



January 26, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Attorney General Rob Bonta
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Deputy Attorney General Daniel Osborn
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California Attorney General's Office
Consumer Protection Section
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Re: Keurig's Deceptive "Recyclable" K-Cup Pod Campaign

Dear Attorney General Bonta, Deputy Attorney General Osborn, and Deputy Attorney General Rumsey:

A recent Truth in Advertising, Inc. ("TINA.org") investigation has found that Keurig Dr Pepper Inc. ("Keurig") is deceptively labeling and advertising its K-Cup single use beverage pods as "recyclable" despite the fact that a substantial majority of consumers are not able to recycle them. Due to their small size, irregular shape, multi-material construction, frequent contamination issues and unfavorable economic considerations, K-Cup pods are not recycled by the vast majority of existing recycling centers across the United States.



Despite these facts, Keurig markets its K-Cup pods as "recyclable" because they contain polypropylene #5 plastic, but in so doing, the company relies on a purely theoretical definition of recyclability. This deceptive marketing strategy allows Keurig to exploit consumer demand for environmentally responsible products, disadvantage honest competitors and undermine fair competition, all in violation of California law.¹

TINA.org has filed a complaint regarding Keurig's marketing with the Federal Trade Commission (attached), but we bring this matter to your attention as well not only because California consumers are being impacted by Keurig's deception but also because of California's dedication to addressing greenwashing.²

We urge your office to open an investigation into Keurig and take appropriate enforcement action.³

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.

Cc via email: Anthony Shoemaker, Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel, KDP

¹ Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, 17500; Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 42355.51 (SB 343).

² See e.g., Comment regarding FTC's Green Guides, Matter No. P954501 (Apr. 24, 2023), <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Comments%20to%20FTC%20re%20Green%20Guides%204.24.23.pdf>; Press Release, Cal. Att'y Gen., Attorney General Bonta Co-Leads Multistate Coalition Urging the FTC to Strengthen Environmental Marketing Standards (Apr. 25, 2023), <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-co-leads-multistate-coalition-urging-ftc-strengthen>; Comments regarding EPA's Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution (July 31, 2023), <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/EPA%20Draft%20Plastics%20Strategy%20Comment%20Letter%20%28Final%2BBookmarks%29.pdf>; Press Release, Attorney General Bonta Sues ExxonMobil for Deceiving the Public on Recyclability of Plastic Products (Sept. 23, 2024), <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-sues-exxonmobil-deceiving-public-recyclability-plastic>; Press Release, Attorney General Bonta Demands Manufacturers of Plastic Bags Substantiate Recyclability Claims (Nov. 2, 2022), <http://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-demands-manufacturers-plastic-bags-substantiate>; Greenwashing, Cal. Att'y Gen., <https://oag.ca.gov/environment/greenwashing>.

³ TINA.org has also notified regulators in the district of Los Angeles, as well as in Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.