mims has paid supracompetitive prices for each Energizer Battery Product
10 they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and has therefore suffered
11 antitrust injury.

12 22. Plaintiff Lori Ably is a resident of Helena, Montana and a citizen of the United States.
13 Throughout the Class Period defined below, Ms. Ably has purchased Energizer Battery Products from
14 Harbor Freight, Super One, Winco, and Safeway for their own use and not for resale. Ms. Ably has
15 purchased Energizer products in Montana. Ms. Ably has paid supracompetitive prices for each
16 Energizer Battery Product they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and
17 has therefore suffered antitrust injury.

18 23. Plaintiff Timothy Brown is a resident of Honeoye, New York and a citizen of the
19 United States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Mr. Brown has purchased Energizer
20 Battery Products from Amazon for their own use and not for resale. Mr. Brown has purchased
21 Energizer products in New York. Mr. Brown has paid supracompetitive prices for each Energizer
22 Battery Product they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and has therefore
23 suffered antitrust injury.

24 24. Plaintiff Peter Costas is a resident of Newport, Vermont and a citizen of the United
25 States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Mr. Costas has purchased Energizer Battery
26 Products from Home Depot and Pick and Shovel for their own use and not for resale. Mr. Costas has
27 purchased Energizer products in Vermont and in New Hampshire. Mr. Costas has paid
28 supracompetitive prices for each Energizer Battery Product they purchased as a result of the violations

1 alleged in this Complaint and has therefore suffered antitrust injury.

2 25. Plaintiff Mike Ballard is a resident of Barboursville, West Virginia and a citizen of the
3 United States. Throughout the Class Period defined below, Mr. Ballard has purchased Energizer
4 Battery Products from Home Depot for their own use and not for resale. Mr. Ballard has purchased
5 Energizer products in West Virginia. Mr. Ballard has paid supracompetitive prices for each Energizer
6 Battery Product they purchased as a result of the violations alleged in this Complaint and has therefore
7 suffered antitrust injury.

8 26. Defendant Energizer Holdings, Inc. (“Energizer”) is a leading manufacturer of
9 disposable batteries based in St. Louis, Missouri.

10 27. Defendant Wal-Mart Inc. (“Walmart”) is the largest company in the world by revenue
11 and operates thousands of retail stores in the United States. Walmart is headquartered in Bentonville,
12 Arkansas. Walmart’s Global eCommerce division is based in San Bruno, California.

13 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14 28. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because this
15 is a class action involving common questions of law or fact in which the aggregate amount in
16 controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs; there are more than one hundred
17 members of the class; and at least one member of the class is a citizen of a state different from that of
18 one of the Defendants.

19 29. Alternatively, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 15
20 U.S.C. §§ 4, 15(a) and 26, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337, because this action alleges violations of
21 section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1, and seeks declaratory and equitable relief for these
22 violations.

23 30. The Court possesses supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ state law claims under
24 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

25 31. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to, among other statutes, § 12 of the Clayton
26 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 22, and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1)-(2) because Defendants regularly transact business
27 within this District, a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs’ claims occurred in this
28 District, and a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce discussed below has

1 been carried out in this District. In particular, Defendant Wal-Mart’s eCommerce division is located
2 in this District, and Walmart purchased and sold Energizer Battery Products at stores within this
3 District. In addition, Defendants have directed their conduct towards discount retailers located in
4 California, as detailed below.

5 32. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because during the Class Period
6 Defendants marketed and sold Energizer Batteries in this district and have had substantial contacts
7 within this District in furtherance of the anticompetitive activity alleged herein.

8 **IV. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT**

9 33. Assignment is proper to the San Francisco or Oakland Division of this District under
10 Local Rule 3-2(c)-(e) because Plaintiff Don Copeland resides and purchases Energizer Battery
11 products in San Francisco, California, and a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs’
12 claims occurred in San Mateo County because Walmart’s Global eCommerce division is located in
13 San Mateo County. Under Local Rule 3-2(d), “all civil actions that arise in the count[y] of ... San
14 Mateo ... shall be assigned to the San Francisco Division or the Oakland Division.” A central part of
15 the Scheme involved eliminating price disruption to Walmart’s Global eCommerce platform, and
16 Plaintiffs will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation
17 or discovery to show that the creation and enforcement of Defendants’ agreement involved Walmart
18 representatives working out of the Global eCommerce division in San Bruno, California, which is
19 located in San Mateo County.

20 **V. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

21 **A. The Disposable Battery Market**

22 34. Disposable batteries are single-use power sources and are typically powered by alkaline
23 or lithium. Disposable batteries come in standard sizes (AA, AAA, or 123), defined according to
24 standards adopted by the American National Standards Institute or International Electrotechnical
25 Commission. Disposable batteries are used in toys, flashlights, remote controls, smoke detectors, and
26 some power tools. Disposable batteries¹ are a mature product market that has seen little innovation in

27 _____
28 ¹ Unless otherwise specific, the term “batteries” will refer to disposable batteries throughout this
Complaint.

1 the last ten years or more.

2 35. The disposable batteries industry is characterized by high barriers to entry. Many
3 disposable batteries contain cobalt, lithium and graphite that are considered critical minerals by the
4 United States Geological Survey, which indicates they have a high supply risk potential and no easy
5 substitutes.

6 36. Safety concerns and regulations impose additional barriers to entry. Disposable
7 batteries are manufactured using hazardous materials including lead and mercury. As a result, the
8 waste from battery manufacturing creates costly environmental contamination problems, which
9 require large investments to mitigate.

10 37. Advertising is another barrier to entry for new entrants into established markets such
11 as the disposable battery market. Energizer has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in advertising
12 to build its brand. Energizer spends an estimated \$70-80 million a year in advertising, principally to
13 distinguish itself from Duracell, its chief rival. Energizer and Duracell together account for about 85%
14 percent of total U.S. disposable battery sales, and Energizer alone accounts for over 50% of those
15 sales. Each company has market power.

16 38. The recent market outlook for disposable batteries has been bleak. The conventional
17 wisdom is that with advances in technologies and the rising popularity of smartphones and other
18 portable devices for playing videogames, disposable battery use will increasingly be limited to
19 flashlights, smoke alarms, and a few other low-tech applications.

20 39. High technology and advanced circuitry increasingly produce smaller consumer
21 devices that are powered with rechargeable or renewable power sources, further limiting disposable
22 battery use.

23 40. Consumer demand for disposable batteries has also been dampened by environmental
24 concerns. Many consumers prefer rechargeable batteries to protect the environment, and scientific
25 studies have concluded that the use of rechargeable batteries should be mostly encouraged for high
26 consumption devices such as cameras and electronic toys.

27 41. Disposable batteries thus face a declining market outlook and have long been predicted
28 to lose sales to renewable batteries or to be displaced by new technology in devices that do not require

1 batteries to operate. According to a news report, “These trends—lower power consumption, better and
2 cheaper rechargeables, new power sources—are squeezing what used to be a lucrative market. Remote
3 controls for televisions, for example, used to be powered by batteries. Now they can be an app on a
4 mobile phone.”²

5 **B. Walmart’s dominance in retail markets makes it a critical relationship for**
6 **disposable battery suppliers.**

7 42. At the retail level for Battery Products, there is a single dominant firm, Walmart.

8 43. Walmart is the only retailer that is large enough for Energizer to reference in its annual
9 SEC filings: “Although a large percentage of our sales are attributable to a relatively small number of
10 retail customers, in fiscal year 2020, only Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. accounted for ten percent or more
11 (14.1%) of the Company’s annual sales.”

12 44. Walmart has historically been a large part of Energizer’s revenues.

13 45. In 2013, Energizer lost an exclusive contract with Walmart to supply batteries to
14 Walmart’s discount warehouse chain, Sam’s Club.

15 46. The effect that losing the contract had on Energizer’s sales illustrates Walmart’s
16 dominance as a retailer and its importance to Energizer as a client.

17 //////////////

18 //////////

19 //////////

20 //////////

21 //////

22 /////

23 ////

24 ///

25 //

26 /

27 _____

28 ² “Out of Juice,” The Economist (January 18, 2014);
<https://www.economist.com/business/2014/01/18/out-of-juice>

1 47. As the below table illustrates, the year before losing the contract, Walmart purchases
2 constituted 20% of Energizer's overall sales. Just one year later, that percentage dropped to 13.3%;
3 the next, to 8.5%.

4	Year	% Sales to Walmart
5	2012	20.0
6	2013	13.3
7	2014	8.5
8	2015	10.0
9	2016	10.4
10	2017	12.1
11	2018	11.5
12	2019	13.8
13	2020	14.1
14	2021	13.7

15 48. The drops in sales to Walmart had corresponding impacts on Energizer's bottom line:
16 Energizer missed earnings and profit estimates in 2014 and 2015, and its share price suffered.
17

18
19 **C. Energizer and Walmart agree to the Scheme.**

20 49. As early as January 2018, Walmart and Energizer again agreed to a deal that would
21 give Energizer preferential treatment in Walmart's stores, and the downward trend reversed. As
22 illustrated above, after going as low as 8.5%, Energizer's Walmart sales rebounded to around 14% of
23 all Energizer sales starting in 2019.
24

25 50. Walmart and Energizer's agreement extended beyond Walmart giving Energizer
26 Battery Products preferential treatment at its stores. Under pressure from Walmart, Energizer agreed
27 to the Scheme, which shielded Walmart from price competition for Energizer Battery Products and
28

1 allowed both companies to charge supracompetitive prices.

2 51. The Scheme had two components. *First*, Energizer agreed with Walmart to artificially
3 inflate the wholesale prices it charged to Walmart’s competitors for Energizer Battery Products to
4 prevent them from undercutting Walmart’s retail prices. *Second*, Energizer agreed with Walmart to
5 monitor Walmart’s competitors to ensure that they did not undercut Walmart’s retail price for
6 Energizer Battery Products and to discipline those that did.

7 52. Energizer created a group called Project Atlas to fulfill its obligations to Walmart under
8 the agreement. Project Atlas policed Energizer’s customers’ retail prices and raised Energizer’s
9 wholesale prices as necessary to force Energizer’s customers to maintain retail prices that did not
10 undercut Walmart’s.

11 **D. Energizer and Walmart implement the Scheme.**

12 53. The Scheme has been in effect from as early as January 2018 and continues to the
13 present (the “Relevant Time Period”).

14 54. By April 2018, Energizer had increased its prices by over 8% from the prior year.

15 55. That same year, at Walmart’s behest, Energizer’s Project Atlas policed Walmart’s
16 competitor’s retail prices for Energizer Battery Products and disciplined retailers who undersold
17 Walmart, in furtherance of the Scheme.

18 56. The experience of Portable Power, an online discount retailer that attempted to undercut
19 Walmart’s prices, illustrates how Energizer targeted retailers for price increases pursuant to its
20 agreement with Walmart.

21 57. For example, in November 2018, Project Atlas disciplined Portable Power for its
22 pricing of Energizer headlamps, an Energizer Battery Product sold by Walmart and, at that time,
23 Portable Power.

24 58. Acting on complaints from Walmart, Energizer raised its wholesale prices for
25 headlamps to Portable Power to force Portable Power to raise its retail prices to match or exceed
26 Walmart’s.

27 59. As explained in an internal email sent by Energizer manager Jeffrey Stoll, Energizer
28 had received complaints from Walmart regarding “disruptive pricing on Amazon & Wal-Mart.com on

1 headlights and specialty batteries.”³ Walmart asked Energizer what it was doing to “resolve” the issue.

2 60. Mr. Stoll mentioned Portable Power by name as a driver of the “disruptive pricing.”

3 61. Mr. Stoll’s email highlighted Portable Power as selling at “disruptive” (i.e. lower and
4 more competitive) prices and noted the link between reining in Portable Power’s retail pricing and
5 Energizer’s efforts to maintain higher price across retail distribution channels.

6 62. Energizer recognized the disruption that competitors such as Portable Power would
7 have on Walmart’s business and sales of Energizer Battery Products generally. Raising prices to
8 Portable Power and its other direct purchasers would have the effect of diminishing competition in the
9 retail market, to the benefit of Walmart. Energizer understood that raising its wholesale prices to
10 Walmart’s competitors would increase retail prices.

11 63. Energizer explained that, with headlamps as well other Energizer Battery Products, “we
12 are selling to Portable Power, Inc. at [wholesale] pricing that would allow them to be disruptive on e-
13 commerce. Anything we can do to influence pricing with Portable Power will be key to reducing the
14 disruption in the [North American] market.”

15 64. To bring Portable Power’s retail pricing up to the level of Walmart, Energizer raised
16 its wholesale prices to Portable Power for headlamps by about 50-85% for certain models, as illustrated
17 by the below spreadsheet Energizer sent Portable Power in November 2018:

HDA32E.1 NA VISION HEADLIGHT	98165982	E300276500	10/01/18	09/30/19	\$5.00	\$7.68	\$2.68	Increase
HDB32E.1 NA VISION HD HEADLIGHT	98165982	E300276800	10/01/18	09/30/19	\$6.00	\$9.84	\$3.84	Increase
HDBIN32E.1 NA VISION HD IND HEADLGT	98165982	E300423100	10/01/18	09/30/19	\$6.00	\$9.84	\$3.84	Increase
HDC32E.1 NA VISION HD+ HEADLIGHT	98165982	E300277100	10/01/18	09/30/19	\$7.00	\$13.02	\$6.02	Increase
HDD32E.1 NA VISION HD+ FOCUS HEADLIG	98165982	E300277400	10/01/18	09/30/19	\$8.00	\$15.02	\$7.02	Increase
HDDIN32E.1 VISION HD+FOCUS IND HDL	98165982	E300423200	10/01/18	09/30/19	\$8.00	\$15.02	\$7.02	Increase

21 65. At that time, November 2018, Energizer’s Stephanie Rice, a sales representative that
22 worked with Portable Power, told Portable Power’s CEO that Energizer was raising Portable Power’s
23 prices to align them with Energizer’s pricing policy. Energizer did not tell Portable Power that the
24 price increases Energizer was imposing were because of Energizer’s agreement with Walmart.

