

THE WESTON FIRM
GREGORY S. WESTON (239944)
greg@westonfirm.com
1405 Morena Blvd., Suite 201
San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: (619) 798-2006
Facsimile: (480) 247-4553

Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class

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

Case No: _____

TROY WALKER, on behalf of himself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CONAGRA FOODS INC.,

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF:
CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§17200 *et seq.*;
CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§17500 *et seq.*;
CAL. CIV. CODE §§ 1750 *et seq.*;
BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTIES; AND
BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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XVI. APPENDIX A: LIST OF POPCORN SNACKS FREE OF TRANS FAT I

1 Plaintiff Troy Walker (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself, all others similarly situated, and the
2 general public, by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby sues Defendant ConAgra Foods, Inc.
3 (“ConAgra” or “Defendant”), and upon information and belief and investigation of counsel, alleges as
4 follows:

5 **I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6 1. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) (the
7 Class Action Fairness Act) because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000
8 exclusive of interest and costs and because more than two-thirds of the members of the class defined
9 herein reside in states other than the states of which ConAgra is a resident.

10 2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Plaintiff Troy
11 Walker suffered injuries as a result of Defendant’s acts in this District, many of the acts and
12 transactions giving rise to this action occurred in this District, and Defendant: (1) is authorized to
13 conduct business in this District and has intentionally availed itself of the laws and markets of this
14 District through the distribution and sale of its products in this District, and (2) is subject to personal
15 jurisdiction in this District.

16 **II. INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

17 3. This civil action arises out of the events and omissions of Defendant ConAgra, which
18 occurred in Alameda County, California. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2(c), this action should be
19 assigned to the San Francisco or Oakland Division.

20 **III. NATURE OF THE ACTION**

21 4. ConAgra manufactures, markets, and sells caramel popcorn snacks containing partially
22 hydrogenated oil (“PHO”) under the brand name Crunch ‘n Munch.

23 5. PHO is a food additive banned in many parts of the world due to its artificial trans fat
24 content. Artificial trans fat is a toxic carcinogen for which there are many safe and commercially viable
25 substitutes. Indeed, the FDA has concluded PHO is unfit for use in food and is in the process of
26 banning it.

27 6. ConAgra falsely markets and falsely represents Crunch ‘n Munch as free of trans fat;
28 however all varieties of Crunch ‘n Munch contain dangerous levels of trans fat.

1 7. Although safe, low-cost, and commercially acceptable alternatives to PHO exist,
2 including those used in competing brands and even in other ConAgra products, ConAgra unfairly elects
3 *not* to use safe alternatives in Crunch ‘n Munch in order to increase its profits at the expense of the
4 health of consumers.

5 8. Additionally, Defendant misleadingly markets Crunch ‘n Munch with a false and
6 unauthorized health claim. This false advertising deceives consumers into purchasing a product that is
7 harmful to their health.

8 9. Plaintiff Troy Walker repeatedly purchased and consumed Crunch ‘n Munch during the
9 Class Period defined herein.

10 10. This action is brought to remedy Defendant’s unlawful conduct. On behalf of the class
11 as defined herein, Plaintiff seeks an order compelling Defendant to, *inter alia*: (1) cease marketing and
12 selling Crunch ‘n Munch using the false and unauthorized health claim “0g Trans Fat”; (2) conduct a
13 corrective advertising campaign; (3) destroy all misleading or misbranded materials; (4) award Plaintiff
14 and other Class members restitution, actual damages, and punitive damages to the extent permitted
15 under the law; and (5) pay costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney fees.

16 **IV. PARTIES**

17 11. Defendant ConAgra is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in
18 Omaha, Nebraska. ConAgra owns, manufactures, and sells Crunch ‘n Munch.

19 12. Plaintiff Troy Walker is a citizen of California who repeatedly purchased Crunch ‘n
20 Munch for personal and household consumption in Alameda County, California, as well as other parts
21 of Northern California.

22 **V. NATURE OF TRANS FAT**

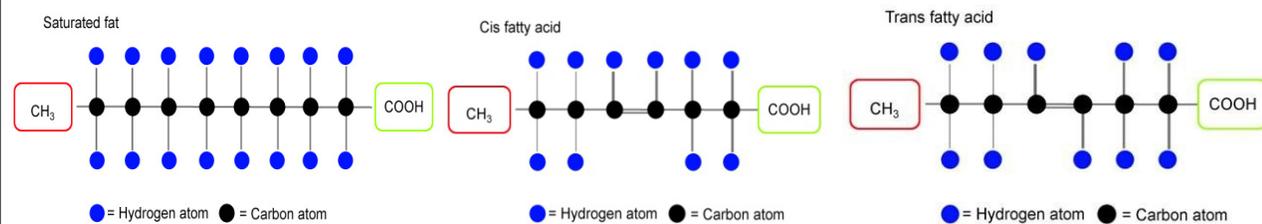
23 13. Artificial trans fat is manufactured via an industrial process called partial hydrogenation,
24 in which hydrogen atoms are added to normal vegetable oil by heating the oil to temperatures above
25 400°F in the presence of ion donor catalyst metals such as rhodium, ruthenium, and nickel.¹ The
26

27 ¹ See Alice H. Lichtenstein, *Trans Fatty Acids, Plasma Lipid Levels, and Risk of Developing*
28 *Cardiovascular Disease*, 95 CIRCULATION 2588, 2588-90 (1997).

1 resulting product is known as partially hydrogenated oil, or PHO, which is the main source of trans fat
2 in the American diet and used in dangerous quantities in Crunch ‘n Munch.

3 14. PHO was invented in 1901 and patented in 1902 by German chemist Wilhelm Normann.
4 PHO molecules differ from natural fat molecules.²

5 15. Natural fat, except the trace amounts of natural trans fat from ruminant animals, comes
6 in two varieties: (1) fats that lack carbon double bonds (“saturated fat”) and (2) fats that have carbon
7 double bonds with the hydrogen atoms on the same side on the carbon chain (“cis fat”). Trans fat,
8 however, has carbon double bonds with hydrogen atoms on opposite sides of the carbon chain.



13 16. PHO was initially marketed as a “wonder product” attractive to the packaged food
14 industry because it combines the low cost of unsaturated cis fat with the flexibility and long shelf life of
15 saturated fat. Like cis fat, PHO is manufactured from low-cost grains and legumes,³ while saturated fat
16 is derived from relatively expensive animal and tropical plant sources.⁴ Given its versatility, ten years
17 ago PHO was used in 40% of processed packaged foods.⁵ Now, due to its toxic properties, few food
18 companies continue to use PHO. Defendant, however, has decided not to join its more responsible
19 peers and cease using PHO, instead unfairly placing profits over public health.

20 17. PHO causes cardiovascular heart disease, diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, and
21

22 ² See Alberto Ascherio et al., *Trans Fatty Acids & Coronary Heart Disease*, 340 NEW ENG. J. MED. 94,
23 94-8 (1999). See also Ctr. for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food & Drug Admin., Questions
24 & Answers About *Trans* Fat Nutrition Labeling (Update 2006) (2003), available at
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/%7Edms/qatrans2.html>.

