

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

SHARON HAGGERTY, on behalf of herself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

BLUETRITON BRANDS, INC. AND
NIAGARA BOTTLING, LLC,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:21-cv-13904

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Sharon Haggerty (“Plaintiff”), by and through her attorneys, makes the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of her counsel and based upon information and belief, except as to allegations specifically pertaining to herself, which are based on personal knowledge, against Defendants Bluetriton Brands, Inc., and Niagara Bottling, LLC. (“Defendants”).

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a class action lawsuit regarding Defendants’ manufacturing, distribution, marketing and sale of Defendants’ bottled water Products labeled as “100% Recyclable” on behalf of a class of purchasers of the Products¹ in the State of New Jersey.

2. Recycling is “the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products.”²

3. Similarly, under the New Jersey Recycling Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.11, “[R]ecycling” means any process by which materials which would otherwise become solid waste are collected, separated or processed and returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw

¹ The following brands of bottled water are referred to herein as the “Products”: Arrowhead, Poland Spring, Ozarka, Deer Park, Niagara, Costco Kirkland, Save Mart Sunny Select, and Save Market Essentials.

² United States Environmental Protection Agency, *Recycling Basics*, <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/recycling-basics> (last accessed July 14, 2021).

materials or products.” N.J.S.A. § 13:1E-99.12.

4. Plastic waste is an increasingly dire international problem. Nearly 90% of plastic waste is not recycled. Much of the unrecycled plastic waste ends up in the ocean. Indeed, over 12 million tons of plastic enters the ocean each year.³ As consumers have become increasingly aware of the problems associated with plastic pollution, many consumers actively seek to purchase products that are either compostable or recyclable to divert such waste from waterways, oceans, their communities, landfills, and incinerators.

5. Recognizing consumer concerns regarding plastic pollution and excessive plastic waste generation, many corporations are making commitments to make their products recyclable, reusable, or compostable.⁴ In fact, in 2019, the American Beverage Association launched the “Every Bottle Back” Initiative, which claims to have “carefully design[ed] [] plastic bottles to be 100% recyclable, including the caps.”⁵

6. However, despite their labeling to the contrary, the plastic bottles sold by Defendants are not “100% Recyclable” because: (1) the propylene (“PP”) bottle caps and the biaxially oriented polypropylene (“BOPP”) plastic labels on the bottles are not recyclable and cannot be processed into usable material; (2) at least 28% of the polyethylene terephthalate (“PET”) bottles⁶ and high-density polyethylene (“HDPE”) bottle caps⁷ sent to recycling centers are lost in processing or are contaminated and thus end up in landfills or are burned; and (3)

³ Nick Young, How does plastic end up the ocean?, <https://www.greenpeace.org/aotearoa/story/how-does-plastic-end-up-in-the-ocean/> (last accessed July 15, 2021)

⁴ Greenpeace, *Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastic Recyclability*, <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Greenpeace-Report-Circular-Claims-Fall-Flat.pdf> (Last accessed July 16, 2021), at page 4.

⁵ American Beverage Association, <https://www.innovationnaturally.org/every-bottle-back/> (last accessed July 14, 2021).

⁶ BlueTriton Brands Inc., <https://www.nestle-watersna.com/who-we-are/key-facts-and-figures/nestle-waters-north-america-facts>, (“The bottles made out of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and recycled PET (rPET), [are] never meant to be thrown away. They [are] designed to be captured, recycled, and reused again and again.”) (last accessed July 16, 2021).

⁷ Niagara Bottling Co., <https://www.niagarawater.com/faq/> (“All of our bottles are produced using PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic and High-Density polyethylene (HDPE) caps.”) (last accessed July 16, 2021).

domestic recycling facilities only have the capacity to process approximately 22.5% of the PET and HDPE consumed in the United States.

7. Thus, only some PET and HDPE plastic bottles and jugs can be legitimately labeled as recyclable in the U.S. today.⁸ As a result, the Products are not “100 % recyclable” as Defendants claim.

8. Defendants know that the Products typically end up in landfills or incinerated and are unsuitable for recycling. Thus, Defendants’ representations that the Products are “100% Recyclable” are material, false, misleading and likely to deceive members of the public.