25 66. This policy was new to Portable Power, which had purchased Battery Products from
26 Energizer for years, and represented a change in Energizer’s pricing policy.

27
28 ³ Wal-Mart.com, like Amazon, is a marketplace that allows third-party retailers to sell products.

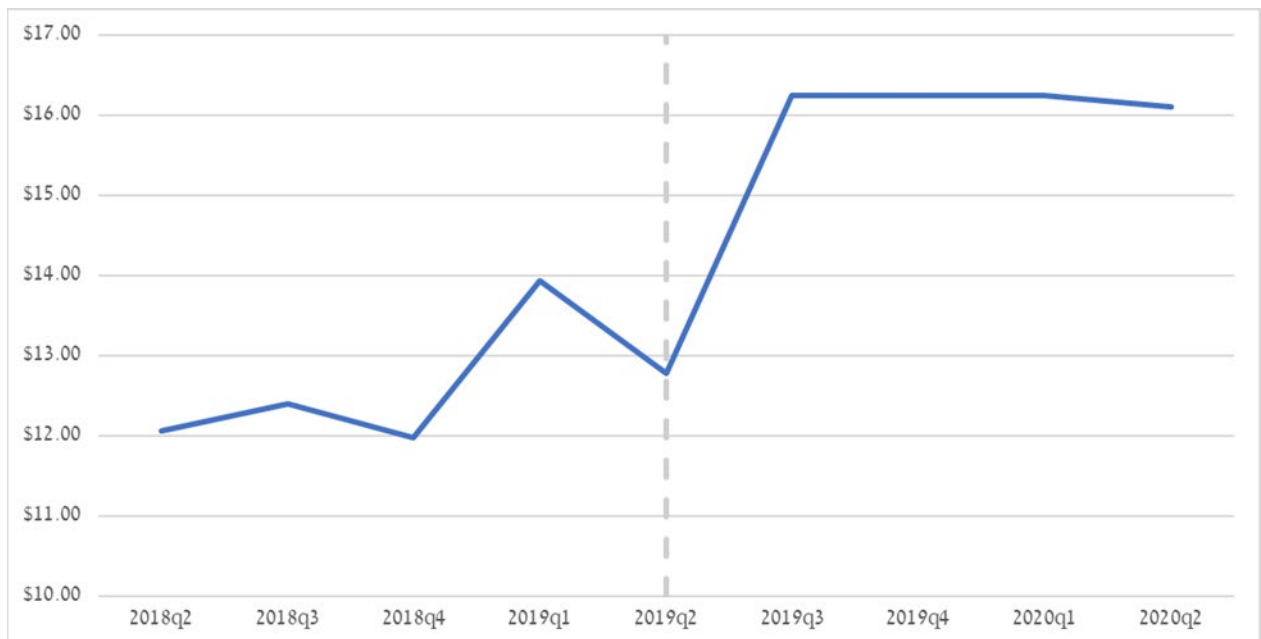
1 67. Energizer also began rolling out widespread wholesale price increases for direct
2 purchasers other than Walmart in accordance with the Scheme.

3 68. For example, in the second quarter of 2019, Energizer announced an 8% price increase
4 for its Energizer® Max Alkaline Batteries and Energizer® Ultimate Lithium Batteries.

5 69. This announced price increase enabled Walmart to increase its prices for these batteries
6 by an even greater margin: nearly 20% in the third quarter of 2019, and by nearly 40% by the first
7 quarter of 2020.

8 70. For example, in May 2019, the month before the price increase was announced,
9 Walmart priced a 24-pack of Energizer Max Alkaline AAA batteries at \$12.78. By July 2019, just two
10 months later, Walmart had raised the price to \$16.24, a 27-percent increase. This price change was
11 non-transitory; the average price of this product in the 12 months before the wholesale price increase
12 was \$12.71, and the average price of this product in the 12 months after the wholesale price increase
13 was \$16.18. Figure 1 shows the quarterly retail prices of this product.

14 FIGURE 1: ENERGIZER MAX ALKALINE AAA 24 PACK WALMART RETAIL PRICE



25 71. Energizer continued to impose similar price hikes at regular intervals in 2020 and 2021.

26 72. In September and October 2020, Energizer raised prices across its product lines by at
27 least 10%; in April 2021, Energizer again raised prices on its MAX line of batteries, this time by at
28

1 least 10%; and in June 2021, Energizer raised prices across its household battery portfolio by 11%.

2 73. Energizer implemented its price increases because of its agreement with Walmart and
3 at Walmart's behest.

4 74. Energizer understood that raising its wholesale prices to its customers would, in turn,
5 increase the retail prices its customers charged. These price increases were intended to force retailers
6 competing with Walmart to increase their retail prices for Energizer Battery Products up to or above
7 Walmart's.

8 75. In January 2021, Energizer again targeted Portable Power for underselling Walmart's
9 retail prices for Energizer Battery Products.

10 76. Ms. Rice forwarded an email from Energizer's Project Atlas team to Portable Power's
11 CEO that informed him that Portable Power was among the top-ten Amazon sellers "in violation" of
12 Energizer's "pricing policies"—*i.e.*, that Portable Power's retail prices were below the price floor
13 Energizer had set with Walmart—for December 2020.

14 77. The email included the following chart reflecting the "top ten" violators (which refers
15 to Portable Power under the name "HB Wholesale"):

16 Top Amazon Sellers in Violation for December 2020

#	SELLER	STATUS	VIOLATIONS	AVG %	ALEXA	RATINGS	LAST ACTION	DATE
1	amazon.com	Authorized [amazon	274	-13.0%	10	N/A	New	---
2	bestdealsupply.com	Unauthorized Indire	127	-19.0%	NA	N/A	Escalated Enforcement - New	08/01/20
3	MYBATTERYSUPPLIER [Amazon US]	Unauthorized Indire	109	-11.0%	NA	379910	Escalated Enforcement - New	08/01/20
4	National Deals [Amazon US]	Unauthorized Indire	68	-22.1%	NA	85184	Letter Sent - New	12/15/20
5	Another Day in ParadisePCB [Amazon US]	Unauthorized Indire	34	-12.0%	NA	2294	New	---
6	Tzohar Inc [Amazon US]	Unauthorized Indire	31	-15.9%	NA	1257	Letter Sent - New	11/20/20
7	Quiverr [Amazon US]	Authorized	17	-24.0%	NA	85647	New	---
8	JustCalculators [Amazon US]	Unauthorized Indire	14	-39.0%	NA	46232	Letter Sent - New	10/20/20
9	718 Sold It [Amazon US]	Unauthorized Indire	14	-7.0%	NA	6347	Letter Sent - New	12/14/20
10	HB Wholesale [Amazon US]	Unauthorized Direc	10	-26.5%	NA	48175	New	---

26 78. The chart shows that Energizer's Project Atlas had a system in place to monitor and
27 discipline its direct-purchaser retailers: it sent letters, escalated enforcement, and as Portable Power's
28 experience illustrates, subjected noncompliant sellers to repeated price increases.

1 79. Portable Power’s experience illustrates how Project Atlas worked. An internal
2 Energizer email communication from Energizer’s Colby Mowery, a member of Energizer’s trade and
3 price strategy team, to Energizer manager Brad Sellenriek attaching the “top-ten” list confirmed that
4 Energizer’s Project Atlas had contacted Portable Power about its retail pricing of Energizer Battery
5 Products because of Energizer’s agreement with Walmart.

6 80. Mr. Sellenriek forwarded the message to Stephanie Rice, Energizer’s sales
7 representative for Portable Power, and clarified that Portable Power was being asked to raise its retail
8 prices: “Stephanie - Please see the latest situation on [Portable Power]. Before we shut them off on
9 these sku’s, let’s see if he’s willing [to] revise his pricing and get him off the radar.”

10 81. Following these messages, in January 2021, Energizer increased various wholesale
11 prices to Portable Power for Energizer Battery Products, in accordance with its agreement with
12 Walmart. Energizer also told Portable Power the minimum price it had to charge—Walmart’s price—
13 to avoid being terminated as a distributor.

14 82. Energizer repeatedly warned Portable Power that if it did not increase its retail prices
15 to match or exceed Walmart’s, it would be cut off from purchasing Battery Products from Energizer.

16 83. On or about February 1, 2021, Ms. Rice warned Portable Power that because Portable
17 Power had not raised its retail prices to match Walmart’s, Energizer would stop shipping certain
18 Energizer Battery Products to Portable Power. When Portable Power’s CEO discussed Energizer’s
19 decision with Ms. Rice later that day, she admitted that Energizer had adjusted its pricing policies at
20 Walmart’s request, telling him, “This is 1000% about Walmart and wanting the best price.”

21 84. According to Ms. Rice, Energizer inflated its wholesale prices for Energizer Battery
22 Products to Portable Power and other direct purchasers to force them to sell at or above Walmart’s
23 retail prices.

24 85. Later that month, Energizer again quoted wholesale prices to Portable Power that were
25 based on Walmart’s prices, this time for Ray-O-Vac hearing aid batteries. Ms. Rice again said that
26 Energizer was requiring Portable Power to match a floor created by Walmart’s price for these products.
27 In an email message dated February 16, 2021, she offered Portable Power a wholesale price that would
28 allow it a 20% mark up if it matched Walmart’s retail price: “If the items are priced to match the

1 Walmart selling price minus 20% would that work for you?" Her email included the following chart
 2 (included below as Figure 2) which shows how the prices offered to Portable Power by Energizer were
 3 determined via reference to Walmart's retail price.

FIGURE 2

Rayovac Part	Description	List	Case Qty	Matrix cost	Walmart selling price	Seller	20%	Walmart selling price minus 20%
10-16	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 10 16PK		24	\$8.80	\$10.81	Walmart direct	\$2.16	\$8.65
10-24	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 10 24PK		24	\$12.72	\$18.76	Walmart direct	\$3.75	\$15.01
10-48	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 10 48PK		6	\$24.48	\$29.75	Local Battery	\$5.95	\$23.80
10-8	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 10 8PK		24	\$4.56	\$4.99	Walmart direct	\$1.00	\$3.99
13-16	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 13 16PK		24	\$7.68	\$7.49	Walmart direct	\$1.50	\$5.99
13-24	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 13 24PK		24	\$10.80	\$9.79	Walmart direct	\$1.96	\$7.83
13-48	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 13 48PK		6	\$18.72	\$17.99	DZEE Suppliers	\$3.60	\$14.39
13-8	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 13 8PK		24	\$3.76	\$6.87	Walmart direct	\$1.37	\$5.50
312-16	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 312 16PK		24	\$7.68	\$7.49	Walmart direct	\$1.50	\$5.99
312-24	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 312 24PK		24	\$11.04	\$9.79	Walmart direct	\$1.96	\$7.83
312-48	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 312 48PK		6	\$21.12	\$16.89	Walmart direct	\$3.38	\$13.51
312-6	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 312 6PK		24	\$3.12	\$5.87	Walmart direct	\$1.17	\$4.70
312-8	RAYOVAC RETAIL SIZE 312 8PK		24	\$4.00	\$6.87	Walmart direct	\$1.37	\$5.50
13-6	Not in bid tool	\$4.86			\$5.87	Walmart direct	\$1.17	\$4.70
13-32	Not in bid tool	\$18.88			\$16.97	Walmart direct	\$3.39	\$13.58

Need to add to bid tool
 Need to add to bid tool

16 86. Ms. Rice was offering a wholesale price to Portable Power that was 20% below
 17 Walmart's retail price so that Portable Power could have a sufficient markup if it set its retail prices at
 18 or above Walmart's retail prices.

19 **E. Energizer's price increases cannot be explained by market forces.**

20 87. Energizer's price increases cannot be explained by competitive market forces, such as
 21 cost increases, demand increases, or general inflation.

22 88. Energizer's wholesale price cannot be explained by increased costs. For example, the
 23 price of lithium was flat or declining for the periods before and after the announced price increases.
 24 The cost of the four other commodities that make up 90% of the inputs to disposable batteries—steel,
 25 graphite, manganese, and zinc—also do not explain Energizer's price increases.

26 89. Nor can Energizer's wholesale price increases be explained by increased demand for
 27 disposable batteries. Energizer Battery Product prices have been increasing in the last four or five
 28 years despite a reduction in demand because of competition from disruptive technologies, such as

1 rechargeable batteries.

2 90. Nor can the price increases be explained by general inflation. Inflation was under 2%
3 when Energizer announced its 2019 and 2020 price increases, 2.6% in March 2021, when Energizer
4 announced its 10% price increase, and 5% in May 2021, when it announced its 11% price increase.

5 91. On April 17, 2018, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that price increases at both
6 Energizer and Duracell—together controlling 80% of the market for Alkaline batteries—were at odds
7 with competitive market forces: “Batteries on average cost 8.2% more than a year ago, while prices in
8 the overall household-care segment rose only 1.8%, according to Nielsen. At a time when prices are
9 stagnating on everything from toilet paper to diapers, such pricing power for a product that is
10 increasingly obsolete has confounded shoppers.”

11 **F. The scheme benefited both Walmart and Energizer to the detriment of**
12 **competition in the wholesale and retail markets for Energizer Battery Products.**

13 92. The Scheme benefited both Walmart and Energizer. First, Energizer agreed to inflate
14 its wholesale prices to Walmart’s competitors. That enabled Energizer to enjoy inflated prices. It also
15 enabled Walmart to artificially inflate its retail prices for Energizer Battery Products without being
16 undercut by other retail sellers of Energizer Battery Products.

17 93. Second, Energizer agreed to prevent its direct purchasers from undercutting Walmart’s
18 retail prices. Energizer further inflated its prices to retailers that tried to compete with Walmart on
19 price, ultimately driving them out of the market if they did not comply. That enabled Walmart to
20 artificially inflate its prices by an additional increment.