25 ³ e.g., corn oil, soybean oil, peanut oil

26 ⁴ e.g., butter, cream, tallow, palm, coconut oil

27 ⁵ Mary Carmichael, *The Skinny on Bad Fat*, Newsweek, Dec. 1, 2003, at 66. See also Kim Severson,
28 *Hidden Killer. It’s Trans Fat. It’s Dangerous. And It’s In Food You Eat Every Day*, S.F. Chron., Jan.
30, 2002.

1 accelerates cognitive decline in diabetics.

2 **A. There is a Well-Established Scientific Consensus That Trans Fat is Extremely Harmful**

3 18. There is “no safe level” of artificial trans fat intake.⁶

4 19. According to the established consensus of scientists, consumers should keep their
5 consumption of trans fat “as low as possible.”⁷

6 20. In addition, “trans fatty acids are not essential and provide no known benefit to human
7 health.”⁸ Thus, while “the [Institute of Medicine] sets tolerable upper intake levels (UL) for the highest
8 level of daily nutrient intake that is likely to pose no risk of adverse health effects to almost all
9 individuals in the general population[,] . . . the IOM does **not** set a UL for trans fatty acid because **any**
10 incremental increase in trans fatty acid intake increases the risk of CHD.”⁹ (emphasis added).

11 21. Dariush Mozaffarian of Harvard Medical School writes in the New England Journal of
12 Medicine:

13 [F]rom a nutritional standpoint, the consumption of trans fatty acids results in
14 considerable potential harm but no apparent benefit. . . . Thus, complete or near-
15 complete avoidance of industrially produced trans fat—a consumption of less than
16 0.5 percent of the total energy intake—may be necessary to avoid adverse effects
17 and would be prudent to minimize health risks.¹⁰

18 22. Today there is no question about the scientific consensus on trans fat. Dr. Julie Louise
19 Gerberding, former director of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, writes:

20 The scientific rationale for eliminating exposure to artificial trans fatty acids in foods
21 is rock solid. There is no evidence that they provide any health benefit, and they are

22 ⁶ Food & Nutrition Bd., Inst. of Med., *Dietary Reference Intakes For Energy, Carbohydrate, Fiber,*
23 *Fat, Fatty Acids, Cholesterol, Protein, and Amino Acids* (2005).

24 ⁷ *Id.*

25 ⁸ Food Labeling; Health Claim; Phytosterols and Risk of Coronary Heart Disease; Proposed Rule, 75
26 Fed. Reg. 76526, 76542 (Dec. 8, 2010)

26 ⁹ *Id.*

27 ¹⁰ Dariush Mozaffarian et al., *Trans Fatty Acids and Cardiovascular Disease*, 354 N. ENGL. J. MED.
28 1601, 1608-09 (2006).

1 certainly harmful. These compounds adversely affect both low- and high-density
2 lipoprotein cholesterol levels and increase the risk for coronary heart disease, even at
3 relatively low levels of dietary intake. Gram for gram, trans fats are far more potent
4 than saturated fats in increasing the risk for heart disease, perhaps because they also
5 have pro-inflammatory properties and other adverse effects on vascular endothelium.
6 The strong evidence of harm motivated the Institute of Medicine to issue
7 recommendations that the intake of trans fats be minimized and prompted the [FDA]
8 to require the addition of information about trans fat content to food labels beginning
9 in 2006. Eliminating exposure to these dangerous fats could have a powerful
10 population impact—potentially protecting 30,000 to 100,000 Americans from death
11 related to heart disease each year.¹¹

12 23. Dr. Mozaffarian further writes:

13 Given the adverse effects of trans fatty acids on serum lipid levels, systemic
14 inflammation, and possibly other risk factors for cardiovascular disease and the
15 positive associations with the risk of CHD, sudden death from cardiac causes, and
16 possibly diabetes, the potential for harm is clear. The evidence and the magnitude of
17 adverse health effects of trans fatty acids are in fact far stronger on average than
18 those of food contaminants or pesticide residues, which have in some cases received
19 considerable attention.¹²

20 24. Given it is as an artificial chemical not naturally found in food, and the great harm that it
21 causes to human health, Dr. Walter Willett, also at Harvard Medical School, finds the most direct
22 analogue of industrial trans fat to be not any natural fat but contaminants such as pesticides. He states
23 that trans fat “is a food safety issue . . . this is actually contamination.”¹³

24 _____
25 ¹¹ Julie Louise Gerberding, *Safer Fats for Healthier Hearts: The Case for Eliminating Dietary Artificial*
Trans Fat Intake, 151 ANN. INTERN. MED. 137-38 (2009)

26 ¹² Dariush Mozaffarian et al., *Trans Fatty Acids and Cardiovascular Disease*, 354 N. ENGL. J. MED.
27 1601 (2006).

28 ¹³ Rebecca Coombes, *Trans fats: chasing a global ban*, 343 BRITISH MED. J. (2011).

1 **B. Artificial Trans Fat Is So Inherently Dangerous It Has Been Banned by an Increasing**
2 **Number of American and European Jurisdictions**

3 25. In 2008, California became the first state to ban all restaurant food with any ingredient
4 containing at least 0.5 grams per serving of artificial trans fat. A similar rule applies in the state's
5 schools including private schools.¹⁴

6 26. New York City banned trans fat in thousands of food establishments in 2006. Similar
7 laws exist in Philadelphia; Baltimore; Stamford, Connecticut; and Montgomery County, Maryland.

8 27. A 2004 Danish law restricted all foods to under 2 percent of fat calories from artificial
9 trans fat. Switzerland made the same restriction in 2008.¹⁵

10 28. After conducting a surveillance study of Denmark's trans fat ban, researchers concluded
11 the change "did not appreciably affect the quality, cost or availability of food" and did not have "any
12 noticeable effect for the consumers."¹⁶ This proves that even eleven years ago, food companies were
13 perfectly capable of refraining from adding trans fat to their products.

14 29. Similar bans have been introduced in Austria and Hungary. Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and
15 South Africa have all taken steps to reduce or ban artificial trans fats from food.¹⁷

16 30. In 2006, a trans fat task force co-chaired by Health Canada and the Heart and Stroke
17 Foundation of Canada recommended capping trans fat content at 2 percent of calories for tub
18 margarines and spreads and 5 percent for all other foods. On September 30, 2009, British Columbia
19 became the first province to impose these rules on all restaurants, schools, hospitals, and special
20 events.¹⁸

21 _____
22 ¹⁴ Cal. Educ. Code § 49431.7; Cal. Health & Saf. Code § 114377.

23 ¹⁵ Andrew Collier, *Deadly Fats: Why Are We still Eating Them?*, The Independent (UK), June 10,
2008.

