



January 26, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Susan Ellis, Chief, Consumer Protection Division
Matthew J. Dunn, Chief, Environmental Enforcement
Elizabeth Dubats, Assistant Attorney General
Illinois Attorney General's Office
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Re: Keurig's Deceptive "Recyclable" K-Cup Pod Campaign

Dear Chief Ellis, Chief Dunn, and Assistant Attorney General Dubats:

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 Illinois 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 Illinois consumers are being impacted by Keurig's deception but also because of Illinois'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

¹ 815 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 505/2.

² See e.g., Comment regarding FTC's Green Guides, Matter No. P954501 (Apr. 24, 2023), <https://www.mass.gov/doc/multistate-letter-and-comments-to-federal-trade-commission-re-green-guides/download>; Press Release, Raoul and Coalition Call for Higher Benchmarks for Green Guides Standards on Environmental Advertising to Prohibit Deceptive Marketing to Consumers (Apr. 25, 2023), <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/news/story/attorney-general-raoul-encourages-the-ftc-to-strengthen-environmental-marketing-standards>.

³ TINA.org has also notified regulators in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.