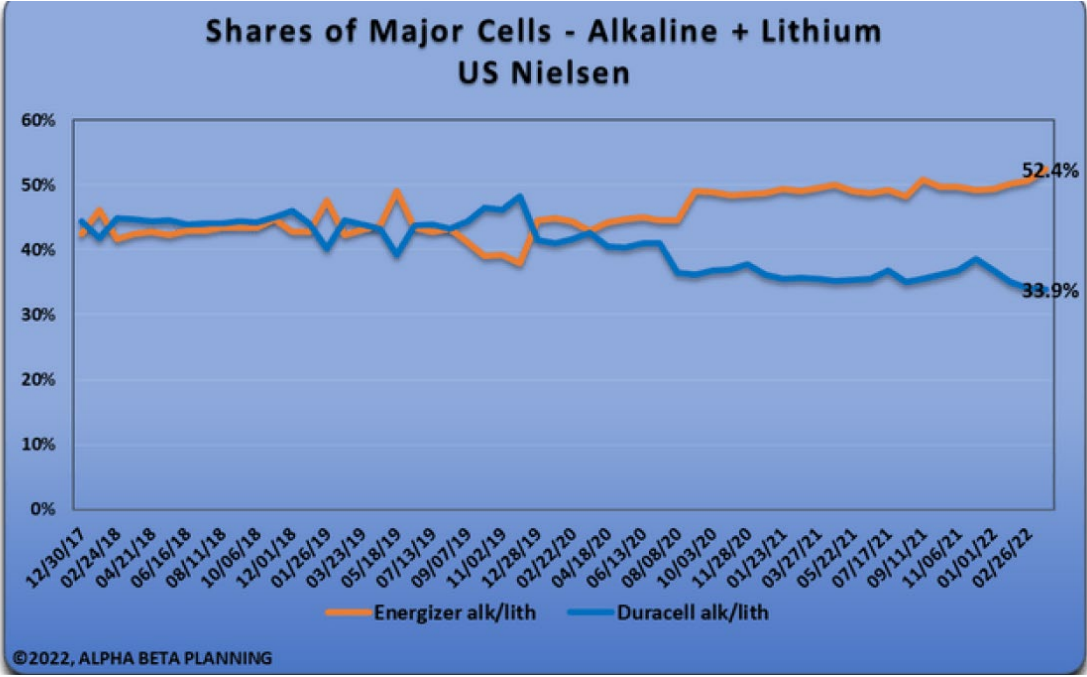
21 94. The greatest potential threat to the Scheme was Duracell. It could have attempted to
22 steal market share from Energizer through lower pricing. But Walmart deprived Duracell of the single
23 largest opportunity to compete: Walmart stores. Walmart protected its own inflated prices for
24 Energizer Battery Products by charging similarly inflated prices for Duracell battery products. That
25 benefited Walmart. It also protected Energizer from its greatest competitive threat. With Walmart
26 stores unavailable for price competition, Duracell had incentive to charge higher prices to its direct
27 purchasers than it would have charged in the absence of the Scheme.

28 /

1 95. In this way, the Scheme facilitated inflated duopolistic pricing and vice-versa. On one
2 hand, the anticompetitive agreement supported higher duopolistic prices than Energizer and Duracell
3 would have otherwise charged. The Scheme distorted Duracell’s incentives, making it less attractive
4 for Duracell to compete on price and more attractive to match Energizer’s prices. On the other hand,
5 the duopolistic Battery Products market was particularly susceptible to the Scheme. Conspiracies to
6 artificially inflate prices are more likely to succeed and more stable in markets with small numbers of
7 dominant market players.

8 96. Figure 3, below shows that Duracell has not, in fact, stolen market share in response to
9 the Scheme:

10 FIGURE 3



23 **VI. THE SCHEME CAUSED AND CONTINUES TO CAUSE ANTITRUST INJURY TO**
24 **CONSUMERS**

25 97. Given Energizer’s wholesale prices, Portable Power and other retailers could not
26 compete with Walmart’s retail prices. Once Energizer raised its wholesale prices to Portable Power
27 and other retailers, they could no longer offer disposable batteries for sale at prices lower than
28 Walmart’s. As a result, retailers who purchased batteries from Energizer directly passed on the

1 resulting overcharges to consumers, including the Members of the Class.

2 98. For example, Portable Power historically priced at around a 10 to 20% discount on
3 Walmart’s sales price. For some items, Portable Power was undercutting Walmart by about 50%. This
4 discount to retail customers provided by Portable Power and other direct purchasers from Energizer
5 has disappeared, resulting in higher prices to Plaintiffs and Class members for disposable batteries.

6 99. As a consequence of Defendants’ anticompetitive conduct as alleged herein, during the
7 Class Period defined below, Plaintiffs and other members of the Class indirectly purchased Energizer
8 Battery Products at artificially inflated prices, which were substantially higher than they would have
9 paid absent Defendants’ unlawful conduct. Plaintiffs and members of the Class have sustained losses
10 and damages to their business and property in the form of paying artificially inflated prices
11 (“overcharges”), which are the type of injuries that the antitrust laws were designed to prevent and are
12 a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ unlawful conduct. Therefore, Defendants have caused
13 antitrust injury to Plaintiffs and all members of the Class.

14 **VII. MARKET POWER AND MARKET DEFINITION**

15 100. The relevant product market consists of the market for disposable battery products.
16 There are no reasonable substitutes for disposable batteries for the vast majority of uses for which they
17 are purchased. Rechargeable batteries are not reasonable substitutes for disposable batteries because
18 they are much more expensive and do not hold a charge as long. This makes them an impractical
19 choice for the types of applications for which disposable batteries are usually used, particularly
20 applications that require low power output or infrequent power draws for a longer period of time, such
21 as for smoke alarms, children’s toys, and remote controls.

22 101. The relevant geographic market consists of the United States, and its territories,
23 possessions, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (in conjunction with the relevant product market
24 above, the “Relevant Market”).

25 102. Energizer has substantial market share within the Relevant Market, possessing more
26 than 50% market share. Most of the rest of the market belongs to Duracell. Along with Duracell,
27 Energizer has duopoly power, as explained above.

28 103. Energizer’s power in the market for disposable batteries also gives it power over price

1 – and hence market power – over disposable battery dominated lighting products, such as headlamps
2 and flashlights, because disposable batteries are their largest cost component.

3 104. Direct evidence establishes Defendants’ combined market power in the Relevant
4 Market and over all disposable-battery dominated lighting products. That direct evidence includes
5 Defendants’ ability to profitably and sustainably inflate prices above competitive levels. It also
6 includes: (1) Energizer’s numerous large price increases since January 2018 that it implemented under
7 its agreement with Walmart that cannot be explained based on competitive forces; and (2) the decrease
8 in the number of retail sellers that purchase disposable batteries directly from Energizer even though
9 the retail prices for disposable batteries are inflated above competitive levels.

10 105. Defendants’ conduct had a significant impact on prices for Energizer disposable
11 batteries and Energizer Battery Products and has both inflated Energizer’s and Walmart’s prices above
12 competitive levels and driven distributors off the market. Reducing competition from retail sellers
13 reduces price competition at the retail level.

14 106. As shown by Energizer’s significant price inflation alleged herein, inter-brand
15 competition did not restrain Energizer from inflating its prices. On the contrary, Energizer’s agreement
16 with Wal-Mart reduced price competition between Energizer and Duracell by encouraging Duracell
17 to follow Energizer’s price increases and reducing Duracell’s incentive to attempt to compete with
18 Energizer on wholesale pricing. Walmart’s agreement with Energizer made it easier for Duracell to
19 observe Energizer’s price changes and prevented Duracell from competing with Energizer for market
20 share by lowering its prices to Walmart, as Walmart would not sell Duracell battery products at prices
21 that would undermine the effects of the Scheme.

22 107. During the Relevant Time Period, Energizer had market power in the wholesale market
23 for disposable battery products, as well as overall disposable-battery dominated lighting products,
24 because Energizer had the power to profitably exclude competition and to inflate and maintain the
25 prices for Energizer Battery Products at supracompetitive levels.

26 108. In January 2018, Energizer had around 40% of the U.S. market share for disposable
27 batteries. Its market share has since grown to above 50%. Energizer’s market power is enhanced by
28 its agreement with the largest retailer in the United States, Walmart.

1 109. The fact that Energizer was able to profitably inflate the prices of Energizer Battery
2 Products shows that there are no sufficiently reasonable substitutes, and therefore that disposable
3 battery products are a relevant market.

4 110. Walmart has a dominant position with respect to both other retail outlets and
5 manufacturers.

6 **VIII. ANTICOMPETITIVE EFFECTS**

7 111. The Scheme caused Walmart's retail competitors to pay inflated wholesale prices for
8 Energizer Battery Products, impairing their ability to compete effectively in the retail market.

9 112. Defendants' Scheme increased Energizer's market power by reducing competition
10 between Energizer and Duracell, increasing Duracell's incentive to match Energizer's price increases,
11 and reducing the risk that Energizer would lose market share if it inflated its prices above competitive
12 levels.

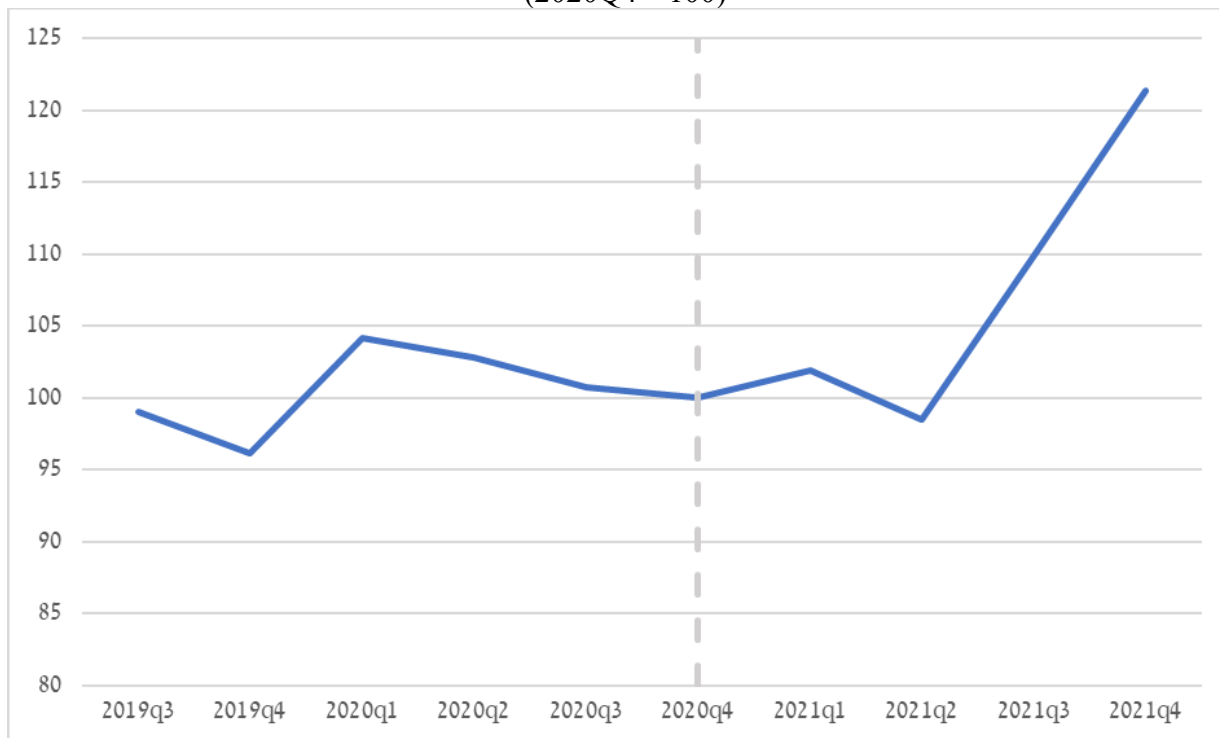
13 113. The scheme enabled Energizer to implement a series of anticompetitive wholesale price
14 increases. This price increases started in 2018 and accelerated in 2020 and 2021. The wholesale prices
15 Energizer charged retailers increased by more than 30% since 2018, and the number of retail sellers
16 of Energizer Battery Products in the market decreased during that time.

17 114. The price increases identified above cannot be adequately explained by general
18 inflation in the economy or other competitive market forces.

19 115. All of these wholesale price increases were passed on by retailers to consumers,
20 including Plaintiffs and Class Members.

21 116. Defendants' Scheme also reduced competition on the retail level by reducing price
22 competition among retailers who sell Energizer Battery Products. In particular, the Scheme forced
23 innovative discount retailers such as Portable Power who attempted to gain market share by offering
24 more efficient distribution that allowed them to offer retail prices lower than Walmart's to increase
25 their retail prices. As a result, the Scheme increased Walmart's market power. For example, Walmart
26 inflated and maintained its retail prices above competitive levels for alkaline and lithium disposable
27 batteries after Energizer inflated its wholesale price in June and July, 2021, as indicated in Figure 4:
28 /

FIGURE 4: ENERGIZER ALKALINE AND LITHIUM PRODUCTS INDEXED WALMART RETAIL PRICE, (2020Q4 = 100)



IX. STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS DO NOT BAR PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS

A. Continuing Violation

117. During the Relevant Time Period, Defendants' Scheme was a continuing violation in which Defendants repeatedly invaded Plaintiffs' and Class Members' interests by taking overt acts in furtherance of the Scheme.

118. Throughout the Relevant Time Period, Defendants discussed the Scheme, adjusted it to match new Walmart prices, agreed to new wholesale price increases, and repeatedly enforced their agreement against retailers who attempted to undercut Walmart's retail prices for Energizer Battery Products.

119. Throughout the Relevant Time Period, Defendants' Scheme repeatedly injured Plaintiffs and members of the class by causing them to pay overcharges each time they purchased Energizer Battery Products.

B. Fraudulent Concealment

120. The statute of limitations is tolled because Defendants fraudulently concealed their Scheme.

1 121. Defendants actively concealed their Scheme by having Energizer offer pretextual
2 justifications to Walmart’s competitors when it raised their wholesale prices and forced them to raise
3 their retail prices; in reality, Energizer was enforcing the terms of the Scheme.

4 122. One pretext Energizer used was that retailers selling at low prices were violating
5 Energizer’s pricing policies, including a “Minimum Advertised Price” or “MAP” policy.