24 ¹⁶ Mozaffarian, 354 New Eng. J. Med. at 1610; *see also* Stender, Steen, *High Levels of Industrially*
25 *Produced Trans Fat in Popular Fast Food*, 354 NEW ENG. J. MED. 1650, 1652 (2006).

26 ¹⁷ Coombes, *Trans fats: chasing a global ban*, 343 BRITISH MED. J. (2011).

27 ¹⁸ *Province Restricts Trans Fat in B.C.*, British Columbia Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport Press
28 Release (2009), available at http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2009HLS0013-000315.htm.

1 31. In its European Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-2020, the World Health
 2 Organization identified one of its goals as “making the European Region trans fat-free.”¹⁹ The
 3 European Commission is preparing legislation to ban the use of trans fats in the European Union, with a
 4 legislative report on a ban that would cover most of Europe anticipated in June 2015.²⁰

5 **C. The Artificial Trans Fat in Crunch ‘n Munch Causes Cardiovascular Disease**

6 32. Trans fat raises the risk of Coronary Heart Disease (“CHD”) more than any other known
 7 nutritive product.²¹

8 33. Removing trans fat equivalent to 2% of total calories from the American diet “would
 9 prevent approximately 30,000 premature coronary deaths per year, and epidemiologic evidence
 10 suggests this number is closer to 100,000 premature deaths annually.”²²

11 34. “10 to 19 percent of CHD events in the United States could be averted by reducing the
 12 intake of trans fat.”²³

13 35. By raising LDL levels and lowering HDL levels, trans fat causes a wide variety of
 14 dangerous heart conditions, including low flow-mediated vasodilation, coronary artery disease, and
 15 primary cardiac arrest.

16 36. In a joint Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Report, the Department of Health and
 17 Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognized “[t]he relationship between trans
 18 fatty acid intake and LDL cholesterol is direct and progressive, increasing the risk of cardiovascular
 19 disease.”²⁴

20 37. The American Heart Association warns, “trans fats raise your bad (LDL) cholesterol
 21

22 ¹⁹ Regional Committee for Europe, *European Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-2020*, 64th session.

23 ²⁰ Basu, J. *European trans fat report ‘could lead to ban’*, Food Navigator.com, April 15, 2015.

24 ²¹ Mozaffarian, 354 NEW ENG. J. MED. at 1603.

25 ²² Alberto Ascherio et al., *Trans Fatty Acids & Coronary Heart Disease*, 340 NEW ENG. J. MED. 94, 94-
 8 (1999).

26 ²³ Mozaffarian, 354 NEW ENG. J. MED. at 1611.

27 ²⁴ Dep’t of Health & Human Serv. & U.S. Dep’t of Agric., 2005 Dietary Guidelines Advisory
 28 Committee Report, Section 10 (2005).

1 levels and lower your good (HDL) cholesterol levels. Eating trans fats increases your risk of developing
2 heart disease.”²⁵

3 38. After a review of literature on the connection between the consumption of artificial trans
4 fat and coronary heart disease, the FDA concluded:

5 [B]ased on the consistent results across a number of the most persuasive types of
6 study designs (i.e., intervention trials and prospective cohort studies) that were
7 conducted using a range of test conditions and across different geographical regions
8 and populations . . . the available evidence for an adverse relationship between trans
9 fat intake and CHD risk is strong.²⁶

10 39. The FDA further found “[t]o date, there have been no reports issued by authoritative
11 sources that provide a level of trans fat in the diet . . . below which there is no risk of [Coronary Heart
12 Disease].”²⁷ Rather, there “is a positive linear trend between trans fatty acid intake and LDL cholesterol
13 concentration, and therefore there is a positive relationship between trans fatty acid intake and the risk
14 of CHD.”²⁸

15 40. A study investigating the impact of trans fatty acids on heart health provides evidence
16 that:

17 [E]ven the lower estimates from the effects [of PHO] on blood lipids would suggest
18 that more than 30,000 deaths per year may be due to the consumption of partially
19 hydrogenated vegetable fat. Furthermore, the number of attributable cases of
20 nonfatal coronary heart disease will be even larger.²⁹

21 _____
22 ²⁵ Am. Heart Ass’n., *Trans Fat Overview*, available at
23 [http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/FatsAndOils/Fats101/Trans-](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/FatsAndOils/Fats101/Trans-Fats_UCM_301120_Article.jsp)
24 [Fats_UCM_301120_Article.jsp](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/FatsAndOils/Fats101/Trans-Fats_UCM_301120_Article.jsp).

24 ²⁶ Ctr. for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food & Drug Admin., *Questions & Answers About
25 Trans Fat Nutrition Labeling*.

25 ²⁷ 75 Fed. Reg. 76526, 76542 (Dec. 8, 2010).

26 ²⁸ *Id.*

27 ²⁹ W.C. Willett et al., *Trans Fatty Acids: Are the Effects only Marginal?* 84 AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 722,
28 723 (1994).

1 41. By taking blood samples from 179 survivors of cardiac arrest and 285 randomly-selected
 2 control patients and comparing the top fifth with the bottom fifth of participants by trans fat intake,
 3 another study published in the American Heart Association's Circulation found that the largest
 4 consumers of trans fat have three times the risk of suffering primary cardiac arrest, even after
 5 controlling for a variety of medical and lifestyle risk factors.³⁰

6 42. Australian researchers observed that heart attack patients possess elevated amounts of
 7 trans fat in their adipose tissue compared to controls, strongly linking heart disease with long-term
 8 consumption of trans fat.³¹

9 43. Another separate study isolated one of the methods by which trans fat causes
 10 atherosclerosis, namely by degrading the function of TGF- β , a protein responsible for preventing the
 11 development of atherosclerotic lesions.³²

12 44. TGF- β also functions to suppress cancerous tumors. The same scientists suggest that the
 13 degradation of TGF- β may be the reason that trans fat consumption is strongly linked to multiple forms
 14 of cancer.³³

15 **D. The Artificial Trans Fat in Crunch 'n Munch Causes Type-2 Diabetes**

16 45. Artificial trans fat causes type-2 diabetes.³⁴

17 46. In particular, trans fat disrupts the body's glucose and insulin regulation system by
 18 incorporating itself into cell membranes, causing the insulin receptors on cell walls to malfunction, and
 19 in turn elevating blood glucose levels and stimulating further release of insulin.

20 47. Researchers at Northwestern University's medical school found mice show multiple
 21

22 ³⁰ Rozenn N. Lemaitre et al., *Cell Membrane Trans-Fatty Acids and the Risk of Primary Cardiac*
 23 *Arrest*, 105 CIRCULATION 697, 697-701 (2002).

24 ³¹ Peter M. Clifton et al., *Trans Fatty Acids In Adipose Tissue And The Food Supply Are Associated*
 25 *With Myocardial Infarction*. 134 J. NUTR. 874, 874-79 (2004).