9. In representing that the Products are “100% recyclable,” Defendants violated the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act (“NJCFRA”) by engaging in affirmative acts and omissions which were misleading and stand outside the norm of reasonable business practice in Defendants’ practices will victimize the average consumer. Had Defendants not misrepresented that the Products were “100% recyclable,” and/or failed to omit material facts regarding the recyclability of the Products, Plaintiff would not have paid the same amount for the Products. Stated another way, Plaintiff paid a premium price for the Products as a result of Defendants’ affirmative acts and/or omissions in an amount to be determined at trial.

10. Plaintiff asserts claims on behalf of herself and a class of all persons in the State of New Jersey who purchased the Products for violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. § 56:8-1, *et seq.*, fraud, negligent misrepresentation, and unjust enrichment.

PARTIES

11. Plaintiff Sharon Haggerty is a resident of Washington, New Jersey. Ms. Haggerty has purchased numerous multi-bottle packs of Defendant Bluetriton’s Deer Park bottled water and

⁸ Greenpeace, *Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastic Recyclability*, <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Greenpeace-Report-Circular-Claims-Fall-Flat.pdf> (Last accessed July 16, 2021), at page 4.

Defendant Niagara's Niagara bottled water. Ms. Haggerty made these purchases in-store at Shoprite stores in Phillipsburg, Washington, and Hackettstown, New Jersey. When purchasing the Products, Ms. Haggerty reviewed the accompanying labels and disclosures, and understood them as representations by Defendants that the Products were, in fact, 100% recyclable. Ms. Haggerty relied on these representations to her detriment in deciding to purchase the Products manufactured by Defendants in that she would not have purchased the Products from Defendants on the same terms if she had known that they were not, in fact, 100% recyclable. Ms. Haggerty reasonably believed, based on Defendants' representations, that the entirety of the bottle (including the cap and label) was recyclable when disposed of in a recycling bin. Ms. Haggerty in fact attempted to recycle the bottles she purchased by placing them in her recycling bin for pickup. Ms. Haggerty paid a premium price for the Products quantified as the difference in value between the Products as represented versus the value of the Products received (the value of the Products received was less than the value if the Products were, in fact, 100% recyclable). Because of the aforementioned facts, Plaintiff will be unable to rely on Defendants' 100% recyclable claim in the future unless appropriate injunctive relief is entered. Plaintiff desires to purchase water bottles from Defendants that are, in fact, 100% recyclable, but cannot rely on Defendants' representations regarding recyclability. As such, Plaintiff is likely to suffer future harm absent injunctive relief compelling Defendants to ensure their Products are 100% recyclable or compelling Defendants to remove such misleading representations from the packaging so that Plaintiff may properly value the Products.

12. Defendant BlueTriton Brands, Inc. ("BlueTriton") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware, having its principal place of business in Stamford, Connecticut. BlueTriton Brands, Inc. is the successor entity to Nestle Waters North America, Inc. Defendant BlueTriton Brands, Inc. manufactures, markets, and sells beverages, including bottled water, in the United States under several brand names, including Arrowhead, Poland Spring,

Ozarka, and Deer Park.

13. Defendant Niagara Bottling, LLC (“Niagara”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware, having its principal place of business in Ontario, California. Defendant Niagara manufactures, markets, and sells beverages, including bottled water, in the United States under several brand names, including Niagara, Costco Kirkland, Save Mart Sunny Select, and Save Mart Market Essentials

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A), as modified by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, because at least one member of the Class, as defined below, is a citizen of a different state than Defendant, there are more than 100 members of the Class, and the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000 exclusive of interest and costs.

15. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants conduct substantial business within New Jersey, such that Defendants have significant, continuous, and pervasive contracts with the State of New Jersey, and because Plaintiff purchased the Products in New Jersey.

16. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendants transact significant business within this District and because Plaintiff purchased and used the Products in this District.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

17. The United States is grappling with two major plastic waste problems: plastic pollution and the generation of excessive plastic waste that is disposed of in landfills or incinerated with significant carbon emissions.