6 123. A MAP policy is a unilateral policy a supplier enacts that prohibits retailers from
7 advertising the supplier’s products for sale below a specified, or minimum-advertised, price. Retailers
8 that violate the MAP risk being cut off from making further purchases of the supplier’s products.

9 124. As early as July 2019, Energizer’s Stephanie Rice told retailer Portable Power’s CEO
10 that Energizer was enforcing a MAP policy and taking actions to cut off retailers that violated that
11 policy.

12 125. But in September 2020, Portable Power’s CEO received an internal Energizer email
13 chain that revealed that Energizer did not actually have a MAP policy. In the email chain, an Energizer
14 Senior Manager told an Energizer senior manager told an Energizer sales manager to enforce
15 Energizer’s MAP policy with Portable Power. The sales manager responded that it had been difficult
16 to implement the MAP policy with other customers in the past, because Energizer did not consistently
17 enforce any MAP policy. The senior manager then apologized for potentially being misleading and
18 acknowledged that Energizer did not really have a formal MAP policy in place.

19 126. Later, in a phone conversation on or about February 1, 2021, Energizer’s Stephanie
20 Rice finally revealed to Portable Power’s CEO that Energizer’s pricing policies were not about a MAP
21 policy or any other pretext, but were “1000% about Walmart,” and that Energizer’s Project Atlas was
22 driving Energizer’s wholesale prices and policing Walmart’s competitors’ prices in accordance with
23 the Scheme.

24 127. Plaintiffs did not have actual or constructive knowledge of the facts constituting their
25 claim for relief until at least that February 1, 2021 phone conversation, and did not discover, and could
26 not have discovered through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the existence of the Scheme until at
27 least that time.

28 /

1 **X. EFFECT ON INTRASTATE AND INTERSTATE COMMERCE**

2 128. The Energizer Battery Products at issue in this case are sold in interstate commerce,
3 and the unlawful activities alleged in this Complaint have occurred in, and have had a substantial effect
4 upon, interstate commerce in the United States.

5 129. Defendants’ anticompetitive conduct occurred in part in trade and commerce within the
6 Repealer Jurisdictions set forth herein. During the relevant time period, Energizer Battery Products,
7 manufactured by Energizer, were shipped into each Repealer Jurisdiction and were sold to and paid
8 for by Class Members. Defendants’ conspired in restraint of trade within the intrastate commerce of
9 each Repealer Jurisdiction because Defendants agreed to fix the price for Energizer Battery Products
10 sold within each of the Repealer Jurisdictions.

11 **XI. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

12 130. Plaintiffs bring this Action as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 and seek
13 certification of a class (the “Class”) defined as follows:

14 All persons and entities in Repealer Jurisdictions who indirectly⁴ purchased
15 Energizer Battery Products for their own use and not for resale, at any time during
16 the period from January 1, 2018 until the anticompetitive effects of Defendants’
 challenged conduct cease (the “Class Period” or “Relevant Time Period”).

17 131. A Repealer Jurisdiction is a state or district that has repealed the bar on indirect
18 purchaser plaintiffs recovering under *Illinois Brick Co. v. Illinois*, 431 U.S. 720 (1977), and includes
19 the following: Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois,
20 Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri,
21 Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North
22 Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah,
23 Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

24 132. Excluded from the Class are Defendants, their officers and directors, and members of
25 their immediate families or their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in
26 which Defendants have or had a controlling interest. Also excluded from the Class are: any federal,
27

28 ⁴ For clarity, purchases of Energizer Battery Products directly from a defendant, including Wal-Mart, do not count as indirect purchases for the purpose of this definition.

1 state, or local governmental entity; any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of
2 his/her immediate family and judicial staff; any juror assigned to this action; and any co-conspirator
3 identified during the course of this action.

4 133. **Numerosity.** The members of the Classes are so numerous that joinder of all members
5 is impracticable. Class Members number in the millions.

6 134. **Typicality.** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of members of the Class, who
7 are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of the laws complained of herein.
8 Plaintiffs and all members of the Class were injured in the form of overcharges caused by Defendants'
9 conduct.

10 135. Plaintiffs' interests do not conflict with those of members of the Class.

11 136. **Commonality.** Questions of law and fact common to the Members of the proposed
12 Class include:

- 13 1. Whether Defendants agreed to increase, fix, or stabilize the prices of
- 14 Energizer Battery Products;
- 15 2. The nature, scope, and extent of Defendants' agreement;
- 16 3. Whether that agreement violates the Sherman Act and relevant state laws;
- 17 4. Whether retail competition for sales of Energizer Battery Products was
- 18 impaired by Defendants' agreement;
- 19 5. Whether Plaintiffs and Class Members were injured by Defendants'
- 20 agreement;
- 21 6. The appropriate measure of classwide damages for members of the Class; and
- 22 7. Whether injunctive relief to prevent Defendants' agreement from recurring is
- 23 appropriate and, if so, what injunctive relief is appropriate.

24 137. **Predominance.** The common issues above predominate over any issues affecting only
25 individual Class Members.

26 138. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and
27 efficient adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable.
28 Furthermore, as the damages suffered by some of the individual Class Members may be relatively

1 small, the expense and burden of individual litigation makes it impractical for individual members of
2 the Class to redress the wrongs done to them. Furthermore, litigating millions of individual cases
3 would inevitably lead to inconsistent rulings and results, burden the judicial and legal system, and
4 magnify the delay and expense to all the parties and the court system through repeated litigation and
5 trial of the same factual and legal issues.

6 **XII. COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICE AND DEMAND REQUIREMENTS**

7 139. In accordance with the requirements of Arizona Rev. Stat. § 44-1415; Connecticut Gen.
8 Stat. § 35-37; Hawaii Rev. Stat. § 480-13.3(a); Minnesota Stat. § 325D.63; Nevada Rev. Statute §
9 598A.210(3); New York Gen. Bus. Law § 340(5); Oregon Rev. Stat. § 646.780(5)(b); Rhode Island
10 Gen. Laws § 6-36-21; and Utah Code § 76-10-3109, Plaintiff's counsel sent letters regarding this class-
11 action complaint to the Attorneys General of Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota, Nevada, New
12 York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Utah. The letters informed the Attorneys General of the existence of
13 this complaint, identified the relevant state antitrust provisions at issue, and enclosed a copy of this
14 complaint.

15 140. Counsel sent demand letters to Defendants regarding this class-action complaint, which
16 satisfy the demand-letter requirements of certain consumer-protection statutes mentioned below (e.g.,
17 Massachusetts). The demand letters identified the claimant as Plaintiffs, in their individual and
18 representative capacity; described the allegedly unfair or deceptive acts or practices committed by
19 Defendants (i.e., entering into an agreement to fix the prices of Energizer Battery Products); described
20 Plaintiffs' and the class's injury (inflated prices for Energizer Battery Products); set forth a demand
21 for relief (treble damages, attorneys' fees, litigation costs, and other available sanctions); and
22 requested an offer to cure within the statutorily prescribed time.

23 **XIII. CAUSES OF ACTION**

24 **COUNT I**

25 **VIOLATION OF SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF THE SHERMAN ACT (15 U.S.C. §§ 1, 3)**
26 **(ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS IN REPEALER JURISDICTIONS FOR DECLARATORY**
AND EQUITABLE RELIEF)

27 141. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though
28 fully set forth herein.

1 142. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1 and 3 by entering into, furthering, and/or enforcing
2 an unreasonable restraint of trade. More specifically, Energizer agreed with Walmart to fix, increase,
3 inflate, or stabilize prices of Energizer Battery Products.

4 143. The agreements reached by Defendants stifle intra-brand competition by eliminating
5 price competition from discount retailers, such as Portable Power and other retailers that compete with
6 Walmart in the retail market.

7 144. The agreements reached by Defendants also reduce inter-brand competition between
8 Energizer and Duracell.

9 145. **Defendants' Violations Are Subject to the *Per Se* Rule:** Defendants' violation of
10 Sections 1 and 3 of the Sherman Act were *per se* illegal because they are horizontal competitors who
11 reached an agreement to fix the wholesale price of Energizer Battery Products for all direct purchasers.

12 146. As Energizer's annual SEC filings acknowledge, one factor that affects Energizer's
13 ability to compete effectively is the risk that Energizer might "lose market share to certain retailers ...
14 which may offer 'private label' brands that are typically sold at lower prices and compete with the
15 Company's products in certain categories."⁵ Similarly, Energizer acknowledges that "a move by one
16 or more of our large customers to sell significant quantities of private label products, which we do not
17 produce on their behalf and which *directly compete with our products*, could have a material adverse
18 effect on our business ..."⁶

19 147. Walmart was one of these retailers who competed directly and horizontally with
20 Energizer by offering its own private label brand of disposable batteries.

21 148. Therefore, the agreement between Energizer and Walmart to fix and inflate the prices
22 paid by direct purchasers for Energizer Battery Products was a horizontal agreement between
23 competitors.

24 149. **Defendants Violated the "Rule of Reason":** The market for disposable battery
25 products is a relevant antitrust market. Disposable batteries are distinguished from rechargeable
26

27 ⁵ 2019 Energizer Form 10-K at 7.

28 ⁶ *Id.*

1 batteries and from specialty batteries due to their different technology designed for specific uses.
2 Disposable batteries are distinct from other types of batteries because they power cheaper, smaller
3 consumer products than rechargeable batteries or other potential substitute products. Disposable
4 batteries are routinely used in toys, key fobs, flashlights, and calculators. Rechargeable batteries are
5 not substitutes for disposable batteries because they are used in different devices and are more
6 expensive.

7 150. Energizer has market power in the market for disposable battery products in the United
8 States, controlling approximately 50% market share. There are significant barriers to entry in the
9 disposable battery product market, as new manufacturing facilities require high capital costs, and
10 demand for disposable batteries is declining.

11 151. Energizer's power in the market for disposable battery products translates to power in
12 the market for the lighting products it sells, as the dominant components in those products are
13 disposable batteries.

14 152. Energizer's market power was enhanced by Energizer having reached an agreement
15 with the largest retailer in the United States, Walmart.

16 153. Walmart has market power in many local "brick and mortar" retail markets, as it is the
17 largest retailer in the United States, and the dominant retailer in many relevant geographic markets.

18 154. Walmart used its market power to cause Energizer to agree to limit price competition
19 from other retailers.

20 155. Defendants' Scheme had substantial price effects in the market for disposable batteries
21 and therefore on Energizer Battery Products. Defendants' agreement increased the wholesale price of
22 Energizer Battery Products substantially, which were then passed on to retail customers including
23 Class Members. The agreement also stifled the competition that should exist between retailers, leading
24 directly to higher retail prices for Energizer Battery Products.

25 156. There is no pro-competitive justification for Defendants' Scheme. For example,
26 Energizer Battery Products are not specialized products that require the retailer to expend resources to
27 explain their use to consumers or to maintain a skilled sales staff that is familiar with their products.
28 Therefore, there are no free-rider justifications for the challenged agreements.

1 157. Defendants' Scheme violates the rule of reason under a "quick look" analysis because
2 the anticompetitive effect of their agreements is plain and obvious.

3 158. Defendants' Scheme violates the full-blown rule of reason because the agreements
4 harm competition without providing any benefit to any relevant market.

5 159. As a result of Defendants' Scheme, prices for Energizer Battery Products were inflated
6 above competitive levels in the United States.

7 160. As a result of Defendants' Scheme, Plaintiffs and Class Members have been injured in
8 their businesses and property in that they have paid more for Energizer Battery Products than they
9 otherwise would have paid in the absence of that conduct.

10 161. With respect to their claim under the Sherman Act, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek
11 injunctive relief and attorneys' fees and costs.

12 **VIOLATIONS OF STATE ANTITRUST LAWS**

13 162. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
14 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

15 163. The following Second through Twenty-Eighth Claims for Relief are pleaded under the
16 antitrust laws of each State or jurisdiction identified below, on behalf of Plaintiffs and members of the
17 Class.

18 164. Although each individual count relies upon state law, the essential elements of each state
19 antitrust claim are the same. The above-alleged conduct, which violates the federal Sherman Antitrust
20 Act, will, if proven, establish a claim under each of the state laws cited below.

21 **COUNT II**
22 **VIOLATION OF ARIZONA'S UNIFORM STATE ANTITRUST ACT**
23 **ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 44-1401 ET SEQ.**

24 165. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
25 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

26 166. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated ARIZONA REV. STAT.
27 § 44-1401, *et seq.*

28 167. Under Arizona law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the
Antitrust Act based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *Bunker's Glass Co. v. Pilkington PLC*, 206

1 Ariz. 9, 11-20 (2003).

2 168. Under Arizona law, “[a] contract, combination or conspiracy between two or more
3 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce, any part of which is within this state, is
4 unlawful.” ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 44-1402.

5 169. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
6 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
7 of which occurred within Arizona.

8 170. Defendants’ violations of Arizona law were flagrant.

9 171. Defendants’ unlawful conduct substantially affected Arizona’s trade and commerce
10 and Defendants’ unlawful conduct occurred in substantial part in Arizona by fixing the prices charged
11 by retailers for Energizer Battery Products in Arizona.

12 172. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants’ unlawful conduct, members of the
13 Class have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

14 173. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief
15 available under Arizona Revised Statutes Section 44-1401, *et seq.*

16 **COUNT III**
17 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA’S CARTWRIGHT ACT**
18 **CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 16700, ET SEQ.**

19 174. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
20 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

21 175. The California Business & Professions Code generally governs conduct of corporate
22 entities. The Cartwright Act, CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 16700-16770, governs antitrust violations
23 in California.

24 176. California policy is that “vigorous representation and protection of consumer interests
25 are essential to the fair and efficient functioning of a free enterprise market economy,” including by
26 fostering competition in the marketplace. CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 301.

27 177. Under the Cartwright Act, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action
28 based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 16750(a).