26 ³² Chen, C.L. et al., *A mechanism by which dietary trans fats cause atherosclerosis*, J. of Nut.
 27 *Biochemistry* 22(7) 649-655 (2011).

28 ³³ *Id.*

³⁴ Am. Heart Ass'n., *Trans Fat Overview*.

1 markers of type-2 diabetes after eating a high trans fat diet for only four weeks.³⁵

2 48. By the eighth week of the study, mice fed the diet high in trans fat showed a 500%
3 increase compared to the control group in hepatic interleukin-1 β gene expression, one such marker of
4 diabetes, indicating the extreme stress artificial trans fat places on the body.³⁶

5 49. A 14-year study of 84,204 women found that for every 2 percent increase in energy
6 intake from artificial trans fat, the relative risk of type-2 diabetes was increased by 39 percent.³⁷

7 **E. The Artificial Trans Fat in Crunch ‘n Munch Causes Breast, Prostate, and Colorectal**
8 **Cancer**

9 50. Trans fat is a carcinogen which causes breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer.

10 51. A 13-year study of 19,934 French women showed 75 percent more women contracted
11 breast cancer in the highest quintile of trans fat consumption than did those in the lowest.³⁸

12 52. In a 25-year study of 14,916 U.S. physicians, the doctors in the highest quintile of trans
13 fat intake had more than double the risk of developing prostate cancer than the doctors in the lowest
14 quintile.³⁹

15 53. A study of 1,012 American males observing trans fat intake and the risk of prostate
16 cancer found “[c]ompared with the lowest quartile of total trans-fatty acid consumption, the higher
17 quartiles gave odds ratios (ORs) equal to 1.58,” meaning those in the highest quartile are 58% more
18 likely to contract prostate cancer than those in the lowest.⁴⁰

19 _____
20 ³⁵ Sean W. P. Koppe et al., *Trans fat feeding results in higher serum alanine aminotransferase and*
21 *increased insulin resistance compared with a standard murine high-fat diet*, 297 AM. J. PHYSIOL.
22 GASTROINTEST LIVER PHYSIOL. 378 (2009).

23 ³⁶ *Id.*

24 ³⁷ Jorge Salmeron et al., *Dietary Fat Intake and Risk of Type 2 Diabetes in Women*, 73 AM. J. CLINICAL
25 NUTRITION 1019, 1023 (2001).

26 ³⁸ Véronique Chajès et al., *Association between Serum Trans-Monounsaturated Fatty Acids and Breast*
27 *Cancer Risk in the E3N-EPIC Study*. 167 AM. J. EPIDEMIOLOGY 1312, 1316 (2008).

28 ³⁹ Jorge Chavarro et al., *A Prospective Study of Blood Trans Fatty Acid Levels and Risk of Prostate*
Cancer., 47 PROC. AM. ASSOC. CANCER RESEARCH 95, 99 (2006).

⁴⁰ Xin Liu et al., *Trans-Fatty Acid Intake and Increased Risk of Advanced Prostate Cancer:*
Modification by RNASEL R462Q Variant, 28 CARCINOGENESIS 1232 (2007).

1 54. A 600-person study found an 86 percent greater risk of colorectal cancer in the highest
2 trans fat consumption quartile.⁴¹

3 55. A 2,910-person study found “trans-monounsaturated fatty acids . . . were dose-
4 dependently associated with colorectal cancer risk,” which showed “the importance of type of fat in the
5 etiology and prevention of colorectal cancer.”⁴²

6 **F. The Artificial Trans Fat in Crunch ‘n Munch Causes Alzheimer’s Disease and Cognitive**
7 **Decline**

8 56. Trans fat causes Alzheimer’s Disease and cognitive decline.

9 57. In a study examining 815 Chicago area seniors, researchers found “increased risk of
10 incident Alzheimer disease among persons with high intakes of . . . trans-unsaturated fats.”⁴³

11 58. The study “observed a strong increased risk of Alzheimer disease with consumption of
12 trans-unsaturated fat.”⁴⁴

13 59. In a study of 1,486 women with type-2 diabetes, researchers found “[h]igher intakes of .
14 . . trans fat since midlife . . . were [] highly associated with worse cognitive decline”⁴⁵

15 60. The study cautioned “[d]ietary fat intake can alter glucose and lipid metabolism and is
16 related to cardiovascular disease risk in individuals with type-2 diabetes. Because insulin, cholesterol,
17 and vascular disease all appear to play important roles in brain aging and cognitive impairments,
18 dietary fat modification may be a particularly effective strategy for preventing cognitive decline,
19 especially in individuals with diabetes.”⁴⁶ (citations omitted).

21 ⁴¹ L.C. Vinikoor et al., *Consumption of Trans-Fatty Acid and its Association with Colorectal*
22 *Adenomas*, 168 Am. J. of Epidemiology 289, 294 (2008).

23 ⁴² Evropi Theodoratou et al., *Dietary Fatty Acids and Colorectal Cancer: A Case-Control Study*, 166
24 AM. J. EPIDEMIOLOGY 181 (2007).

25 ⁴³ Martha Clare Morris et al., *Dietary Fats and the Risk of Incident Alzheimer Disease*, 60 ARCH.
26 NEUROL. 194, 198-199 (2003).

27 ⁴⁴ *Id.*

28 ⁴⁵ Elizabeth E. Devore et al., *Dietary Fat Intake and Cognitive Decline in Women with Type 2 Diabetes*,
32 DIABETES CARE 635 (2009).

⁴⁶ *Id.*

1 61. Artificial trans fat also damages the brains of men who consume it. A study conducted
2 by UCSD School of Medicine of 1,018 men, mostly younger men, found trans fat consumption to be
3 strongly correlated to impaired memory.⁴⁷ The authors of the study, appearing last year in *Circulation*,
4 the American Heart Association’s peer-reviewed journal, conclude that “Greater dTFA [dietary trans
5 fatty acid] was significantly associated with worse word memory in adults aged 20-45 years, often
6 critical years for career building.”

7 62. Performing a word memory test, each additional gram a day of trans fat consumed was
8 associated with 0.76 fewer words correctly recalled. The authors suggest trans fat’s established pro-
9 oxidant effect and damage to cell energy processes is the pathway by which trans fat consumption
10 damages memory ability.⁴⁸

11 **G. The Artificial Trans Fat in Crunch ‘n Munch Causes Damage to Vital Organs**

12 63. Artificial trans fat damages vital organs, including the heart, by causing chronic systemic
13 inflammation, where the immune system becomes persistently overactive, damages cells, and causes
14 organ dysfunction.⁴⁹

15 **VI. PLAINTIFF’S PURCHASES OF CRUNCH ‘N MUNCH**

16 64. Plaintiff Troy Walker repeatedly purchased Crunch ‘n Munch during the Class Period
17 defined herein.

18 65. Mr. Walker purchased Crunch ‘n Munch a number of times from California grocery
19 stores.
20

21 ⁴⁷ Golomb, B. et al., *Trans Fat Consumption is Adversely Linked to Memory in Working-Age Adults*,
CIRCULATION 2014 130:A15572.