18. The sheer amount of plastic waste accumulating in the environment is accompanied

by an array of negative side effects. For example, plastic debris is frequently ingested by marine animals and other wildlife, which can be both injurious and poisonous. Floating plastic is also a vector for invasive species, and plastic that gets buried in landfills can leach harmful chemicals into ground water that is absorbed by humans and other animals. Plastic litter on the streets and in and around parks and beaches also degrades the quality of life for residents and visitors. As a result, consumers actively seek out products that are compostable, recyclable, or reusable to prevent the increase in global waste and to minimize their environmental footprints.

19. Historically, recycling facilities in the United States shipped plastic scrap to China for recycling. But tons of that shipped plastic waste was never recycled. Instead, it was burned or entered into waterways, where it was carried into the ocean.⁹ Despite this, due to low-cost shipping and labor, the United States became reliant on China to accept plastic materials collected by U.S. municipal systems.¹⁰

20. However, in 2018, China implemented a new scrap-import policy, restricting imports of plastic waste and other materials from other countries, including the United States. This had a significant and overwhelming effect on the U.S.’s limited municipal recycling collections systems, commonly referred to as municipal recycling facilities (“MRFs”).¹¹

21. MRFs collect recyclable waste, often through curbside pickup. The recyclable waste is then sorted and sold to facilities that sort and process the material into clear flake material that can be sold and used to make new plastic items.

22. Due to China’s scrap-import policy, MRFs, including those in New Jersey, had to

⁹ Christopher Joyce, *Where Will Your Plastic Trash Go Now that China Doesn’t Want it?*, www.NPR.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2019/03/13/702501726/where-will-your-plastic-trash-go-now-that-china-doesnt-want-it (last accessed July 16, 2021).

¹⁰ Greenpeace, *Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastic Recyclability*, <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Greenpeace-Report-Circular-Claims-Fall-Flat.pdf> (Last accessed July 16, 2021), at page 6.

¹¹ *Id.*

make numerous changes to municipal recycling programs, with many deciding to longer accept certain plastics, and employing tighter quality standards.¹² Thus, as a result of these market conditions, many cities and counties around the country are no longer recycling many types of plastic dropped into recycling bins. Instead, many types of plastic are being landfilled, burned, or stockpiled.¹³ Acceptance by an MRF is therefore not proof that a product will be recycled.

23. Each of the Products manufactured by Defendants have three basic plastic components: the bottle, the bottle cap, and the label that is wrapped around the bottle. The bottles are made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET, #1 plastic), the plastic most commonly used in single-use plastic water bottles.¹⁴ The Products' bottle caps are made of polypropylene (PP, #5 plastic) or high-density polyethylene (HDPE, #2 plastic). Finally, the Products' labels are made from biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP), a form of PP.

24. Throughout the class period, Defendants have consistently marketed on the Products' packages that they are "100% Recyclable":

¹² WasteDive, *How Recycling Has Changed In All 50 States*, <https://www.wastedive.com/news/what-chinese-import-policies-mean-for-all-50-states/510751/> (last accessed July 16, 2021).

¹³ The Guardian, *Americans' Plastic Recycling is Dumped in Landfills, Investigation Shows*, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jun/21/us-plastic-recycling-landfills> (last accessed July 16, 2021).

¹⁴ PathWater, *PET, the "Safe" Plastic*, [https://drinkpathwater.com/blogs/news/is-pet-plastic-bpa-free#:~:text=PET%20plastic%20\(polyethylene%20terephthalate\)%20is,and%20inability%20to%20process%20stres](https://drinkpathwater.com/blogs/news/is-pet-plastic-bpa-free#:~:text=PET%20plastic%20(polyethylene%20terephthalate)%20is,and%20inability%20to%20process%20stres) (last accessed July 16, 2021).







25. Greenpeace USA, a non-profit environmental organization, recently conducted a comprehensive survey of plastic product waste recycling and reprocessing in the United States in order to determine the legitimacy of “recyclable” claims on labels for consumer plastic products.

26. It is true that PET and HDPE are widely considered to be the “most recyclable” forms of plastic. However, Greenpeace’s survey found that as of 2017, United States domestic MRFs only have the capacity to process into plastic resin approximately: (i) 22.5% of the total post-consumer PET plastic waste generated; and (ii) 12% of the total post-consumer HDPE plastic waste generated.¹⁵

¹⁵ Greenpeace, *Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastic Recyclability*, <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Greenpeace-Report-Circular-Claims-Fall-Flat.pdf> (Last accessed July 16, 2021), at page 10.