178. A trust in California is any combination of capital, skills or acts by two or more persons

1 intended for various purposes, including but not limited to creating or carrying out restrictions in trade
2 or commerce, limiting or reducing the production or increasing the price of any commodity, or
3 preventing competition in the market for a commodity. CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 16720. Every trust
4 in California is unlawful except as provided by the Code. *Id.* at § 16726.

5 179. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
6 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
7 of which occurred within California.

8 180. Defendants enacted a combination of capital, skill or acts for the purpose of creating
9 and carrying out restrictions in trade or commerce, in violation of CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 16700,
10 *et seq.*

11 181. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected California's trade and commerce
12 and Defendants' unlawful conduct occurred in substantial part in California by fixing the prices
13 charged by retailers for Energizer Battery Products in California.

14 182. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
15 State of California during the Class Period. But for Defendant's conduct set forth herein, the price of
16 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

17 183. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured in their business or property, with
18 respect to purchases of Energizer Battery Products in California and are entitled to all forms of relief,
19 including recovery of treble damages, interest, and injunctive relief, plus reasonable attorneys' fees
20 and costs.

21 **COUNT IV**
22 **VIOLATION OF CONNECTICUT ANTITRUST ACT,**
23 **CONN. GEN. STAT. § 35-24, et seq.**

24 184. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
25 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

26 185. The Connecticut Antitrust Act states that "[e]very contract, combination, or conspiracy
27 to monopolize, or attempt to monopolize, or monopolization of any part of trade or commerce is
28 unlawful." CONN. GEN. STAT. § 35-27.

186. Members of the Class indirectly purchased Energizer Battery Products within

1 Connecticut during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of
2 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

3 187. Under Connecticut law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under
4 the antitrust provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes based on the facts alleged in this
5 Complaint, because, in response to an action brought under subsection (c) of Conn. Gen. Stat. section
6 35-32 or seeking treble damages under section 35-35, a defendant “[m]ay not assert as a defense that
7 the defendant did not deal directly with the person on whose behalf the action is brought.” CONN. GEN.
8 STAT. § 35-46a.

9 188. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired to act in restraint of trade within
10 Connecticut in violation of CONN. GEN. STAT. § 35-27, *et seq.*

11 189. Defendants’ unlawful conduct substantially affected Connecticut’s trade and
12 commerce and Defendants’ unlawful conduct occurred in substantial part in Connecticut by fixing the
13 prices charged by retailers for Energizer Battery Products in Connecticut.

14 190. Members of the Class were injured in their business or property, with respect to
15 purchases of Energizer Battery Products in Connecticut and are entitled to all forms of relief, including
16 recovery of treble damages, interest, and injunctive relief, plus reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

17 **COUNT V**
18 **VIOLATION OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ANTITRUST ACT**
19 **D.C. CODE § 28-4501, ET SEQ.**

20 191. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
21 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

22 192. The policy of the District of Columbia Code, Title 28, Chapter 45 (Restraints of Trade)
23 is to “promote the unhampered freedom of commerce and industry throughout the District of Columbia
24 by prohibiting restraints of trade and monopolistic practices.” D.C. CODE § 28-4501.

25 193. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the District of
26 Columbia during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer
27 Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

28 194. Under District of Columbia law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action
under the antitrust provisions of the D.C. Code based on the facts alleged in this complaint, because

1 “[a]ny indirect purchaser in the chain of manufacture, production or distribution of goods or services
2 . . . shall be deemed to be injured within the meaning of this chapter.” D.C. CODE § 28-4509(a).

3 195. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired to act in restraint of trade within the
4 District of Columbia, in violation of D.C. CODE § 28-4501, *et seq.*

5 196. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
6 Products in the District of Columbia and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages,
7 treble damages, as well as interest and reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

8 **COUNT VI**
9 **VIOLATION OF ILLINOIS ANTITRUST ACT**
10 **740 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 10/3(1), ET SEQ.**

11 197. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
12 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

13 198. The Illinois Antitrust Act, 740 Illinois Compiled Statutes 10/1, *et seq.*, aims “to
14 promote the unhampered growth of commerce and industry throughout the State by prohibiting
15 restraints of trade which are secured through monopolistic or oligarchic practices and which act or tend
16 to act to decrease competition between and among persons engaged in commerce and trade” 740
17 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 10/2.

18 199. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
19 State of Illinois during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of
20 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

21 200. Under the Illinois Antitrust Act, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action
22 for damages based on the facts alleged in this complaint. 740 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 10/7(2).

23 201. Defendants entered into contracts or engaged in a combination or conspiracy for the
24 purpose of fixing, controlling or maintaining prices in the Relevant Market within the State of Illinois.

25 202. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer
26 Battery Products in Illinois and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble
27 damages, and reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

28 //

/

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

**COUNT VII
VIOLATION OF IOWA COMPETITION LAW
IOWA CODE § 553.1, ET SEQ.**

203. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

204. The Iowa Competition Law aims to “prohibit[] restraints of economic activity and monopolistic practices.” IOWA CODE § 553.2.

205. Under Iowa law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the Iowa Competition Law based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *Comes v. Microsoft Corp.*, 646 N.W.2d 440, 449-51 (Iowa 2002).

206. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of Iowa during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

207. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired to restrain or monopolize trade in the Relevant Market in Iowa in violation of Iowa Code § 553.1, *et seq.*

208. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery Products in Iowa, and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, exemplary damages for willful conduct, reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, and injunctive relief.

**COUNT VIII
VIOLATION OF KANSAS RESTRAINT OF TRADE ACT
KAN. STAT. ANN. § 50-101, ET SEQ.**

209. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

210. The Kansas Restraint of Trade Act aims to prohibit practices which, *inter alia*, “tend to prevent full and free competition in the importation, transportation or sale of articles imported into this state” KAN. STAT. ANN. § 50-112.

211. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of Kansas during the Class Period.

212. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

1 213. Under the Kansas Restraint of Trade Act, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain
2 an action based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. KAN. STAT. ANN. § 50-161(b).

3 214. Defendants combined capital, skills or acts for the purposes of creating restrictions in
4 trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, increasing the price of Energizer Battery Products, or
5 preventing competition in the sale of Energizer Battery Products, in a manner that established the price
6 of Energizer Battery Products and precluded free and unrestricted competition among themselves in
7 the sale of Energizer Battery Products, in violation of KAN. STAT. ANN. § 50-101, *et seq.*

8 215. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
9 Products in Kansas and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, reasonable
10 attorneys' fees and costs, and injunctive relief.

11 **COUNT IX**
12 **VIOLATION OF MAINE'S ANTITRUST STATUTE**
13 **ME. REV. STAT. ANN. TIT. 10 § 1101, ET SEQ.**

14 216. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
15 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

16 217. Part 3 of Title 10 of the Maine Revised Statutes generally governs regulation of trade
17 in Maine. Chapter 201 thereof governs monopolies and profiteering, generally prohibiting contracts
18 in restraint of trade and conspiracies to monopolize trade. *See* ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 10, §§ 1101-

19 218. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
20 State of Maine during the Class Period. But for Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of
21 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

22 219. Under Maine law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action based on the
23 facts alleged in this Complaint. ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 10, § 1104(1).

24 220. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
25 Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of Maine in violation of ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 10,
26 § 1101, *et seq.*

27 221. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer
28 Battery Products in Maine and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble

1 damages, and reasonable attorneys' and experts' fees and costs.

2 **COUNT X**
3 **VIOLATION OF MARYLAND'S ANTITRUST STATUTE**
4 **MD. CODE ANN. § 11-204(A), ET SEQ.**

5 222. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
6 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

7 223. Maryland's antitrust statute makes it unlawful to, *inter alia*, "[b]y contract,
8 combination, or conspiracy with one or more persons, unreasonably restrain trade or commerce." Md.
9 Code Ann. § 11-204(a)(1).

10 224. The purpose of Maryland's antitrust statute is "to complement the body of federal law
11 governing restraints of trade, unfair competition, and unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent acts or
12 practices." MD. CODE ANN. § 11-202(a)(1).

13 225. Under Maryland law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action based on
14 the facts alleged in this Complaint. MD. CODE. ANN. § 11-209(b)(2)(i).

15 226. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
16 Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of Maryland in violation of MD. CODE ANN. §
17 204(a)(2), *et seq.*

18 227. Under Maryland's antitrust statute, a plaintiff who establishes a violation is entitled to
19 recover three times the amount of actual damages resulting from the violation, along with costs and
20 reasonably attorneys' fees. MD. CODE ANN. § 209(b)(4).

21 228. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
22 Products in Maryland and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble damages,
23 and reasonable attorneys' and experts' fees and costs.

24 **COUNT XI**
25 **VIOLATION OF THE MICHIGAN ANTITRUST REFORM ACT**
26 **MICH. COMP. LAWS § 445.771, ET SEQ.**

27 229. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
28 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

230. The Michigan Antitrust Reform Act aims "to prohibit contracts, combinations, and
conspiracies in restraint of trade or commerce . . . to prohibit monopolies and attempts to monopolize

1 trade or commerce . . . [and] to provide remedies, fines, and penalties for violations of this act.” Mich.
2 Act 274 of 1984 (MICH. COMP. LAWS § 445.771, *et seq.*).

3 231. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
4 State of Michigan during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of
5 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

6 232. Under the Michigan Antitrust Reform Act, indirect purchasers have standing to
7 maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this complaint. MICH. COMP. LAWS § 445.778(2).

8 233. Defendants contracted, combined, or conspired to restrain or monopolize trade or
9 commerce in the Relevant Market in violation of MICH. COMP. LAWS § 445.772.

10 234. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer
11 Battery Products in Michigan and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble
12 damages for flagrant violations, interest, costs, reasonable attorneys’ fees, and injunctive or other
13 appropriate equitable relief.

14 **COUNT XII**
15 **VIOLATION OF THE MINNESOTA ANTITRUST LAW**
16 **MINN. STAT. §§ 325D.49, et seq. & 325D.57, et seq.**

17 235. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
18 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

19 236. The Minnesota Antitrust Law of 1971 prohibits “any contract, combination or
20 conspiracy when any part thereof was created, formed, or entered into in [Minnesota]; and any
21 contract, combination or conspiracy, wherever created, formed or entered into; any establishment,
22 maintenance or use of monopoly power; and any attempt to establish, maintain or use monopoly
23 power, whenever any of the foregoing affects the trade or commerce of [Minnesota].” MINN. STAT.
24 § 325D.54.

25 237. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
26 State of Minnesota during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of
27 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

28 238. Under the Minnesota Antitrust Act of 1971, indirect purchasers have standing to
maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. MINN. STAT. § 325D.57.

1 239. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in unreasonable restraint of trade or
2 commerce in the Relevant Market, within the intrastate commerce in and outside of Minnesota in
3 violation of MINN. STAT. § 325D.49, *et seq.*

4 240. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer
5 Battery Products in Minnesota and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble
6 damages, costs and disbursements, reasonable attorneys' fees, and injunctive relief necessary to
7 prevent and restrain violations hereof.

8 **COUNT XIII**
9 **VIOLATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI ANTITRUST STATUTE**
10 **MISS. CODE ANN. § 75-21-1, et seq.**

11 241. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
12 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

13 242. Title 75 of the Mississippi Code regulates trade, commerce and investments. Chapter
14 21 thereof generally prohibits trusts and combines in restraint or hindrance of trade, with the aim that
15 “trusts and combines may be suppressed, and the benefits arising from competition in business [are]
16 preserved” to Mississippians. MISS. CODE ANN. § 75-21-39.

17 243. “A trust or combine is a combination, contract, understanding or agreement, express or
18 implied . . . when inimical to the public welfare” and with the effect of, *inter alia*, restraining trade,
19 increasing the price or output of a commodity, or hindering competition in the production or sale of a
20 commodity. MISS. CODE ANN. § 75-21-1.

21 244. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
22 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
23 of which occurred within Mississippi.

24 245. Defendants sold Energizer Battery Products within Mississippi.

25 246. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of
26 Mississippi during the Class Period. But for Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of
27 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

28 247. Under Mississippi law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under
the antitrust provisions of the Mississippi Code based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. MISS.

1 CODE ANN. § 75-21-9.

2 248. Defendants combined, contracted, understood, and agreed in a manner inimical to
3 public welfare, with the effect of restraining trade, increasing the price of Energizer Battery Products
4 and hindering competition in the sale of Energizer Battery Products, in violation of MISS. CODE ANN.
5 § 75-21-1, *et seq.*

6 249. Energizer Battery Products are sold indirectly via retailers throughout the State of
7 Mississippi. During the Class Period, Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Mississippi
8 commerce.

9 250. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected Mississippi's trade and commerce
10 and Defendants' unlawful conduct occurred in substantial part in Mississippi by fixing the prices
11 charged by retailers for Energizer Battery Products in Mississippi.

12 251. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
13 Products in Mississippi and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages and a penalty
14 of \$500 per instance of injury.

15 **COUNT XIV**
16 **VIOLATION OF THE NEBRASKA JUNKIN ACT**
17 **NEB. REV. STAT. § 59-801, et seq.**

18 252. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
19 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

20 253. Chapter 59 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes generally governs business and trade
21 practices. Sections 801 through 831 thereof, known as the Junkin Act, prohibit antitrust violations such
22 as restraints of trade and monopolization.

23 254. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of
24 Nebraska during the Class Period. But for Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer
25 Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

26 255. Under Nebraska law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the
27 Junkin Act based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. NEB. REV. STAT. § 59-821.

28 256. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of Nebraska in violation of NEB. REV. STAT. § 59-

1 801, *et seq.*

2 257. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
3 Products in Nebraska and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages or liquidated
4 damages in an amount which bears a reasonable relation to the actual damages which have been
5 sustained, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and injunctive relief.

6 **COUNT XV**
7 **VIOLATION OF THE NEVADA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES ACT**
8 **NEV. REV. STAT. § 598A.010, et seq.**

9 258. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
10 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

11 259. The Nevada Unfair Trade Practices Act ("NUTPA") states that "free, open and
12 competitive production and sale of commodities and services is necessary to the economic well-being
13 of the citizens of the State of Nevada." NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 598A.030(1).

