

May 5, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Attorney General Charity Clark Office of the Vermont Attorney General 109 State Street Montpelier, VT 05609 ago.info@vermont.gov Assistant Attorney General Christopher Curtis Office of the Vermont Attorney General 109 State Street Montpelier, VT 05609 christopher.curtis@vermont.gov

Re: U-Haul's Deceptive Price Advertising and Fee Scheme

Dear Attorney General Clark and Attorney Curtis:

A recent Truth in Advertising, Inc. ("TINA.org") investigation into U-Haul Holding Company and its subsidiary U-Haul International, Inc. (collectively "U-Haul") has revealed a multifaceted, deceptive bait-and-switch pricing scheme that hides the true cost of its rentals by omitting mandatory fees and charges from advertised pricing. This results in consumers being charged more than they bargained for, in violation of Vermont law.<sup>1</sup>

TINA.org has filed a complaint regarding U-Haul's marketing and business practices with the Federal Trade Commission (attached), but we bring this matter to your attention because of Vermont's dedication to addressing junk fees<sup>2</sup> and because Vermont consumers are being impacted by U-Haul's deception.<sup>3</sup>

As such, TINA.org urges your office to open an investigation into U-Haul and take appropriate enforcement action.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Laura Smith, Esq. Legal Director Truth in Advertising, Inc.

Bonnie Patten, Esq. Executive Director Truth in Advertising, Inc.

Attachment Cc via email: Kristine Campbell, General Counsel, U-Haul <sup>1</sup> Vt. Stat. tit. 9, § 2453.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., State Attorneys General Comment Letter to FTC regarding Unfair or Deceptive Fees NPRM, R207011 (Feb. 7, 2024), <u>https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024.2.7-Comment-of-19-State-AGs-Unfair-or-Deceptive-Fees-Trade-Regulation-RuleFinal.pdf</u>.

<sup>3</sup> The mandatory fees and optional costs outlined in TINA.org's complaint to the FTC (attached) are imposed at U-Haul dealerships throughout the United States, including in Vermont.