27. Moreover, due to contamination and processing losses, about a third of the collected PET and HDPE material processed by MRFs cannot be converted into “clean flake,” and is instead, landfilled and incinerated.¹⁶ Thus, the Products’ PET bottles and HDPE bottle caps are not “100% Recyclable” as claimed by Defendants.

28. Furthermore, PP and BOPP plastics, the materials used to make the Products’ bottle caps and film labels, respectively, are widely considered to be among the *least* recyclable plastics.¹⁷ ¹⁸ Thus, acceptance by an MRF of PP and BOPP plastics is not proof that the materials will actually be recycled into a new product.¹⁹ Instead, the majority of PP and BOPP sent to recycling facilities incinerated or sent to landfills. Accordingly, the Products’ caps and labels are not “100% Recyclable.”

29. Pursuant to the Guides for use of Environmental Marketing Claims published the Federal Trade Commission (the “Green Guides”), “[i]t is deceptive to misrepresent, directly or by implication, that a product or package is recyclable. A product or package shall not be marketed as recyclable unless it can be collected, separated, or otherwise recovered from the waste stream through an established recycling program for reuse or use in manufacturing or assembling another item.” 16 C.F.R. § 260.12(a).

30. Thus, “[m]arketers should clearly and prominently qualify recyclable claims to the

¹⁶ Jan Dell, Plastic Pollution Coalition, *Six Times More Plastic Waste is Burned in U.S. than is Recycled*, <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2019/4/29/six-times-more-plastic-waste-is-burned-in-us-than-is-recycled> (Last accessed July 16, 2021).

¹⁷ Greenpeace, *Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastic Recyclability*, <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Greenpeace-Report-Circular-Claims-Fall-Flat.pdf> (Last accessed July 16, 2021), at page 22.

¹⁸ Fast Company, *Evian’s New 100% Recycled Plastic Bottle Comes Without a Label*, <https://www.fastcompany.com/90524283/evians-new-100-recycled-plastic-bottle-comes-without-a-label> (“Labels [] are made from a different type of plastic than the PET used in bottles. At recycling facilities, bottles are separated from labels and from caps, which are made from a third type of plastic. While labels are technically recyclable, some facilities don’t have the infrastructure to handle it; others don’t bother.”) (Last accessed July 16, 2021).

¹⁹ Greenpeace, *Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastic Recyclability*, <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Greenpeace-Report-Circular-Claims-Fall-Flat.pdf> (Last accessed July 16, 2021), at page 10.

extent necessary to avoid deception about the availability of recycling programs and collection sites to consumers.” 16 C.F.R. § 260.12(b).

31. The Green Guides are clear: “if any component significantly limits the ability to recycle the item, any recyclable claim would be deceptive. An item that is made from recyclable material, but because of its shape, size or some other attribute is not accepted in recycling programs, should not be marketed as recyclable.” 16 C.F.R. § 260.12(d).

32. In promulgating the current recycling definition, the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) clarified that “[f]or a product to be called recyclable, there must be an established recycling program, municipal or private, through which the product *will be converted into, or used in, another product or package*. See 63 Fed. Reg. 84 11 24247 (May 1, 1998) (emphasis added). As the FTC has stated, “while a product may be technically recyclable, if a program is not available allowing consumers to recycle the product, there is no real value to consumers.” *Id.*, at 24243.

33. Seeking to take advantage of consumer’s concerns, Defendants market and sell bottled water as “100% recyclable,” when the bottles cannot, in fact, be recycled as packaged.

34. This Complaint therefore seeks to remedy Defendants’ deceptive and misleading business practices with respect to the advertising, marketing and sales of the Products as “100% recyclable,” when, in fact, they are not.

35. Plaintiff purchased the Products in reliance on Defendants’ false representations on the labels of the Products that the Products are “100% recyclable.” If Plaintiff had known that the Products were not 100% recyclable, Plaintiff would not have purchased the Products on the same terms.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

36. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class defined as all persons in the State of New Jersey who purchased the Products (the “Class”). Excluded from the Class are governmental entities, Defendant, Defendant’s affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, employees, officers, directors, and anyone who purchased the Products for resale. Also excluded is any judicial officer presiding over this matter and the members of their immediate families and judicial staff.