14 260. The policy of NUTPA is to "[p]rohibit acts in restraint of trade or commerce,"
15 "[p]reserve and protect the free, open and competitive market," and "[p]enalize all persons engaged in
16 [] anticompetitive practices." NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 598A.030(2). Such acts include, *inter alia*, price
17 fixing, division of markets, allocation of customers, and monopolization of trade. *See* NEV. REV. STAT.
18 § 598A.060.

19 261. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of Nevada
20 during the Class Period. But for Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery
21 Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

22 262. Under Nevada law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under
23 NUTPA based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 598A.210(2).

24 263. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
25 Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of Nevada in violation of NEV. REV. STAT. ANN.
26 § 598A.010, *et seq.*

27 264. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
28 Products in Nevada in that at least thousands of sales of Energizer Battery Products took place in
Nevada, purchased by Nevada consumers at supra-competitive prices caused by Defendants' conduct.

1 265. Accordingly, members of the Class are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual
2 damages, treble damages, reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and injunctive relief.

3 **COUNT XVI**
4 **VIOLATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE’S ANTITRUST STATUTE,**
5 **N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. XXXI, § 356, et seq.**

6 266. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
7 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

8 267. Title XXXI of the New Hampshire Statutes generally governs trade and commerce.

9 268. Chapter 356 thereof governs combinations and monopolies and prohibits restraints of
10 trade. *See* N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. XXXI, §§ 356:2, 3.

11 269. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
12 State of New Hampshire during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the
13 price of Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

14 270. Under New Hampshire law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action
15 based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 356:11(II).

16 271. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
17 Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of New Hampshire in violation of N.H. REV. STAT.
18 ANN. § 356:1, *et seq.*

19 272. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer
20 Battery Products in New Hampshire and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages
21 sustained, treble damages for willful or flagrant violations, reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and
22 injunctive relief.

23 **COUNT XVII**
24 **VIOLATION OF THE NEW MEXICO ANTITRUST ACT,**
25 **N.M. STAT. ANN. § 57-1-1, et seq.**

26 273. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
27 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

28 274. The New Mexico Antitrust Act aims to “prohibit[] restraints of trade and monopolistic
practices.” N.M. STAT. ANN. § 57-1-15.

275. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of New

1 Mexico during the Class Period. But for Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer
2 Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

3 276. Under New Mexico law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action based
4 on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *See* N.M. STAT. ANN. § 57-1-3(A).

5 277. Defendants contracted, agreed, combined or conspired in restraint of trade in the
6 Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of New Mexico, in violation of N.M. Stat. ANN. §
7 57-1-1, *et seq.*

8 278. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
9 Products in New Mexico and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble
10 damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and injunctive relief.

11 **COUNT XVIII**
12 **VIOLATION OF SECTION 340 OF THE NEW YORK GENERAL BUSINESS LAW**
13 **N.Y. GEN. BUS. LAW § 340, et seq.**

14 279. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
15 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

16 280. Section 340 of Article 22 of the New York General Business Law prohibits monopolies
17 and contracts or agreements in restraint of trade, with the policy of encouraging competition or the
18 free exercise of any activity in the conduct of any business, trade or commerce in New York. *See* N.Y.
19 GEN. BUS. LAW § 340(1).

20 281. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
21 State of New York during the Class Period. But for Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of
22 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

23 282. Under New York law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action based on
24 the facts alleged in this Complaint. *See* N.Y. GEN. BUS. LAW § 340(6).

25 283. Defendants restrained competition in the free exercise of the conduct of the business in
26 the Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of New York, in violation of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law
27 § 340, *et seq.* Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected New York's trade and commerce
28 and Defendants' unlawful conduct occurred in substantial part in New York by fixing the prices
charged by retailers for Energizer Battery Products in New York.

1 284. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer
2 Battery Products in New York and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble
3 damages, costs not exceeding \$10,000, and reasonable attorneys’ fees and all relief available under
4 N.Y. GEN. BUS. LAW §349, *et seq.*

5 **COUNT XIX**
6 **VIOLATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTES,**
7 **N.C. GEN. STAT. § 75-1, et seq.**

8 285. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
9 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

10 286. Chapter 75 of the North Carolina Statutes generally governs unlawful business
11 practices, including antitrust violations such as restraints of trade and monopolization.

12 287. Under North Carolina law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action
13 based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *See Hyde v. Abbott Labs., Inc.*, 123 N.C. App. 572, 584
(1996).

14 288. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
15 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
16 of which occurred within North Carolina because Defendants’ agreement fixed the retail prices of
17 Energizer Battery Products in North Carolina, both before and after they were imported into North
18 Carolina.

19 289. Defendants’ unlawful conduct substantially affected North Carolina’s intrastate trade
20 and commerce.

21 290. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants’ unlawful conduct, members of the
22 Class have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

23 291. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief
24 available, including treble damages, under N.C. GEN. STAT. § 75-1, *et seq.*

25 **COUNT XX**
26 **VIOLATION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA UNIFORM STATE ANTITRUST ACT,**
27 **N.D. CENT. CODE § 51-08.1-01, et seq.**

28 292. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

1 293. The North Dakota Uniform State Antitrust Act generally prohibits restraints on or
2 monopolization of trade. *See* N.D. CENT. CODE § 51-08.1-01, *et seq.*

3 294. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of North
4 Dakota during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer
5 Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

6 295. Under the North Dakota Uniform State Antitrust Act, indirect purchasers have standing
7 to maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. N.D. CENT. CODE § 51-08.1-08.

8 296. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
9 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
10 of which occurred within North Dakota.

11 297. Defendants’ violations of North Dakota law were flagrant.

12 298. Defendants’ unlawful conduct substantially affected North Dakota’s trade and
13 commerce.

14 299. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants’ unlawful conduct, members of the
15 Class were injured with respect to purchases in North Dakota and are threatened with further injury,
16 and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble damages for flagrant violations,
17 costs, reasonable attorneys’ fees, and injunctive or other equitable relief available under N.D. CENT.
18 CODE § 51-08.1-01, *et seq.*

19 **COUNT XXI**
20 **VIOLATION OF THE OREGON ANTITRUST LAW,**
 OR. REV. STAT. § 646.705, et seq.

21 300. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
22 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

23 301. Chapter 646 of the Oregon Revised Statutes generally governs business and trade
24 practices within Oregon. Sections 705 through 880 thereof govern antitrust violations, with the policy
25 to “encourage free and open competition in the interest of the general welfare and economy of the
26 state.” OR. REV. STAT. § 646.715(1).

27 302. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of Oregon
28 during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery

1 Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

2 303. Under Oregon law, indirect purchasers have standing under the antitrust provisions of
3 the Oregon Revised Statutes to maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. OR.
4 REV. STAT. § 646.780(1)(a).

5 304. Defendants contracted, combined, or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
6 Relevant Market in violation of OR. REV. STAT. § 646.705, *et seq.* See OR. REV. STAT. §§ 646.725-
7 730.

8 305. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
9 Products within the intrastate commerce of Oregon, or alternatively to interstate commerce involving
10 actual or threatened injury to persons located in Oregon, and are entitled to all forms of relief, including
11 actual damages, treble damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, expert witness fees and investigative costs,
12 and injunctive relief.

13 **COUNT XXII**
14 **VIOLATION OF THE PUERTO RICAN ANTI-MONOPOLY ACT,**
15 **P.R. LAWS TIT. 10, § 260, et seq.**

16 306. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
17 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

18 307. The provisions of the Puerto Rican Anti-Monopoly Act of 1964 (the AMA) parallel
19 Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act, and other federal statutes. Those provisions are supplemented
20 by The Regulation on Fair Competition Number VII, which proscribes certain conduct including the
21 type engaged in by Defendants more fully described above.

22 308. Under the AMA, it is unlawful to monopolize, or attempt to monopolize any part of the
23 trade or commerce in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. P.R. LAWS TIT. 10, § 260.

24 309. Members of the class purchased Energizer Battery Products within Puerto Rico during
25 the class period. But for Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of those Energizer Battery
26 Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

27 310. By reason of the foregoing, members of the class are entitled to seek all forms of relief
28 available, including treble damages, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit. P.R. LAWS TIT. 10, § 268.

28 /

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

COUNT XXIII
VIOLATION OF THE RHODE ISLAND ANTITRUST ACT,
6 R.I. GEN. LAWS § 6-36-1, et seq.

311. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

312. The Rhode Island Antitrust Act aims “[t]o promote the unhampered growth of commerce and industry throughout [Rhode Island] by prohibiting unreasonable restraints of trade and monopolistic practices” that hamper, prevent or decrease competition. 6 R.I. GEN. LAWS § 6-36-2(a)(2).

313. Members of the class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of Rhode Island during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

314. Under the Rhode Island Antitrust Act, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. R.I. GEN. LAWS § 6-36-11(a).

315. Defendants contracted, combined and conspired in restraint of trade in the Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of Rhode Island in violation of 6 Rhode Island General Laws § 6-36-1, *et seq.*

316. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery Products in Rhode Island and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble damages, reasonable costs, reasonable attorneys’ fees, and injunctive relief.

COUNT XXIV
VIOLATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ANTITRUST STATUTE,
S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 37-1-3.1, et seq.

317. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

318. Chapter 37-1 of the South Dakota Codified Laws prohibits restraint of trade, monopolies and discriminatory trade practices. S.D. CODIFIED LAWS §§ 37-1-3.1, 3.2.

319. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of South Dakota during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

1 320. Under South Dakota law, indirect purchasers have standing under the antitrust
2 provisions of the South Dakota Codified Laws to maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this
3 Complaint. *See* S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 37-1-33.

4 321. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
5 Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of South Dakota in violation of S.D. CODIFIED LAWS
6 § 37-1, *et seq.*

7 322. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
8 Products in South Dakota and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble
9 damages, taxable costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, and injunctive or other equitable relief.

10 **COUNT XXV**
11 **VIOLATION OF THE TENNESSEE TRADE PRACTICES ACT,**
12 **TENN. CODE § 47-25-101, ET SEQ.**

13 323. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
14 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

15 324. The Tennessee Trade Practices Act generally governs commerce and trade in
16 Tennessee, and it prohibits, *inter alia*, all arrangements, contracts, agreements, or combinations
17 between persons or corporations made with a view to lessen, or which tend to lessen, full and free
18 competition in goods in Tennessee. All such arrangements, contracts, agreements, or combinations
19 between persons or corporations designed, or which tend, to increase the prices of any such goods, are
20 against public policy, unlawful, and void. *See* TENN. CODE, § 47-25-101.

21 325. Under Tennessee law, indirect purchasers have standing under the Tennessee Trade
22 Practice Acts to maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *See Freeman Indus.,*
23 *LLC v. Eastman Chem. Co.*, 172 S.W.3d 512, 520 (Tenn. 2005).

24 326. Defendants competed unfairly and colluded by meeting to fix prices and otherwise
25 restrain trade as set forth herein, in violation of Tenn. Code, § 47-25-101, *et seq.*

26 327. Defendants' conduct violated the Tennessee Trade Practice Act because it was an
27 arrangement, contract, agreement, or combination to lessen full and free competition in goods in
28 Tennessee, and because it tended to increase the prices of goods in Tennessee. Specifically,
Defendant's combination or conspiracy had the following effects: (1) price competition in the Relevant

1 Market was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Tennessee; (2) prices for Energizer
2 Battery Products were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout
3 Tennessee; (3) members of the Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) members of
4 the Class paid supra-competitive, artificially inflated prices for Energizer Battery Products.

5 328. During the Class Period, Defendants’ illegal conduct had a substantial effect on
6 Tennessee commerce as Energizer Battery Products were sold in Tennessee.

7 329. A substantial part of Defendants illegal conduct occurred within Tennessee because
8 Defendants’ agreement fixed the retail prices of Energizer Battery Products in Tennessee , both before
9 and after they were imported into Tennessee.

10 330. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of
11 Tennessee during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer
12 Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

13 331. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s unlawful conduct, members of the
14 Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

15 332. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
16 Products in Tennessee and are entitled to all forms of relief available under the law, including return
17 of the unlawful overcharges that they paid on their purchases, damages, equitable relief, and
18 reasonable attorneys’ fees.

19 **COUNT XXVI**
20 **VIOLATION OF THE UTAH ANTITRUST ACT,**
21 **UTAH CODE ANN. § 76-10-3101, et seq.**

22 333. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
23 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

24 334. The Utah Antitrust Act aims to “encourage free and open competition in the interest of
25 the general welfare and economy of this state by prohibiting monopolistic and unfair trade practices,
26 combinations and conspiracies in restraint of trade or commerce.” UTAH CODE ANN. § 76-10-3102.

27 335. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of Utah
28 during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery
Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

1 336. Under the Utah Antitrust Act, indirect purchasers who are either Utah residents or Utah
2 citizens have standing to maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. UTAH CODE
3 ANN. § 76-10-3109(1)(a).

4 337. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
5 Relevant Market in violation of UTAH CODE ANN. § 76-10-3101, *et seq.*

6 338. Members of the Class who are either Utah residents or Utah citizens were injured with
7 respect to purchases of Energizer Battery Products in Utah and are entitled to all forms of relief,
8 including actual damages, treble damages, costs of suit, reasonable attorneys' fees, and injunctive
9 relief.

10 **COUNT XXVII**
11 **VIOLATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ANTITRUST ACT,**
12 **W. VA. CODE § 47-18-1, et seq.**

13 339. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
14 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

15 340. The violations of law set forth above also constitute violations of Section 47-18-1 of
16 the West Virginia Code.

17 341. During the Class Period, Defendants engaged in anticompetitive conduct alleged
18 above, including a continuing contract, combination or conspiracy in unreasonable restraint of trade
19 and commerce within the intrastate commerce of West Virginia in violation of W. VA. CODE §§ 47-
20 18-3; 47-18-4.

21 342. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
22 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
23 of which occurred within West Virginia.