22 ⁴⁸ *Id.*

23 ⁴⁹ See Lopez-Garcia et al., *Consumption of Trans Fat is Related to Plasma Markers of Inflammation and*
24 *Endothelial Dysfunction*, 135 J. NUTR. 562 (2005); see also Baer et al., *Dietary fatty acids affect plasma*
25 *markers of inflammation in healthy men fed controlled diets; a randomized crossover study*, 79 AM. J.
26 *CLIN. NUTR.* 969 (2004); Mozaffarian & Clarke, *Quantitative effects on cardiovascular risk factors and*
27 *coronary heart disease risk of replacing partially hydrogenated vegetable oils with other fats and oils*,
63 Euro. J. CLIN. NUTR. 22 (2009); Mozaffarian et al., *Trans Fatty acids and systemic inflammation in*
28 *heart failure* 80 AM. J. CLIN. NUTR. 1521 (2004).



72. This language was part of an intentional campaign to deceptively market Crunch 'n Munch as healthful.

73. Defendant's conduct is especially egregious because popcorn, a classic American snack, contains no trans fat and does not pose the serious health consequences associated with the artificial trans fat in Crunch 'n Munch.

74. Moreover, the "0g Trans Fat" claim is an unauthorized nutrient content claim.

1 **VIII. CRUNCH ‘N MUNCH UNNECESSARILY CONTAINS PHO AND ARTIFICIAL**
2 **TRANS FAT**

3 75. Defendant’s use of PHO in Crunch ‘n Munch is unnecessary. There are several safe
4 substitutes for PHO and artificial trans fat. In fact, Defendant manufactures and distributes other
5 popcorn products with alternative formulations that do not contain artificial trans fat. For example,
6 Defendant manufactures and sells “Orville Redenbacher’s,” “Poppycock,” “Fiddle-Faddle,” and “Act
7 II,” which contain no PHO. Indeed, Defendant’s Fiddle Faddle appears to be identical to Crunch ‘n
8 Munch, except it does not contain dangerous artificial trans fat.

9 76. Similarly, several manufacturers of competing popcorn products have responsibly
10 decided to refrain from adding artificial trans fat to their products. Such brands sold in the United States
11 include Cracker Jack, LesserEvil, and Skinny Pop, among others. A list of such products including
12 specific varieties is identified in Appendix A hereto.

13 77. Although commercially viable alternative formulations and substitutes for PHO were
14 and are available, Defendant elects not to use them in Crunch ‘n Munch in order to increase its profits.

15 **IX. DEFENDANT’S PRACTICES ARE “UNFAIR” WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE**
16 **CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW**

17 78. Defendant’s practices as described herein are “unfair” within the meaning of the
18 California Unfair Competition Law because its conduct is immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, and
19 substantially injurious to consumers, and the utility of the conduct to Defendant does not outweigh the
20 gravity of the harm to Defendant’s victims.

21 79. In particular, while Defendant’s use of PHO in Crunch ‘n Munch may allow Defendant
22 to realize higher profit margins than if it used certain safe natural fats, or processed fats not containing
23 trans fat, this utility is small and far outweighed by the gravity of the serious health harm ConAgra
24 inflicted upon consumers.

25 80. Defendant’s conduct injures competing manufacturers of popcorn products that do not
26 engage in its unlawful, unfair, and immoral behavior, especially given Defendant’s large market share
27 and the limited shelf space in retailers’ packaged food sections.

28 81. Defendant’s actions also violate public policy by causing the United States, California,

1 and every other state to pay—via Medicare, Medicaid, Affordable Care Act Exchange subsidies,
2 Veterans’ health programs, public employee and retiree health insurance, and other programs—for
3 treatment of trans fat-related illnesses.

4 82. Further, the injury to consumers from Defendant’s practices is substantial, not
5 outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition, and not one consumers themselves could
6 reasonably have avoided.

7 **X. RELIANCE AND INJURY**

8 83. When purchasing Crunch ‘n Munch, Plaintiff was seeking products of particular
9 qualities, including products that did not negatively affect blood cholesterol levels or the health of his
10 cardiovascular system, and products made with natural, healthy ingredients.

11 84. Plaintiff purchased Crunch ‘n Munch believing it had the qualities he sought based on
12 Crunch ‘n Munch’s deceptive labeling, but Crunch ‘n Munch was actually unsatisfactory to him for the
13 reasons described herein.

14 85. Crunch ‘n Munch costs more than similar products without the misleading labeling, and
15 would have cost less, absent Defendant’s false and misleading statements and material omissions. Thus,
16 Crunch ‘n Munch was worth less than what Plaintiff paid for it. Indeed, Crunch ‘n Munch is not fit for
17 human consumption and has a value of \$0.

18 86. Plaintiff, on one or more occasions, would not have purchased Crunch ‘n Munch absent
19 Defendant’s misrepresentations.

20 87. Plaintiff purchased Crunch ‘n Munch instead of competing products based on the false
21 statements and misrepresentations described herein.

22 88. Plaintiff lost money as a result of Defendant’s unlawful behavior. Plaintiff altered his
23 position to his detriment and suffered loss in an amount equal to the amount he paid for Crunch ‘n
24 Munch.

25 **XI. DELAYED DISCOVERY**

26 89. Plaintiff did not discover that Defendant’s labeling of Crunch ‘n Munch was false,
27 deceptive, or misleading until April 2015, when he learned that Crunch ‘n Munch contains trans fat and
28 that foods high in trans fat—such as Crunch ‘n Munch—are harmful to human health because of their

1 role in causing coronary heart disease, type-2 diabetes, and cancer. Until this time, he lacked knowledge
2 regarding the facts of his claims against Defendant.

3 90. Plaintiff is a reasonably diligent consumer who exercised reasonable diligence in his
4 purchase, use, and consumption of Crunch ‘n Munch. Nevertheless, he would not have been able to
5 discover Defendant’s deceptive practices and lacked the means to discover them given that, like nearly
6 all consumers, he is not an expert on nutrition and does not typically read or have access to scholarly
7 journals such as *The Journal of Nutrition*,⁵⁰ *The European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*,⁵¹ and *The New*
8 *England Journal of Medicine*,⁵² where the scientific evidence of artificial trans fat’s dangers has been
9 published. Furthermore, Defendant’s labeling practices—in particular, representing Crunch ‘n Munch as
10 having “0g Trans Fat”—actively impeded Plaintiff’s and the Class’s abilities to discover the dangerous
11 effects of Crunch ‘n Munch throughout the Class Period.

12 **XII. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

13 91. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated (the
14 “Class”), excluding Defendant’s officers, directors, and employees, and the Court, its officers and their
15 families.

16 92. The Class is defined as follows:

17 All persons who purchased in the United States, on or after January 1, 2008, for
18 household or personal use, Crunch ‘n Munch manufactured or distributed by
19 ConAgra Foods, Inc. containing the labeling claim “0g Trans Fat.”