37. Subject to additional information obtained through further investigation and discovery, the foregoing definition of the Class may be expanded or narrowed by amendment or amended complaint.

38. **Numerosity.** The members of the Class are geographically dispersed throughout the State of New Jersey and are so numerous that individual joinder is impracticable. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff reasonably estimates that there are tens of thousands of members in the Class. Although the precise number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff, the true number of Class members is known by Defendant and/or third-party retailers and may be determined through discovery. Class members may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail and/or publication through the distribution records of Defendant and third-party retailers and vendors.

39. **Existence and predominance of common questions of law and fact.** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. These common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Whether Defendants’ Products are “100% Recyclable;”
- (b) Whether Defendants misleadingly and/or deceptively represented that the Products are “100% Recyclable” and/or failed to inform class members that the Products are not “100% Recyclable”;

- (c) Whether Defendant's labeling, marketing, and promotion of the Products is false and misleading;
- (d) Whether Defendant's conduct was fraudulent and/or amounts to negligent misrepresentation; and,
- (e) Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages with respect to the common-law claims asserted, and if so, the proper measure of their damages.

40. **Typicality.** The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of other members of the Class in that the named Plaintiff was exposed to Defendants' false and misleading marketing, purchased the Products, and suffered a loss as a result of that purchase.

41. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class because her interests do not conflict with the interests of the Class members she seeks to represent, she has retained competent counsel that is highly experienced in complex consumer class action litigation, and Plaintiff intends to vigorously prosecute this action on behalf of the Class. Furthermore, Plaintiff has no interests that are antagonistic to those of the Class.

42. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to all other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The damages or other financial detriment suffered by individual Class members is relatively small compared to the burden and expense of individual litigation of their claims against Defendant. It would, thus, be virtually impossible for the Class, on an individual basis, to obtain effective redress for the wrongs committed against them. Furthermore, even if Class members could afford such individualized litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation would create the danger of inconsistent or contradictory judgments arising from the same set of facts. Individualized litigation would also increase the delay and expense to all parties and the court system from the issues raised by this action. By contrast, the class action device provides the benefits of adjudication of these issues in a single proceeding, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court, and presents no

unusual management difficulties under the circumstances.

COUNT I

Violations of New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 56:8-1, et seq. (on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

43. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

44. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the Class against Defendants.

45. Plaintiff and Class members have suffered an injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendants' violations of New Jersey's Consumer Fraud Act ("NJCFA").

46. The NJCFA protects consumers from "any unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, or the knowing, concealment, suppression, or omission, in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise" N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-2.

47. Defendant misrepresented the Products as "100% Recyclable", when in fact the Products are not completely recyclable.

48. Defendants engaged in unlawful conduct by deliberately and knowingly engaging in misleading, deceptive, and false statements regarding the Products in the course of Defendant's business. Specifically, Defendants represented that the Products are "100% Recyclable," when in fact they are not. Had Defendants not engaged in these misleading, deceptive and false statements, Plaintiff and Class members would not have purchased the Products on the same terms and would have paid substantially less for the Products.

49. Defendants also knowingly concealed, suppressed, and omitted material facts about the recyclability of the Products. Specifically, Defendants knew, or reasonably should have known, that the Products were not 100% recyclable. However, Defendants failed to disclose this

material fact to Plaintiff and the Class members at the time of purchase. Had Plaintiff and Class members known these material facts, they would have been aware that the Products were not 100% recyclable and would not have paid a premium price for the Products.

50. The Plaintiff and Class members suffered ascertainable loss and actual damages as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' concealment, misrepresentations, and/or failure to disclose material information in that Plaintiff and Class members would not have purchased the Products on the same terms had they known the truth about the Products. Specifically, Plaintiff and Class members were damaged by the difference in value of the Products as represented versus the value of the Products received, in an amount to be determined through expert testimony and at trial.

51. Pursuant to N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-19, the New Jersey Plaintiff and Class Members seek an order enjoining Defendant's unfair or deceptive acts or practices and awarding damages and any other just and proper relief available under the NJCFA.

52. In accordance with N.J. Stat. Ann. § 56:8-20, a copy of this complaint will be sent to the Attorney General within ten (10) days of filing the same.

COUNT II
Fraud (on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

53. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

54. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of members of the Class against Defendants.

55. As discussed above, Defendants misrepresented on the Products' labeling that it was "100% Recyclable," when in fact they are not.

56. Defendants also engaged in material omissions because they knew, or reasonably

should have known, that the Products were not, in fact, 100% recyclable.

57. The false and misleading representations and omissions were made with knowledge of their falsehood. Nonetheless, Defendants continue to sell their non-recyclable Products to unsuspecting consumers.

58. The false and misleading representations and omissions were made by Defendants, upon which Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class reasonably and justifiably relied, and were intended to induce and actually induced Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class to purchase the Products.

59. The fraudulent actions of Defendants caused damage to Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class because Plaintiff and Class members would not have purchased the Products on the same terms if they had known the truth about the Products.

60. Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to damages, punitive damages, and other legal and equitable relief as a result of Defendants' conduct.

COUNT III
Negligent Misrepresentation (on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

61. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

62. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of members of the Class against Defendants.

63. In representing that the Products were "100% Recyclable," Defendants negligently provided false information to Plaintiff and Class members because the Products were not, in fact, 100% Recyclable.

64. Plaintiff and Class members were reasonably foreseeable recipients of the false information promulgated by Defendants because Plaintiff and Class members were the intended

purchasers of the Products. Defendants' labels were designed to advertise the Products to consumers like Plaintiff and Class members.

65. Plaintiff and Class members justifiably relied on the false information promulgated by Defendants because they reasonably believed that the Products were, in fact, 100% Recyclable, and purchased the Products based on that representation. Had Plaintiff and Class members known the truth about the Products, they would not have purchased the Products on the same terms.

66. The damages asserted by Plaintiff and Class members were proximately caused by the false statements because Plaintiff and Class members reviewed the Products' labeling and representations, specifically the 100% recyclable claim, and chose to purchase the Products based on those false representations.

67. Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result of Defendants' conduct.

COUNT IV
Unjust Enrichment (on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

68. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all proceeding paragraphs of this complaint.

69. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of members of the Class against Defendant.

70. Plaintiff and Class members conferred benefits on Defendant by purchasing the Products.

71. Defendants have knowledge of such benefits.

72. Defendants have been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from Plaintiff's and Class members' purchases of the Products. Retention of moneys under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because Defendant misrepresented that Products were

“100% Recyclable.”

73. Because Defendants’ retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred on it by Plaintiff and Class members is unjust and inequitable, Defendants must pay restitution to Plaintiff and the Class members for their unjust enrichment, as ordered by the Court.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, seeks judgment against Defendants, as follows:

- (a) For an order certifying the Class under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and naming Plaintiff as representative of the Class and Plaintiff’s attorneys as Class Counsel to represent the Class;
- (b) For an order declaring the Defendants’ conduct violates the statutes referenced herein;
- (c) For an order finding in favor of Plaintiff and the Class on all counts asserted herein;
- (d) For compensatory, statutory, and punitive damages in amounts to be determined by the Court and/or jury;
- (e) For prejudgment interest in all amounts awarded;
- (f) For an order of restitution and all other forms of equitable monetary relief;
- (g) For an order enjoining Defendants from continuing the illegal practices detailed herein and compelling Defendants to undertake a corrective advertising campaign; and
- (h) For an order awarding Plaintiff and the Class their reasonable attorney’s fees, expenses, and costs of suit.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of any and all issues in this action so triable of right.

[signature block on following page]

Dated: July 20, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

By: /s/ Andrew Obergfell
Andrew Obergfell

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CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Sharon Haggerty, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Warren County, NJ
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Andrew Obergfell, Bursor & Fisher, P.A., 888 Seventh Avenue,
New York, NY 10019, (646) 837-7150

DEFENDANTS

BlueTriton Brands, Inc. and Niagara Bottling, LLC

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Fairfield County, CT
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A)

Brief description of cause:

This is a class action on behalf of purchasers of Defendants' bottled water products based on misleading recyclability claims

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☒ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$5,000,000 CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE

07/20/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Andrew Obergfell

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
 - (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Class Action Claims Popular Water Bottle Brands Not '100% Recyclable' As Represented on Labels](#)