24 343. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
25 State of West Virginia during the Class Period. But for Defendant's conduct set forth herein, the price
26 of Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

27 344. Under West Virginia law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under
28 the West Virginia Antitrust Act based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. W. VA. CODE St. R. 142-
9-2 ("Any person who is injured directly or indirectly by reason of a violation of the West Virginia

1 Antitrust Act, W. Va. Code § 47-18-1, et seq., may bring an action for damages under W. Va. Code
2 § 47-18-9.”).

3 345. Defendants’ anticompetitive acts described above were knowing, willful and constitute
4 violations or flagrant violations of the West Virginia Antitrust Act.

5 346. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and
6 members of the Class have been injured in their business and property in that they paid more for
7 Energizer Battery Products than they otherwise would have paid in the absence of Defendants’
8 unlawful conduct.

9 347. Plaintiffs and members of the Class have standing to pursue their claims under, *inter*
10 *alia*, W. VA. CODE § 47-18-9.

11 348. As a result of Defendants’ violation of Section 47-18-3 of the West Virginia Antitrust
12 Act, Plaintiffs and members of the Class seek treble damages and their cost of suit, including
13 reasonable attorneys’ fees, pursuant to Section 47-18-9 of the West Virginia Code.

14 **COUNT XXVIII**
15 **VIOLATION OF THE WISCONSIN ANTITRUST ACT,**
16 **WIS. STAT. § 133.01, et seq.**

17 349. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
18 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

19 350. Chapter 133 of the Wisconsin Statutes governs trust and monopolies, with the intent “to
20 safeguard the public against the creation or perpetuation of monopolies and to foster and encourage
21 competition by prohibiting unfair and discriminatory business practices which destroy or hamper
22 competition.” WIS. STAT. § 133.01.

23 351. Members of the class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the State of
24 Wisconsin during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer
25 Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

26 352. Under Wisconsin law, indirect purchasers have standing under the antitrust provisions
27 of the Wisconsin Statutes to maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *See* WIS.
28 STAT. § 133.18(1)(a).

353. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the

1 Relevant Market, with the intention of injuring or destroying competition therein, in violation of WIS.
2 STAT. § 133.01, *et seq.*

3 354. Members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer Battery
4 Products in Wisconsin in that the actions alleged herein substantially affected the people of Wisconsin,
5 with at least thousands of consumers in Wisconsin paying substantially higher prices for Energizer
6 Battery Products in Wisconsin.

7 355. Accordingly, members of the Class are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual
8 damages, treble damages, costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, and injunctive relief.

9 **VIOLATIONS OF STATE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS**

10 356. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
11 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

12 357. Defendants' above-described Scheme and conduct constitutes unfair competition,
13 unconscionable conduct, and deceptive acts and practices in violation of the state consumer protection
14 statutes set forth below. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' anticompetitive, deceptive,
15 unfair, and/or unconscionable acts or practices, Plaintiffs and the Class paid higher prices for Energizer
16 Battery Products than they should have.

17 358. The gravity of harm from Defendants' wrongful conduct significantly outweighs any
18 conceivable utility from that conduct. Plaintiff and Class members could not reasonably have avoided
19 injury from Defendants' wrongful conduct.

20 359. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased goods, namely Energizer Battery
21 Products, primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

22 360. There was and is a gross disparity between the price that Plaintiffs and the Class
23 members paid for Energizer Battery Products and the value they received.

24 361. The following Twenty-Ninth through Forty-Fifth Counts are pleaded under the
25 consumer protection or similar laws of each State or jurisdiction identified below, on behalf of
26 Plaintiffs and members of the State Class.

27 //

28 /

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

COUNT XXIX
VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW,
CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200, et seq. (THE "UCL")

362. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

363. The violations of federal antitrust law set forth above also constitute violations of Section 17200, *et seq.* of the California Business and Professions Code.

364. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts or practices in violation of the UCL by engaging in the acts and practices specified above.

365. This claim is instituted pursuant to Sections 17203 and 17204 of the California Business and Professions Code, to obtain restitution from these Defendants for acts, as alleged herein, that violated the UCL.

366. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein violated the UCL. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices and non-disclosures of Defendants, as alleged herein, constituted a common, continuous, and continuing course of conduct of unfair competition by means of unfair, unlawful, and/or fraudulent business acts or practices within the meaning of the UCL, including, but not limited to, the violations of Section 16720, *et seq.*, of California Business and Professions Code, set forth above.

367. Defendants' acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures, as described above, whether or not in violation of Section 16720, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code, and whether or not concerted or independent acts, are otherwise unfair, unconscionable, unlawful or fraudulent.

368. Plaintiffs and members of the Class are entitled to, *inter alia*, full restitution and/or disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by Defendants as a result of such business acts or practices.

369. The illegal conduct alleged herein is continuing and there is no indication that Defendants will not continue such activity into the future.

370. The unlawful and unfair business practices of Defendants, and each of them, as

1 described above, have caused and continue to cause members of the Class to pay supra-competitive
2 and artificially-inflated prices for Energizer Battery Products sold in the State of California. Plaintiffs
3 and the members of the Class suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of such
4 unfair competition.

5 371. As alleged in this Complaint, Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of
6 their wrongful conduct and by Defendants' unfair competition. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class
7 are accordingly entitled to equitable relief including restitution and/or disgorgement of all revenues,
8 earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by Defendants as a result of
9 such business practices, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code Sections 17203 and
10 17204.

11 **COUNT XXX**
12 **VIOLATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONSUMER PROTECTION**
13 **PROCEDURES ACT, D.C. CODE § 28-3901, et seq.**

14 372. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
15 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

16 373. Members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products for personal, family, or
17 household purposes.

18 374. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated D.C. CODE § 28-
19 3901, *et seq.*

20 375. Defendants are "merchants" within the meaning of D.C. CODE § 28- 3901(a)(3).

21 376. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
22 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
23 of which occurred within the District of Columbia.

24 377. Defendants' conduct was an unfair method of competition, and an unfair or deceptive
25 act or practice within the conduct of commerce within the District of Columbia.

26 378. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected the District of Columbia's trade
27 and commerce.

28 379. As a direct and proximate cause of defendants' unlawful conduct, members of the Class
have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

1 380. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief,
2 including treble damages or \$1500 per violation (whichever is greater) plus punitive damages,
3 reasonable attorney’s fees and costs under D.C. CODE § 28-3901, *et seq.*

4 **COUNT XXXI**
5 **VIOLATION OF FLORIDA DECEPTIVE AND UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES ACT,**
6 **FLA. STAT. § 501.201(2), et seq.**

7 381. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
8 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

9 382. The Florida Deceptive & Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla. Stat. § 501.201, *et seq.* (the
10 “FDUTPA”), generally prohibits “unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts or practices, and
11 unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce,” including practices in
12 restraint of trade. FLA. STAT. § 501.204(1).

13 383. The primary policy of the FDUTPA is “[t]o protect the consuming public and legitimate
14 business enterprises from those who engage in unfair methods of competition, or unconscionable,
15 deceptive, or unfair acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.” FLA. STAT. §
16 501.202(2).

17 384. Under Florida law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the
18 FDUTPA based on the facts alleged in this complaint. *See* FLA. STAT. § 501.211(1) (“anyone
19 aggrieved by a violation of this [statute] may bring an action . . .”).

20 385. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
21 State of Florida during the Class Period. But for Defendants’ conduct set forth herein, the price of
22 Energizer Battery Products would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

23 386. Defendants entered into a contract, combination or conspiracy between two or more
24 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
25 of which occurred within Florida.

26 387. Accordingly, Defendants’ conduct was an unfair method of competition, and an unfair
27 or deceptive act or practice within the conduct of commerce within the State of Florida.

28 388. Defendants’ unlawful conduct substantially affected Florida’s trade and commerce.

389. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants’ unlawful conduct, members of the

1 Class have been injured in their business or property by virtue of being forced to pay overcharges on
2 Energizer Battery Products. Because Defendants’ anticompetitive agreement to fix the price of
3 Energizer Battery Products is ongoing and because members of the Class buy Energizer Battery
4 Products on a regular basis, there is a high probability that members of the Class will suffer injury in
5 the future as a result of Defendants’ conduct.

6 390. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief,
7 including injunctive relief pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 501.208 and declaratory judgment, actual damages,
8 reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to FLA. STAT. § 501.211.

9 **COUNT XXXII**
10 **VIOLATION OF THE HAWAII REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**
11 **§§ 480-1, ET SEQ.**

12 391. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
13 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

14 392. Hawaii’s unfair competition statute prohibits “[u]nfair methods of competition and
15 unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.” HAW. REV. STAT. ANN.
16 § 480-2.

17 393. Defendants’ anticompetitive Scheme, which is described above, constitutes an unfair
18 method of competition, or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices, in violation of the
19 HAW. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 480-1, *et seq.*

20 394. Defendants’ conduct was intentional, i.e., it entered into exclusionary agreements in
21 order to suppress competition in the Relevant Market.

22 395. During the Class Period, Defendants’ illegal conduct substantially affected Hawaii
23 commerce and consumers.

24 396. Defendants’ unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Energizer Battery Product
25 price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Hawaii; (2) Energizer Battery
26 Product prices were fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Hawaii; (3)
27 members of the Class were deprived of free and open competition; (4) members of the Class paid
28 supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Energizer Battery Products; and (5) retailers in Hawaii
were prevented from charging a competitive price for Energizer Battery Products.

1 397. During the Class Period, members of the Class purchased, paid, and/or provided
2 reimbursement for some or all of the purchase price of rotavirus vaccines within Hawaii.

3 398. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, members of the class
4 have been injured and there is a high probability that they will suffer injury in the future as a result of
5 Defendants' conduct.

6 399. In light of the above, members of the Class are entitled to seek all available relief under
7 Hawaii's consumer-protection laws, including actual damages, treble damages, punitive damages (to
8 the extent available), injunctive relief, attorneys' fees, costs, etc.

9 **COUNT XXXIII**
10 **VIOLATION OF THE IDAHO CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT,**
11 **IDAHO CODE § 48-601, et seq.**

12 400. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
13 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

14 401. The Idaho Consumer Protection Act (the "ICPA") prohibits "unfair methods of
15 competition and unfair or deceptive acts and practices in the conduct of trade or commerce," IDAHO
16 CODE §§ 48-601, which includes, among other things, "any unconscionable method, act or practice in
17 the conduct of any trade or commerce." *Id.* § 48-603C.

18 402. Defendants' anticompetitive efforts, which are described above, constituted an unfair
19 method of competition, or an unconscionable practice, under the ICPA.

20 403. Defendants' intentionally engaged in the above conduct in order to reduce competition
21 in the Relevant Market.

22 404. Defendants' alleged conduct would outrage or offend the public conscious.

23 405. During the Class Period, members of the class purchased, paid, and/or provided
24 reimbursement for some or all of the purchase price of Energizer Battery Products in Idaho.

25 406. Defendants' conduct was the proximate cause of injuries to members of the Class,
26 namely in the form of overcharges for Energizer Battery Products.

27 407. Because Energizer Battery Products are purchased on an ongoing basis, there is a high
28 probability that members of the Class will suffer injury in the future, as a result of Defendants'
conduct.

1 408. In light of the above, members of the Class are entitled to seek actual damages, along
2 with any other form of relief that the Court deems proper under the ICPA, including actual damages,
3 statutory damages, punitive damages, attorneys' fees, costs, injunctive relief, etc. *See* IDAHO CODE §
4 48-608.

5 **COUNT XXXIV**
6 **VIOLATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT,**
7 **MASS. GEN. LAWS. CH. 93A § 1, et seq.**

8 409. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
9 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

10 410. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, including the violation of federal antitrust
11 laws, Defendants have violated the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act, MASS. GEN. LAWS ch.
12 93A § 2, *et seq.*

13 411. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
14 Commonwealth of Massachusetts during the Class Period. But for Defendants' conduct set forth
15 herein, the price paid would have been lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

16 412. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
17 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
18 of which occurred within Massachusetts.

19 413. Defendants' conduct was an unfair method of competition, and an unfair or deceptive
20 act or practice within the conduct of commerce within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

21 414. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected Massachusetts' trade and
22 commerce.

23 415. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased goods, namely Energizer Battery
24 Products, primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

25 416. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and the
26 members of the Class have been injured in their business or property by virtue of being forced to pay
27 overcharges on Energizer Battery Products. Because Defendants' anticompetitive agreement to fix the
28 price of Energizer Battery Products is ongoing and because Plaintiffs and members of the Class buy
Energizer Battery Products on a regular basis, there is a high probability that Plaintiffs and members

1 of the Class will suffer injury in the future as a result of Defendants' conduct.

2 417. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiffs and members of the Class are entitled to seek all
3 forms of relief, including up to treble damages and reasonable attorney's fees and costs under
4 Massachusetts General Laws ch. 93A § 9.

5 **COUNT XXXV**
6 **VIOLATION OF THE MISSOURI MERCHANDISING PRACTICES ACT**
7 **MO. ANN. STAT. § 407.010, et seq.**

8 418. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
9 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

10 419. Chapter 407 of the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act (the "MMPA") generally
11 governs unlawful business practices, including antitrust violations such as restraints of trade and
12 monopolization.

13 420. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
14 State of Missouri for personal, family, or household purposes during the Class Period. But for
15 Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery Products would have been lower,
16 in an amount to be determined at trial.

17 421. Under Missouri law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the
18 MMPA based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *Gibbons v. J. Nuckolls, Inc.*, 216 S.W.3d 667,
19 669 (Mo. 2007).

20 422. Defendants contracted, combined or conspired in restraint of trade or commerce in the
21 Relevant Market within the intrastate commerce of Missouri in violation of Mo. Stat. § 407.010, et
22 seq.

23 423. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer
24 Battery Products in Missouri and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages or
25 liquidated damages in an amount which bears a reasonable relation to the actual damages which have
26 been sustained, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and injunctive relief.

26 ///

27 //

28 /

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

COUNT XXXVI
VIOLATION OF THE MONTANA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT OF 1970,
MONT. CODE, §§ 30-14-103, et seq., AND §§ 30-14-201, et seq.

424. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

425. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Montana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act of 1970, MONT. CODE, §§ 30-14-103, *et seq.*, and 30-14-201, *et seq.*

426. Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) price competition in the Relevant Market was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Montana; (2) Energizer Battery Products' prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Montana; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Class paid supra-competitive, artificially inflated prices for Energizer Battery Products; (5) retailers in Montana were prevented from charging a competitive price for Energizer Battery Products.

427. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased goods, namely Energizer Battery Products, primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

428. During the Class Period, Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Montana commerce and consumers.

429. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of MONT. CODE, §§ 30-14-103, *et seq.*, and 30-14-201, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Class seek all relief available under that statute.

COUNT XXXVII
VIOLATION OF THE NEBRASKA CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT,
NEB. REV. STAT. § 59-1602, et seq.

430. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

1 431. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated NEB. REV. STAT.
2 § 59-1602, *et seq.*

3 432. Under Nebraska law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the
4 Nebraska Consumer Protection Act based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *See* NEB. REV. STAT.
5 § 59-1609.

6 433. Defendants have entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or
7 more persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial
8 part of which occurred within Nebraska.

9 434. Defendants' conduct was unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive within the conduct of
10 commerce within the State of Nebraska.

11 435. Defendants' conduct had a direct or indirect impact upon Plaintiffs and members-of-
12 the-Class's ability to protect themselves.

13 436. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected Nebraska's trade and commerce.

14 437. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, members of the
15 Class have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

16 438. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief
17 available under NEB. REV. STAT. § 59-1614.

18 **COUNT XXXVIII**
19 **VIOLATION OF THE NEVADA DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT,**
20 **NEV. REV. STAT. § 598.0903, et seq.**

21 439. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
22 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

23 440. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated Nev. Rev. Stat.
24 § 598.0903, *et seq.*

25 441. Defendants engaged in a deceptive trade practice with the intent to injure competitors
26 and to substantially lessen competition.

27 442. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
28 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
of which occurred within Nevada.

1 443. Defendants' conduct was unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive within the conduct of
2 commerce within the State of Nevada.

3 444. Defendants' conduct amounted to a fraudulent act or practice committed by a supplier
4 in connection with a consumer transaction.

5 445. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected Nevada's trade and commerce.

6 446. Defendants' conduct was willful.

7 447. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the members of the
8 Class have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

9 448. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief,
10 including damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per
11 violation under NEV. REV. STAT. § 598.0993.

12 **COUNT XXXIX**
13 **VIOLATION OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT,**
14 **N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. XXXI, § 358-A:1, et seq.**

15 449. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
16 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

17 450. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, defendants have violated N.H. REV. STAT. tit.
18 XXXI, § 358-A:1, *et seq.*

19 451. Under New Hampshire law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action
20 under the New Hampshire Consumer Protection Act based on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *See*
21 *LaChance v. U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co.*, 156 N.H. 88, 92-100 (2007).

22 452. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
23 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
24 of which occurred within New Hampshire. Defendants' unlawful conduct occurred in substantial part
25 in New Hampshire by fixing the prices charged by retailers for Energizer Battery Products in New
26 Hampshire.

27 453. Defendants' conduct was unfair or deceptive within the conduct of commerce within
28 the State of New Hampshire.

454. Defendants' conduct was willful and knowing.

1 455. Defendants' conduct had a direct or indirect impact upon members of the Class's ability
2 to protect themselves.

3 456. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected New Hampshire's trade and
4 commerce.

5 457. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, members of the
6 Class have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

7 458. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief
8 available under New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 358-A:10 and 358-A:10-a.

9 **COUNT XL**
10 **VIOLATION OF THE NEW MEXICO UNFAIR PRACTICES ACT,**
11 **N.M. STAT. ANN. § 57-12-1, et seq.**

12 459. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
13 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

14 460. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated N.M. STAT. § 57-
15 12-3, *et seq.*

16 461. Defendant entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
17 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
18 of which occurred within New Mexico.

19 462. Defendants' conduct was unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive within the conduct of
20 commerce within the State of New Mexico.

21 463. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected New Mexico's trade and
22 commerce.

23 464. Defendants' conduct constituted "unconscionable trade practices" in that such conduct,
24 *inter alia*, resulted in a gross disparity between the value received by Class members and the price
25 paid by them for Energizer Battery Products as set forth in N.M. STAT. § 57- 12-2E.

26 465. Defendants' conduct was willful.

27 466. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, members of the
28 Class have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

467. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief,

1 including actual damages or up to \$300 per violation, whichever is greater, plus reasonable attorney's
2 fees under N.M. STAT. § 57-12-10.

3 **COUNT XLI**
4 **VIOLATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE TRADE**
5 **PRACTICES ACT, N.C. GEN. STAT. § 75-1.1, et seq.**

6 468. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
7 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

8 469. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated N.C. Gen. Stat. § 75-
9 1.1, *et seq.* Under North Carolina law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action based
10 on the facts alleged in this Complaint. *See Hyde v. Abbott Labs., Inc.*, 123 N.C. App. 572, 584 (1996).

11 470. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy in restraint of, or to
12 monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part of which occurred within
13 North Carolina.

14 471. Defendants' conduct was unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive within the conduct of
15 commerce within the State of North Carolina.

16 472. Defendants' trade practices are and have been immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, and
17 substantially injurious to consumers.

18 473. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected North Carolina's trade and
19 commerce.

20 474. Defendants' conduct constitutes consumer-oriented deceptive acts or practices within
21 the meaning of North Carolina law, which resulted in consumer injury and broad adverse impact on
22 the public at large and harmed the public interest of North Carolina consumers in an honest
23 marketplace in which economic activity is conducted in a competitive manner.

24 475. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, members of the Class
25 have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

26 476. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief,
27 including treble damages under N.C. GEN. STAT. § 75-16.

28 //

/

1 **COUNT XLII**
2 **VIOLATION OF THE RHODE ISLAND DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT,**
3 **R.I. GEN. LAWS § 6-13.1-1, et seq.**

4 477. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
5 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

6 478. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated R.I. GEN. LAWS § 6-
7 13.1-1, *et seq.*

8 479. Defendants engaged in an unfair or deceptive act or practice with the intent to injure
9 competitors and consumers through supra-competitive profits.

10 480. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
11 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
12 of which occurred within Rhode Island.

13 481. Defendants' conduct was unfair or deceptive within the conduct of commerce within
14 the State of Rhode Island.

15 482. Defendants' conduct amounted to an unfair or deceptive act or practice committed by
16 a supplier in connection with a consumer transaction.

17 483. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected Rhode Island's trade and
18 commerce.

19 484. Defendants' conduct was willful.

20 485. Members of the Class purchased goods, namely Energizer Battery Products, primarily
21 for personal, family, or household purposes.

22 486. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, members of the Class
23 have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

24 487. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief,
25 including actual damages or \$200 per violation, whichever is greater, and injunctive relief and punitive
26 damages under R.I. GEN. LAWS § 6-13.1-5.2.

27 **COUNT XLIII**
28 **VIOLATION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA'S UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES ACT,**
S.C. CODE ANN. §§ 39-5-10, et seq.

488. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every

1 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

2 489. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated S.C. CODE ANN.
3 § 39-5-10, *et seq.*

4 490. Defendants have entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or
5 more persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial
6 part of which occurred within South Carolina.

7 491. Defendants' conduct was unfair or deceptive within the conduct of commerce within
8 the State of South Carolina.

9 492. Defendants' conduct had a direct or indirect impact upon members of the Class's ability
10 to protect themselves.

11 493. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected South Carolina trade and
12 commerce.

13 494. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially harmed the public interest of the State of
14 South Carolina, as at least thousands of members of the public purchase Energizer Battery Products.

15 **COUNT XLIV**
16 **VIOLATION OF THE UTAH CONSUMER SALES PRACTICES ACT,**
17 **UTAH CODE ANN. §§ 13-11-1, ET SEQ.**

18 495. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
19 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

20 496. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated UTAH CODE ANN.
21 §§ 13-11-1, *et seq.*

22 497. Defendants are a supplier within the meaning of UTAH CODE ANN. §§ 13-11-3.

23 498. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
24 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
25 of which occurred within Utah.

26 499. Defendants' conduct was unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive within the conduct of
27 commerce within the State of Utah.

28 500. Defendants' conduct and/or practices were unconscionable and were undertaken in
connection with consumer transactions within the meaning of UTAH CODE ANN. §§ 13-11-3.

1 501. Defendants knew or had reason to know that their conduct was unconscionable.

2 502. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected Utah's trade and commerce.

3 503. Members of the Class purchased goods, namely Energizer Battery Products, primarily
4 for personal, family, or household purposes.

5 504. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, members of the
6 Class have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further injury.

7 505. By reason of the foregoing, members of the Class are entitled to seek all forms of relief,
8 including declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, and ancillary relief, pursuant to UTAH CODE ANN.
9 §§ 13-11-19(5) and 13-11-20.

10 **COUNT XLV**
11 **VIOLATION OF THE VERMONT CONSUMER FRAUD ACT,**
12 **VT. STAT. ANN. TIT. 9, CH. 63 §2451, et seq.**

13 506. Plaintiffs incorporate and reallege, as though fully set forth herein, each and every
14 allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

15 507. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have violated VT. STAT. ANN. tit.
16 9, § 2451, *et seq.*

17 508. Title 9 of the Vermont Statutes generally governs commerce and trade in Vermont.
18 Chapter 63 thereof governs consumer protection and prohibits, *inter alia*, unfair methods competition,
19 unfair and deceptive acts and practices, and antitrust violations such as restraints of trade and
20 monopolization. *See* VT. STAT ANN. tit. 9, § 2453(a).

21 509. Plaintiffs and members of the Class purchased Energizer Battery Products within the
22 State of Vermont primarily for personal, family, or household purposes during the Class Period. But
23 for Defendants' conduct set forth herein, the price of Energizer Battery Products would have been
24 lower, in an amount to be determined at trial.

25 510. Under Vermont law, indirect purchasers have standing under the antitrust provisions of
26 the Vermont Statutes to maintain an action based on the facts alleged in this complaint. VT. STAT.
27 ANN. TIT. 9, § 2465(b); *see also Elkins v. Microsoft Corp.*, 174 Vt. 328, 341 (2002).

28 511. Defendants competed unfairly by restraining trade as set forth herein, in violation of
VT. STAT. tit. 9, § 2453, *et seq.*

1 512. Defendants entered into a contract, combination, or conspiracy between two or more
2 persons in restraint of, or to monopolize, trade or commerce in the Relevant Market, a substantial part
3 of which occurred within Vermont.

4 513. Defendants' violations of Vermont law were flagrant.

5 514. Defendants' conduct caused or was intended to cause unfair methods of competition
6 within the State of Vermont.

7 515. Defendants' unlawful conduct substantially affected Vermont's trade and commerce.

8 516. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and the
9 members of the Class have been injured in their business or property and are threatened with further
10 injury.

11 517. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were injured with respect to purchases of Energizer
12 Battery Products in Vermont and are entitled to all forms of relief, including actual damages, treble
13 damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

14 **XIV. PETITION FOR RELIEF**

15 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the proposed Class, respectfully ask
16 the Court for a judgment that:

17 1. Certifies the Class pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3) and directs that
18 reasonable notice of this action, as provided by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2), be given to the Class, and
19 declares Plaintiffs as representatives of the Class;

20 2. Appoints Plaintiffs and their attorneys as class representatives and class counsel,
21 respectively;

22 3. Enters judgment against Defendants, and in favor of Plaintiffs and the Class, holding
23 Defendants liable for the antitrust violations alleged;

24 4. Awards a declaratory judgment that Energizer's challenged agreement with Wal-Mart
25 was done for illegal, anticompetitive purposes, was an unreasonable restraint of trade, and had
26 anticompetitive effects on the Relevant Market in violation of the Sherman Act, § 1.

27 5. Grants permanent injunctive relief enjoining Energizer from making sales of Energizer
28 Battery Products contingent on the price charged by any retailer; and requiring Energizer and Wal-

1 Mart to take affirmative steps to dissipate the continuing effects of their prior unlawful conduct;

2 6. Awards Plaintiffs and the Class actual, double, treble, and exemplary damages as
3 permitted and as sustained by reason of the antitrust violations alleged herein, plus interest in
4 accordance with law;

5 7. Awards such equitable relief as is necessary to correct for the anticompetitive market
6 effects caused by Defendants' unlawful conduct, including disgorgement, restitution, and the creation
7 of a constructive trust;

8 8. Awards Plaintiff and the Class their costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees
9 as provided by law;

10 9. Directs such further relief as it may deem just and proper.

11 **XV. JURY DEMAND**

12 Plaintiffs and members of the Class demand a jury trial on all claims so triable under Federal
13 Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 38(b).

14 Dated: April 28, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

15 Daniel H. Silverman (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
16 **COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS & TOLL PLLC**
17 769 Centre Street, Suite 207
18 Boston, MA 02130
19 Tel: (202) 408-4600
dsilverman@cohenmilstein.com

/s/Sarah Grossman-Swenson
Sarah Grossman-Swenson (SBN 259792)
Kimberley C. Weber (SBN 302894)
MCCRACKEN STEMERMAN & HOLSBERY LLP
475 14th Street, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94612
(415) 597-7200
sgs@msh.law | kweber@msh.law

20 Leonardo Chingcuanco (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
(SBN 308640)

Local Counsel for Plaintiffs

21 **COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS & TOLL PLLC**
22 1100 New York Ave. NW, Suite 500
23 Washington, DC 20005
24 Tel: (202) 408-4600
Fax: (202) 408-4699
lchingcuanco@cohenmilstein.com

25 *Counsel for Plaintiffs Don Copeland, Joseph*
26 *Murray, Carol Smith, Patrick Whitney, Phillip*
27 *Hague, Denise Fotis, Roxann Doriott, Bruce*
28 *Mims, Lori Ably, Timothy Brown, Peter Costas,*
and Mike Ballard and Proposed Lead Counsel for
Indirect Purchaser Class