20 93. Questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and the Class include:

21 a. Whether Defendant communicated a health and wellness message through
22

23 ⁵⁰ Peter M. Clifton et al., *Trans Fatty Acids In Adipose Tissue And The Food Supply Are Associated With Myocardial Infarction*, 134 J. Nutr. 874, 874-79 (2004).

24 ⁵¹ A. Tavani et al., *Margarine intake and risk of nonfatal acute myocardial infarction in Italian women*,
25 51 Eur. J. Clin. Nutr. 30–32 (1997) (estimating a 50 percent greater risk of heart attack in women with
26 high consumption of margarine (containing PHO), an association “independent of body mass index, history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia”).

27 ⁵² Mozaffarian, 354 New Eng. J. Med. at 1611 (“10 to 19 percent of CHD events in the United States
28 could be averted by reducing the intake of trans fat”).

1 Crunch ‘n Munch’s packaging;

2 b. Whether that message was material, or likely to be material, to a
3 reasonable consumer;

4 c. Whether that message was false, at variance with the truth, misleading,
5 likely to deceive, and/or had the capacity to deceive the public and/or a
6 reasonable consumer;

7 d. Whether Defendant fraudulently omitted material information in
8 advertising Crunch ‘n Munch as healthy;

9 e. Whether the class is entitled to actual damages, restitution, rescission,
10 punitive damages, attorneys’ fees and costs, injunctive, and/or any other
11 relief;

12 f. Whether any applicable statute of limitations should be tolled on behalf of
13 the Class;

14 g. Whether Defendant’s conduct constitutes violations of California’s False
15 Advertising Law;

16 h. Whether Defendant’s conduct was immoral, unscrupulous, or offensive of
17 public policy because Defendant, knowing of the dangers of artificial trans
18 fat, advertised Crunch ‘n Munch to people seeking trans fat free food;

19 i. Whether Defendant’s conduct constitutes a violation of the California
20 Consumer Legal Remedies Act;

21 j. Whether Defendant’s conduct constitutes a violation of the unlawful prong
22 of California’s Unfair Competition Law;

23 94. By purchasing Crunch ‘n Munch, all Class members were subjected to the same
24 wrongful conduct.

25 95. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the Class’s claims because all Class members were
26 subjected to the same unlawful, unfair, and deceptive conduct when they purchased Crunch ‘n Munch
27 and suffered economic injury.

28 96. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class, has no interests that

1 are incompatible with the interests of the Class, and has retained counsel competent and experienced in
2 class litigation.

3 97. The Class is sufficiently numerous, as it includes thousands of individuals who
4 purchased Crunch ‘n Munch throughout the United States during the Class Period.

5 98. Class representation is superior to other options for the resolution of the controversy.
6 The relief sought for each Class member is small, as little as one or two dollars for some Class
7 members. Absent the availability of class action procedures, it would be infeasible for Class members
8 to redress the wrongs done to them.

9 99. Defendant has acted on grounds applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive
10 relief or declaratory relief appropriate concerning the Class as a whole.

11 100. Questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any questions
12 affecting only individual members.

13 101. Class treatment is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and both Fed. R. Civ. P.
14 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3). Plaintiff does not contemplate class notice if the class is certified under Fed. R.
15 Civ. P. 23(b)(2), which does not require notice. Plaintiff contemplates notice via publication, mail, and
16 internet if the class is certified under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) or if the Court determines notice is
17 needed notwithstanding that notice is not required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). Plaintiff will, if
18 notice is required, confer with Defendant and seek to present the Court with a stipulation and proposed
19 order on the details of a class notice plan.

20 **XIII. CAUSES OF ACTION**

21 **First Cause of Action**

22 **California Unfair Competition Law, Unlawful Prong**

23 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.***

24 102. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set
25 forth in full herein.

26 103. Defendant has made and distributed, in interstate commerce and in this District, products
27 that make false or misleading statements of fact regarding their content. Crunch ‘n Munch was placed
28 into interstate commerce by Defendant and sold throughout the country and in this District.

1 104. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 prohibits any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business
2 act or practice.”

3 105. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures of Defendant as
4 alleged herein constitute “unlawful” business acts and practices in that Defendant’s conduct violates the
5 California False Advertising Law, and the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act, as alleged herein.

6 106. Defendant’s conduct is further “unlawful” because it violates § 43(a) of the Lanham Act,
7 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), in that Defendant’s advertising constitutes false statements of fact in interstate
8 commerce about its own and other products, which were material in that they were likely to influence
9 consumers’ purchasing decisions, and which had a tendency to deceive, or actually deceived a
10 substantial segment of Defendant’s audience, resulting in injury.

11 107. Defendant’s conduct is further “unlawful” because it violates the Federal Food, Drug
12 and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”), specifically, (a) 21 U.S.C. § 343(a), which deems food misbranded when
13 the label contains a statement that is “false or misleading in any particular,” and (b) 21 C.F.R. §
14 101.13(i)(3), which bars nutrient content claims voluntarily placed on the front of a product label that
15 are “false or misleading in any respect.”

16 108. Defendant further violates the FDCA’s implementing regulation, 21 C.F.R. § 1.21,
17 because Crunch ‘n Munch’s packaging fails to reveal material facts, namely the dangers of PHO
18 described in detail herein, “in light of other representations,” namely the specific statements described
19 herein as misleading.

20 109. Defendant’s conduct further violates the California Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
21 Law (“Sherman Law”), Cal. Health & Safety Code § 110660, which deems food products
22 “misbranded” if their labeling is “false or misleading in any particular,” and Health & Safety Code §
23 110670, which bars nutrient content claims voluntarily placed on the front of a product label that fail to
24 comply with the federal regulation for nutrient content claims (i.e., “may not be false or misleading in
25 any respect”).

26 110. Defendant’s conduct also violates the following sections of the Sherman Law:

- 27 • § 110100 (adopting all FDA food labeling regulations as state regulations);
28 • § 110290 (“In determining whether the labeling or advertisement of a food . . . is misleading,

1 all representations made or suggested by statement, word, design, device, sound, or any
2 combination of these shall be taken into account. The extent that the labeling or advertising fails
3 to reveal facts concerning the food . . . or consequences of customary use of the food . . . shall
4 also be considered.”);

5 • § 110390 (“It is unlawful for any person to disseminate any false advertisement of any
6 food An advertisement is false if it is false or misleading in any particular.”);

7 • § 110395 (“It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer for sale any
8 food . . . that is falsely advertised.”);

9 • § 110398 (“It is unlawful for any person to advertise any food, drug, device, or cosmetic that is
10 adulterated or misbranded.”);

11 • § 110400 (“It is unlawful for any person to receive in commerce any food . . . that is falsely
12 advertised or to deliver or proffer for delivery any such food”);

13 • § 110670 (“Any food is misbranded if its labeling does not conform with the requirements for
14 nutrient content or health claims as set forth in Section 403(r) (21 U.S.C. Sec. 343(r)) of the
15 federal act and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.”);

16 • § 110680 (“Any food is misbranded if its labeling or packaging does not conform to the
17 requirements of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 110290).”);

18 • § 110705 (“Any food is misbranded if any word, statement, or other information required
19 pursuant to this part to appear on the label or labeling is not prominently placed upon the label or
20 labeling and in terms as to render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual
21 under customary conditions of purchase and use.”);

22 • § 110760 (“It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer for sale any
23 food that is misbranded.”);

24 • § 110765 (“It is unlawful for any person to misbrand any food.”); and

25 • § 110770 (“It is unlawful for any person to receive in commerce any food that is misbranded
26 or to deliver or proffer for delivery any such food.”).

27 111. Defendant’s conduct may violate additional provisions of the Sherman Law.
28

1 112. All of the challenged labeling statements made by Defendant thus constitute violations
2 of the FDCA and the Sherman Law and, as such, violated the “unlawful” prong of the UCL.

3 113. Defendant leveraged its deception to induce Plaintiff and members of the Class to
4 purchase products that were of lesser value and quality than advertised.

5 114. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendant’s
6 deceptive advertising: he was denied the benefit of the bargain when he decided to purchase Crunch ‘n
7 Munch over competitor products that are less expensive and/or contain no artificial trans fat.

8 115. Had Plaintiff been aware of Defendant’s false and misleading advertising tactics, he
9 would not have purchased Crunch ‘n Munch, and had Defendant not advertised it in a fraudulent
10 manner, he would have paid less for it or not purchased it.

11 116. In accordance with Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining
12 Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent acts and
13 practices and to commence a corrective advertising campaign. Plaintiff intends to purchase Crunch ‘n
14 Munch in the future when Defendant ceases its unfair business practices and removes trans fat.

15 117. Plaintiff also seeks an order for the restitution of all monies from the sale of Crunch ‘n
16 Munch which were acquired through acts of unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent competition.

17 118. Plaintiff also seeks an order for the disgorgement and restitution of all monies from the
18 sale of Crunch ‘n Munch, which were acquired through acts of unfair competition.

19 **Second Cause of Action**

20 **California Unfair Competition Law, Fraudulent Prong**

21 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.**

22 119. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set
23 forth in full herein.

24 120. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 prohibits any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business
25 act or practice.”

26 121. Defendant leveraged its deception to induce Plaintiff and members of the Class to
27 purchase products that were of lesser value and quality than advertised.

1 122. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendant’s
2 deceptive advertising: he was denied the benefit of the bargain when he decided to purchase Crunch ‘n
3 Munch over competitor products, which are less expensive and/or contain no artificial trans fat.

4 123. Had Plaintiff been aware of Defendant’s false and misleading advertising tactics, he
5 would not have purchased Crunch ‘n Munch, and had Defendant not advertised it in a fraudulent
6 manner, Plaintiff would have paid less for it or not purchased it.

7 124. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures of Defendant as
8 alleged herein constitute “fraudulent” business acts and practices in that Defendant’s conduct has a
9 likelihood, capacity or tendency to deceive Plaintiff, the Class, and the general public.

10 125. In accordance with Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining
11 Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent acts and
12 practices, and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.

13 126. Plaintiff further seeks an order for the restitution of all monies from the sale of Crunch
14 ‘n Munch which were acquired through acts of unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent competition.

15 **Third Cause of Action**

16 **California Unfair Competition Law, Unfair Prong**

17 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.**

18 127. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set
19 forth in full herein.

20 128. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 prohibits any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act
21 or practice.”

22 129. Defendant leveraged its deception to induce Plaintiff and members of the Class to
23 purchase products that were of lesser value and quality than advertised.

24 130. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendant’s
25 deceptive advertising: he was denied the benefit of the bargain when he decided to purchase Crunch ‘n
26 Munch over competitor products, which are less expensive and/or contain no artificial trans fat.

27 131. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures of Defendant as
28 alleged herein constitute “unfair” business acts and practices because Defendant’s conduct is:

- 1 a. immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, and offends public policy;
- 2 b. the gravity of Defendant’s conduct outweighs any conceivable benefit of such conduct;
- 3 and
- 4 c. the injury to consumers caused by Defendant’s conduct is substantial, not outweighed by
- 5 any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition, and not one that consumers
- 6 themselves could reasonably have avoided.

7 132. In accordance with Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining
 8 Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent acts and
 9 practices, and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.

10 133. Plaintiff further seeks an order for the restitution of all monies from the sale of Crunch ‘n
 11 Munch which were acquired through acts of unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent competition.

12 **Fourth Cause of Action**

13 **California False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 et seq.**

14 134. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set
 15 forth in full herein.

16 135. In violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 et seq., the advertisements, labeling,
 17 policies, acts, and practices described herein were designed to, and did, result in the purchase and use of
 18 Crunch ‘n Munch without the knowledge that they contained harmful amounts of toxic artificial trans
 19 fat.

20 136. Defendant knew and/or reasonably should have known that the labels on Crunch ‘n
 21 Munch were untrue and/or misleading.

22 137. As a result, Plaintiff, the Class, and the general public are entitled to injunctive and
 23 equitable relief, restitution, and an order for the disgorgement of the funds by which Defendant was
 24 unjustly enriched.

25 **Fifth Cause of Action**

26 **California Consumer Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 et seq.**

27 138. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set
 28 forth in full herein.

1 139. The CLRA prohibits deceptive practices in connection with the conduct of a business that
2 provides goods, property, or services primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

3 140. Defendant's policies, acts and practices were designed to, and did, result in the purchase
4 and use of Crunch 'n Munch primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, and violated and
5 continue to violate the following sections of the CLRA:

- 6 a. § 1770(a)(5): representing that goods have characteristics, uses, or benefits which they do
7 not have;
- 8 b. § 1770(a)(7): representing that goods are of a particular standard, quality, or grade if they
9 are of another;
- 10 c. § 1770(a)(9): advertising goods with intent not to sell them as advertised; and
- 11 d. § 1770(a)(16): representing the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance
12 with a previous representation when it has not.

13 141. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered irreparable harm and are entitled to
14 injunctive relief and restitution.

15 142. As a further result, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered damages, and because the
16 conduct was deliberate, immoral, oppressive, made with malice and/or contrary to public policy, they
17 are entitled to punitive or exemplary damages.

18 143. In compliance with Civ. Code § 1782, Plaintiff sent Defendant written notice of his
19 claims on April 21, 2015.

20 144. Pursuant to section 1782 *et seq.* of the CLRA, Plaintiff notified Defendant in writing by
21 certified mail of the particular violations of § 1770 of the Act as to Crunch 'n Munch and demanded that
22 Defendant rectify the problems associated with the actions detailed above and give notice to all affected
23 consumers of its intent to so act. Defendant's wrongful business practices regarding Crunch 'n Munch
24 constituted, and constitute, a continuing course of conduct in violation of the CLRA since Defendant is
25 still representing that Crunch 'n Munch has characteristics, uses, benefits, and abilities which are false
26 and misleading, and have injured Plaintiff and the Class.

27 145. Defendant ConAgra received Plaintiff's written notice on April 24, 2015.
28

1 **Sixth Cause of Action**

2 **Breach of Express Warranty**

3 146. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set
4 forth in full herein.

5 147. During the class period, Defendant made written representations to the public, including
6 Plaintiff, by its advertising and packaging that Crunch ‘n Munch contains “0g Trans Fat.”

7 148. These promises and related promises printed on the label became part of the basis of the
8 bargain between the parties and thus constituted an express warranty.

9 149. Defendant sold Crunch ‘n Munch to Plaintiff and other consumers who bought it from
10 Defendant based on those representations.

11 150. However, Defendant breached this express warranty in that Crunch ‘n Munch does not
12 contain “0g Trans Fat” because it contains partially hydrogenated oil which necessarily contains
13 artificial trans fat, a toxic substance known to increase the risk of coronary heart disease, cancer,
14 Alzheimer’s disease, type-2 diabetes, stroke, and other ailments.

15 151. As a result of this breach, Plaintiff and other consumers in fact did not receive goods as
16 warranted by Defendant.

17 152. As a proximate result of this breach of warranty by Defendant, Plaintiff and other
18 consumers have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

19 **Seventh Cause of Action**

20 **Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability**

21 153. Plaintiff realleges, and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained
22 elsewhere in this Complaint, as if fully set forth herein.

23 154. Defendant, through its acts and omissions set forth herein, in the sale, marketing and
24 promotion of Crunch ‘n Munch, made representations to Plaintiff and the Class, on Crunch ‘n Munch’s
25 labels, that Crunch ‘n Munch contained no trans fat.

26 155. Plaintiff and the Class bought Crunch ‘n Munch manufactured, advertised, and sold by
27 Defendant, as described herein.
28

1 156. Defendant is a merchant with respect to the goods of this kind which were sold to
2 Plaintiff and the Class, and there was in the sale to Plaintiff and other members of the Class an implied
3 warranty that those goods were merchantable.

4 157. Defendant breached that implied warranty, however, in that Crunch ‘n Munch is not fit
5 for its ordinary purpose and does not conform with the representations on its labels, as set forth in detail
6 herein.

7 158. As an actual and proximate result of Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff and the Class did not
8 receive goods as impliedly warranted by Defendant to be merchantable in that they did not conform to
9 the promises and affirmations made on the container or label of the goods.

10 159. Plaintiff and Class have sustained damages as a proximate result of the foregoing breach
11 of implied warranty in the amount of Crunch ‘n Munch’s purchase price.

12 **XIV. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself, all others similarly situated, and the general
14 public, prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- 15 A. An order confirming that this class action is properly maintainable as a nationwide class
16 action as defined above, appointing Plaintiff and his undersigned counsel to represent
17 the Class, and requiring Defendant to bear the cost of class notice;
- 18 B. Where authorized by law and referenced in this Complaint, an order requiring Defendant
19 to pay damages to Plaintiff and class members so that they may be restored any money
20 which may have been acquired by means of any unfair, deceptive, unconscionable,
21 fraudulent, or negligent action;
- 22 C. An order requiring Defendant to disgorge any benefits received from Plaintiff and/or
23 unjust enrichment realized as a result of its improper and misleading advertising and
24 marketing of Crunch ‘n Munch;
- 25 D. An award of punitive damages in an amount to be proved at trial;
- 26 E. An order requiring Defendant to cease and desist its deceptive, unconscionable and
27 fraudulent practices;
- 28 F. An order requiring Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign;

- 1 G. An award of pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- 2 H. An award of attorney fees and costs; and
- 3 I. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just, equitable or proper.

4 **XV. JURY DEMAND**

5 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on his claims for damages.

6 DATED: June 1, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

7
8 /s/ Gregory S. Weston
9 **THE WESTON FIRM**
10 GREGORY S. WESTON
11 1405 Morena Blvd., Suite 201
12 San Diego, CA 92110
13 Telephone: (619) 798-2006
14 Facsimile: (480) 247-4553

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*Counsel for Plaintiff and the
Proposed Class*

1 **XVI. Appendix A: List of Popcorn Snacks Free of Trans Fat**

- 2 • Cracker Jack distributed by Frito-Lay North America, Inc. including all of the following flavors:
- 3 ○ Butter Toffee Flavored Popcorn
- 4 ○ Chocolate and Caramel Flavored Popcorn
- 5 ○ Kettle Corn Flavored Popcorn
- 6 ○ Original Caramel Coated Popcorn & Peanuts
- 7 ○ Chocolate Peanut Butter Flavored Popcorn
- 8 • LesserEvil distributed by LesserEvil Healthy Brands, Inc. including all of the following varieties:
- 9 ○ Buddha Bowl Himalayan Pink
- 10 ○ Buddha Bowl Himalayan Sweetness
- 11 ○ Buddha Bowl Classic Cheddah
- 12 ○ Buddha Bowl Avocado-Licious
- 13 ○ Chia Pop Classic Theater Style
- 14 ○ Chia Pop Aged White Cheddar
- 15 ○ Chia Pop Sea Salt and Cracked Pepper
- 16 • Skinny Pop distributed by SkinnyPop Popcorn including all of the following varieties:
- 17 ○ Original Lightly Salted
- 18 ○ Black Pepper
- 19 ○ White Cheddar
- 20 ○ Naturally Sweet
- 21 • Poppycock distributed by ConAgra Foods, Inc. including all of the following varieties:
- 22 ○ Poppycock Pecan Delight
- 23 ○ Poppycock Original
- 24 ○ Poppycock Cashew Lovers
- 25 ○ Poppycock Apple Crisp
- 26 • Fiddle Faddle distributed by ConAgra Foods, Inc. including all of the following varieties:
- 27 ○ Butter Toffee
- 28 ○ Caramel

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

Troy Walker

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

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

Gregory S. Weston
The Weston Firm
1405 Morena Blvd., Suite 201, San Diego, CA 92110, (619) 798-2006

DEFENDANTS

ConAgra Foods, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Douglas, NE (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
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
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)

- Citizen of This State
Citizen of Another State
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country
PTF DEF
1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State
2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State
3 3 Foreign Nation
4 4
5 5
6 6

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

Table with 5 columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like Insurance, Personal Injury, Labor, etc.

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
6 Multidistrict Litigation

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)

Brief description of cause:

California Consumer Legal Remedies Act, Unfair Competition Law, and False Advertising Law

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,000.00 CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

06/01/2015

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Gregory S. Weston

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil L.R. 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)



SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND



SAN JOSE



EUREKA

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____ .

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____ , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____ , who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*:

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: