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6	WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON	
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9	RANDY SHIELDS, on behalf of himself, and as a representative of similarly situated persons,	
10	Plaintiff,	Case No
11		NOTICE OF REMOVAL
12	V.	
13	FRED MEYER STORES INC.,	
14	Defendant.	
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NOTICE OF REMOVAL - 2

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant Fred Meyer Stores, Inc. (Fred Meyer) hereby removes this action from the Superior Court of the State of Washington for King County to the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. Fred Meyer removes this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, 1446, and 1453 on the grounds set forth below.

I. STATE COURT ACTION

- 1. On August 9, 2023, Plaintiff Randy Shields filed a Class Action Complaint against Fred Meyer in the Superior Court of the State of Washington for King County, captioned Randy Shields v. Fred Meyer Stores Inc., Case No. 23-2-14835-5 KNT (the State Court Action). A true and correct copy of the complaint in the State Court Action is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the Complaint).
- 2. On August 18, 2023, Mr. Shields served Fred Myer with the Order Setting Civil Case Schedule, Summons, and Class Action Complaint. True and correct copies of the Order Setting Civil Case Schedule and Summons are attached as **Exhibit B**. Fred Meyer will separately file a Verification of State Court Records and Proceedings attaching all other documents filed in the State Court Action. LCR 101(c).
- 3. In the Complaint, Mr. Shields alleges that, on occasion, he uses a Direct Express Debit Mastercard (the debit card) to prepay for gasoline at "Fred Meyer, Fuel Outlet #459, in Renton, Washington," but does not end up pumping as much gasoline as he authorized payment for, and expects to receive credit back on his debit card for the value of the unpumped gasoline. Compl. ¶¶ 2.1–.4. Mr. Shields alleges he realized in July 2022 that he did not receive a credit for about \$16 worth of unpumped gasoline and, upon speaking to a customer service representative, confirmed his debit card had not been credited the value of the unpumped gasoline. *Id.* ¶ 2.3. He asserts that representatives conducted "additional investigation" and then told him that his card had not been credited the value of unpumped gasoline "several times" and had been double charged for prepaid gasoline "on more than one occasion." *Id.* ¶ 2.4. The representatives allegedly reimbursed Mr. Shields "for some of the uncredited prepaid" gasoline charges but told him he "could not receive reimbursement for such uncredited amounts that had occurred more

putative classes: for the value of the double charges. attorneys' fees. Id. at p. 8. 4.

than six months before the discovery that he had not received reimbursement . . . or for the unjustified duplicate charges to his debit card account." *Id.* Mr. Shields alleges this conduct violates the Washington Consumer Protection Act and constitutes conversion, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment. *Id.* ¶¶ 3.1–6.5. He brings these claims on behalf of himself and two putative classes:

Class 1: All persons who, in the four-year period preceding the filing of this action to the present, prepaid for gasoline at a Fred Meyer retail fuel outlet, who did not pump the entire value of the prepaid gasoline purchased and who did not receive a credit back to the debit card accounts used to purchase the gasoline or who did not otherwise receive reimbursement for the value of the unpumped prepaid gasoline.

Class 2: All persons who, in the four-year period preceding the filing of this action to the present, prepaid for gasoline at a Fred Meyer retail fuel outlet, who were double-charged for the gasoline purchased, and who did not receive a credit back to the debit card accounts used to purchase the gasoline or who did not otherwise receive reimbursement for the value of the double charges.

Compl. ¶ 7.2. Mr. Shields seeks a declaratory judgment; "money damages for Plaintiff and members of the putative class ... in an amount to be proven at trial, but in no event less than \$10,001.00"; treble damages "up to the statutory maximum of \$25,000 per person"; prejudgment interest; and "such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable"; as well as attorneys' fees. *Id.* at p. 8.

4. The State Court Action is removable because the Court has original jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (CAFA) and the Western District of Washington encompasses the location where the State Court Action is currently pending (*i.e.*, Seattle, Washington). See 28 U.S.C. §§ 128(b), 1332(d)(2), 1441(a) ("[A]ny civil action brought in a State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant . . . to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending."). Seattle is the proper division or location for the matter. LCR 3(e)(1).

II. THIS ACTION IS REMOVABLE UNDER CAFA

- 5. CAFA was enacted based on Congress's concern that certain types of cases "cases involving large sums of money, citizens of many different States, and issues of national concern, have been restricted to State courts even though they have national consequences." 151 Cong. Rec. S1086-01, S1103 (Feb. 8, 2005). CAFA's purpose is to allow "[f]ederal court consideration of interstate cases of national importance." 28 U.S.C. § 1711, stat. note, subd. (b)(2).
- 6. "[N]o antiremoval presumption attends cases invoking CAFA, which Congress enacted to facilitate adjudication of certain class actions in federal court." *Dart Cherokee Basin Operating Co., LLC v. Owens*, 574 U.S. 81, 89 (2014).
- 7. CAFA extends federal jurisdiction over class actions where: (1) the proposed classes combine to consist of at least 100 members; (2) the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs; (3) any member of the proposed plaintiff class is a citizen of a different state than any defendant (*i.e.*, minimal diversity exists); and (4) no exception to jurisdiction applies. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d), 1453(b). This action satisfies each requirement.

A. Mr. Shields Proposes a Class of More than 5,000 Persons

- 8. This action is a putative class action within the meaning of CAFA, which defines "class action" as "any civil action filed under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or similar State statute or rule of judicial procedure authorizing an action to be brought by 1 or more representative persons as a class action." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(1)(B).
- 9. To remove a class action under the CAFA, "the number of members of all proposed plaintiff classes in the aggregate" must be at least 100. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(5)(B).
- Mr. Shields seeks to represent two classes of "[a]ll persons who, in the four-year period preceding the filing of this action to the present, prepaid for gasoline at a Fred Meyer retail fuel outlet" and did not get reimbursed for (1) the value of the unpumped prepaid gasoline and (2) the value of double charges for prepaid gasoline. Compl. ¶ 7.2 (emphasis added). He postulates that "the number of members of the putative classes exceeds 40." Id. ¶ 7.3.

Considering he seeks to represent "[a]ll persons" who purchased gasoline at "a Fred Meyer" gas station, Mr. Shields' estimate is conservative. Thousands of people per year prepay for gasoline at Fred Meyer using a debit card—a total Fred Meyer believes numbers over 5,750 putative class members based on the information available to it including from the complaint's allegations.

B. The Amount in Controversy Exceeds \$5 Million

- 11. Where, as here, "the plaintiff's complaint does not state the amount in controversy, the defendant's notice of removal may do so." *Dart Cherokee*, 574 U.S. at 84. To establish the amount in controversy, a notice of removal "need not contain evidentiary submissions." *Id.* Rather, "a defendant's notice of removal need include only a plausible allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional threshold." *Id.* at 89.
- 12. Under CAFA, "the claims of the individual class members shall be aggregated to determine whether the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(6).
- 13. For purposes of removal only, and without conceding Mr. Shields or the putative classes are entitled to any damages, remedies, or penalties whatsoever, the aggregated claims of the putative classes, as pleaded in the Complaint, exceed the jurisdictional amount of \$5,000,000 exclusive of interest and costs. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2); *see also Lewis v. Verizon*Commc'ns, Inc., 627 F.3d 395, 397 (9th Cir. 2010) (removing defendant need only show "the potential damages could exceed the jurisdictional amount").
- 14. **Damages.** The Complaint seeks **both** "money damages ... for uncredited or unreimbursed amounts prepaid ... for gasoline that was not pumped" **and** also damages for "Plaintiff and members of the putative class [who] were double-charged." Compl. at p. 8. This allegation puts into issue the value of both the uncredited overpayments for gasoline and the alleged double charges—which plausibly occurred "several times" per class member. *Id.* ¶ 2.4. Mr. Shields alleges he did not receive reimbursement of \$16 of unpumped gasoline for a \$70 prepayment, and he alleges other putative class members suffered similar injuries in varying amounts. *Id.* ¶ 2.3. The Complaint also seeks treble damages "up to the statutory maximum of

\$25,000 per person" under RCW 19.86.090. *Id.* at p. 8. This means that the amount of money damages proven will be trebled if Mr. Shields prevails. *Wise v. Long*, 2023 WL 2787223, *5 (W.D. Wash. Apr. 5, 2023) (including trebled damages to conclude amount-in-controversy requirement met). With the high cost of gas, especially in Washington, it is plausible that money damages will exceed \$300 per person, assuming "several" instances of uncredited prepayments and double charges—particularly when based on Mr. Shields's own example as a typical putative class member. Trebled damages will exceed \$900 per person, using Mr. Sheilds's own claimed damages as a basis. Based on Defendant's estimate of the number of pre-paid fuel purchases with debit-cards, and the amount recoverable per-person under Plaintiff's theories, it is plausible that damages alone will exceed \$5 million: (\$300 damages, x 3 for trebling = \$900) x 5,750 for conservatively estimated class members = \$5,175,000.

the Ninth Circuit, the amount in controversy includes attorneys' fees where, as here, they are authorized by statute. *See Galt G/S v. JSS Scandinavia*, 142 F.3d 1150, 1155 (9th Cir. 1998); RCW 19.138.280. A removing defendant can establish the likely attorneys' fees by identifying cases in which the plaintiff's counsel has requested similar fees. *See Greene v. Harley-Davidson, Inc.*, 965 F.3d 767, 774 n.4 (9th Cir. 2020) ("Based on [defendant's] evidence that [plaintiff's] attorney sought 35% in a similar case, it is reasonable to assume that [plaintiff's] attorney would seek fees equal to 25% of the amount in controversy if he were to prevail."). Courts in this district consider current and future attorney fees in calculating the amount in controversy. *Fritsch v. Swift Transp. Co. of Ariz., LLC*, 899 F.3d 785, 794 (9th Cir. 2018) ("[I]f the law entitles the plaintiff to future attorneys' fees if the action succeeds, 'then there is no question that future [attorneys' fees] are 'at stake' in the litigation.""). Based on prior cases with Mr. Shields' counsel from years ago in which he charged \$625 an hour,² it is plausible that

¹ Assuming a person was double charged for prepayment for a tank of gas (approximately \$70) on four occasions and was not reimbursed for unpumped gas (approximately \$16) on three occasions over the past four years places into controversy \$332 per person.

² See Linehan v. Allianceone Receivables Mgmt, Inc., No. C15-1012-JCC, Dkt. 396 (W.D. Wash. July 14, 2017).

attorneys' fees in this class action—an action likely to include, at minimum, a motion to dismiss, a motion for summary judgment, *Daubert* motions, a motion for class certification, and trial—will exceed \$1,250,000 (2,000 estimated hours x \$625).

- 16. *Compliance Costs.* In addition, the broad injunctive relief suggested by the complaint would require a system-wide overhaul of all Fred Meyer prepayment systems for fuel payments, a prospect that potentially includes (depending on the nature of injunctive relief sought) massive hardware and software changes, contract changes, changes with third-party vendor relationships, and other unforeseen costs—at the dozens of Fred Meyer stores in Washington and other states. On information and belief based on the injunctive relief sought, these costs conservatively could exceed an additional \$1,000,000.
- 17. In sum, based on Mr. Sheilds' pleaded assertions and theories of recovery, the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000 with at least (a) \$5,175,000 in trebled damages; (b) \$1,250,000 in fees; and (c) \$1,000,000 in additional compliance costs.

C. The Minimal Diversity Requirement Is Satisfied

- 18. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A), a district court may assert jurisdiction over a class action in which "any member of a class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a State different from any defendant."
- 19. On information and belief, Mr. Shields is a citizen and resident of Washington. Compl. ¶ 1.1. The classes he seeks to represent also comprises of citizens of Washington. *Id.* ¶ 7.2.
- 20. Fred Meyer Stores, Inc., is a corporation incorporated in Ohio and has its principal place of business in in Portland, Oregon. A corporation is a citizen of every state in which it is incorporated and of the state it has its principal place of business. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1). Thus, Fred Meyer is a citizen of Ohio and Oregon.
- 21. Therefore, sufficient diversity of citizenship exists between the parties in this case.

D. **Exceptions to Jurisdiction Do Not Apply** 1 22. The complete diversity between Mr. Shields and Fred Meyer satisfies the minimal 2 diversity requirement under CAFA. Further, Fred Meyer not being a citizen of Washington 3 precludes the "local controversy" and "home state" exceptions in 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(3) & 4 (d)(4), exceptions for which Mr. Shields would bear the burden of proof in any event. 5 III. **REMOVAL IS TIMELY** 6 23. This Notice of Removal is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) because Fred Meyer 7 filed it within thirty days after service of process, which took place on August 18, 2023. 8 IV. REMOVAL PROCEDURES ARE SATISFIED 9 24. This Notice of Removal is signed pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of 10 Civil Procedure. See U.S.C. § 1446(a). 11 Concurrently with the filing of this Notice, Fred Meyer is giving written notice to 25. 12 all adverse parties and is filing a copy of this Notice with the clerk of the Superior Court of the 13 State of Washington for King County. See 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d). 14 26. Fred Meyer does not waive and expressly preserves all objections, defenses, and 15 exceptions authorized by law, including but not limited to those pursuant to Rule 12 of the 16 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. 17 27. The removal of this action terminates all potential proceedings in the Superior 18 Court of the State of Washington for King County. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d). 19 DATED this 15th day of September, 2023. 20 21 Davis Wright Tremaine LLP Attorneys for Fred Meyer Inc. 22 By <u>s/Fred B. Burnside</u> 23 Fred Burnside, WSBA No. 32491 24 By s/ Caleah Whitten 25 Caleah Whitten, WSBA No. 60209 26 FredBurnside@dwt.com CaleahWhitten@dwt.com 27 Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

1	CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE	
2	I certify that on this day I caused the document to which this certificate is attached to be	
3	delivered to the following by first-class mail and e-mail:	
4	GUY BECKETT	
5	1708 BELLEVUE AVENUE SEATTLE, WA 98122	
6	206.411.5444	
7	gbeckett@beckettlaw.com	
8	Dated this 15th day of September, 2023.	
9	Davis Wright Tremaine LLP Attorneys for Fred Meyer Stores Inc.	
10		
11	By <u>s/ Fred B. Burnside</u> Fred Burnside, WSBA No. 32491	
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EXHIBIT A

1 2 3 4 5 6 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON 7 IN AND FOR KING COUNTY 8 RANDY SHIELDS, on behalf of himself, and 9 as a representative of similarly situated NO. 23-2-14835-5 KNT persons, 10 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT Plaintiff, FOR DAMAGES 11 v. 12 FRED MEYER STORES INC., 13 Defendants. 14 15 Plaintiff Randy Shields ("Plaintiff"), individually and as class representative for classes 16 of similarly situated persons, brings this putative class action against Defendant Fred Meyer 17 Stores Inc. ("Fred Meyer" or "Defendant") for conversion, breach of contract, unjust enrichment, 18 and violations of the Washington Consumer Protection Act ("WCPA"), as set forth herein. 19 I. VENUE, JURISDICTION AND PARTIES 20 21 1.1 Plaintiff Randy Shields is a married man who resides in King County, 22 Washington. 23 1.2 Defendant Fred Meyer is a foreign corporation licensed and registered to do 24 business in Washington State as a foreign profit corporation, which does business in King 25 County, Washington State. 26 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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FOR DAMAGES - 1

1.3 Venue and personal jurisdiction are proper in this Court because Fred Meyer does business in King County, Washington, and the actions that are alleged herein occurred in King County, Washington.

II. FACTS

- 2.1 Plaintiff receives federal social security benefits which are delivered to him via his Direct Express Debit Mastercard (the "debit card"). Each social security payment which Plaintiff receives is loaded directly onto the debit card. The card is issued by Comerica Bank and the program is operated by Conduent Business Services, LLC. Members of the putative classes similarly receive federal social security benefits delivered to them via their Direct Express Debit Mastercards, which are similarly loaded directly onto their debit cards.
- 2.2 Plaintiff frequently uses the debit card to purchase gasoline at Fred Meyer, Fuel Outlet #459, in Renton, Washington. On several occasions, Plaintiff has prepaid for gasoline, using his debit card to purchase a specified amount of gasoline. Plaintiff then has pumped the gasoline purchased. On several occasions, Plaintiff has not pumped as much gasoline as he prepurchased, because his fuel tank became full before all of the pre-paid gasoline was pumped into it. Mr. Shields believed, and was informed by Fred Meyer employees, that when he pre-paid for more gasoline than he pumped, he would receive a credit back to his debit card for the value of the pre-paid gasoline that was not pumped.
- 2.3 In approximately July 2022, Mr. Shields prepaid for \$70 worth of gasoline at Fred Meyer Fuel Outlet #459 and only pumped approximately \$54 worth of gasoline. Mr. Shields believed he would receive the difference between the amount of gasoline for which he prepaid and the amount he pumped, as a credit back to his debit card account. Within several days, however, Mr. Shields realized that Fred Meyer had not credited back to his debit card account

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the value of the unpumped gasoline, approximately \$16. Mr. Shields complained to a customer service representative at the Renton, Washington Fred Meyer store, who acknowledged that Mr. Shields' debit card account had not been credited back for the value of the unpumped gasoline and informed Mr. Shields that he was not the only customer for whom Fred Meyer had not credited back the value of unpumped gasoline to his debit card account. The customer service representative reimbursed Mr. Shields at that time for the unpumped gasoline for which the value had not been credited back to his debit card account.

- After additional investigation, Fred Meyer representatives told Mr. Shields that he had not received credit back to his debit card account several times for other unpumped gasoline for which he had prepaid using his debit card account, and that he had been double-charged on his debit card account on more than one occasion for gasoline for which he had prepaid using his debit card account. Mr. Shields received reimbursement back from Fred Meyer for some of the uncredited prepaid amounts for which he did not pump gasoline, but was informed by Fred Meyer representatives that he could not receive reimbursement for such uncredited amounts that had occurred more than six months before the discovery that he had not received reimbursement or credit back to his debit card for the value of such unpumped gasoline, or for unjustified duplicate charges to his debit card account.
- 2.5 Fred Meyer has records of the transactions by which Mr. Shields prepaid for gasoline with his debit card account for which he did not receive credit back to the debit card account or reimbursement for unpumped gasoline or incorrect duplicate charges, but Fred Meyer refused to provide Mr. Shields copies of or a summary of such records. Mr. Shields was also informed by Fred Meyer customer service representatives that Fred Meyer would not inform him of the amount of uncredited or unreimbursed charges for prepaid gasoline that he did not pump



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that occurred prior to six months before Mr. Shields' discovery of Fred Meyer's actions.

III. FIRST CLASS ACTION CAUSE OF ACTION: CONVERSION

- 3.1 Plaintiff re-alleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 3.2 By retaining amounts for gasoline for which Mr. Shields and members of the putative classes prepaid but had not pumped, and by retaining amounts for gasoline for which Mr. Shields and members of the putative classes had been incorrectly double-charged, Fred Meyer converted Mr. Shields' and putative class members' money, which has damaged Mr. Shields and members of the putative classes in an amount to be proven at trial.

IV. SECOND CLASS ACTION CAUSE OF ACTION: BREACH OF CONTRACT

- 4.1 Plaintiff re-alleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 4.2. Mr. Shields and members of the putative classes entered into implied contracts with Fred Meyer which provided that Fred Meyer would credit back to Mr. Shields' and putative class members' debit card accounts amounts they had prepaid for gasoline but had not pumped, and amounts for gasoline for which Fred Meyer had double-charged them. By retaining those sums, however, Fred Meyer breached the implied contracts it had entered into with Mr. Shields and putative class members, which breaches have harmed Mr. Shields and members of the putative classes and for which they are entitled to recover judgment against Fred Meyer in an amount to be proven at trial.

V. THIRD CLASS ACTION CAUSE OF ACTION: UNJUST ENRICHMENT

- 5.1 Plaintiff re-alleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 5.2 In the event Mr. Shields and members of the putative classes are determined not to have entered into contracts with Fred Meyer regarding credits back to their debit card accounts for unpumped gasoline and for double-charges for gasoline purchases, Fred Meyer was unjustly

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enriched by its retention of the value of Mr. Shields' and the putative class members' unpumped gasoline and double charges for gasoline purchases, to Mr. Shields' and the putative class members' detriment. Mr. Shields and the putative classes are entitled to recover money damages against Fred Meyer for such unjust enrichment, in an amount to be proven at trial.

VI. FOURTH CLASS ACTION CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATIONS OF WASHINGTON'S CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT ("WCPA")

- 6.1 Plaintiff re-alleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 6.2 Fred Meyer's actions in retaining the value of Mr. Shields' and putative class members' unpumped gasoline and double charges for gasoline vitally affect the public interest, were and are not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business, are unfair or deceptive acts in trade or commerce, and violate the WCPA.
- 6.3 Fred Meyer's actions in retaining the value of Mr. Shields' and putative class members' unpumped gasoline and double charges for gasoline were and are capable of deceiving a substantial portion of the public.
- 6.4 As a direct and proximate result of Fred Meyer's retention of the value of Mr. Shields' and putative class members' unpumped gasoline and double charges for gasoline, Mr. Shields and each member of the putative classes have suffered actual damages which they would not have suffered but for Fred Meyer's retention of the value of Mr. Shields' and putative class members' unpumped gasoline and double charges for gasoline.
- 6.5 Mr. Shields and each member of the putative classes are entitled to recover and should recover against Fred Meyer actual damages in an amount to be proven at trial, statutory penalties and reasonable attorney's fees and costs, together with prejudgment interest at the highest allowable rate on the amounts retained by Fred Meyer that properly should have been



credited back to the debit card accounts of Mr. Shields and putative class members, all pursuant to RCW 19.86.090.

VII. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 7.1 Plaintiff realleges the foregoing paragraphs as if fully stated herein.
- 7.2 Pursuant to Civil Rule 23(a) and (b)(3), Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of the following classes against Defendant Fred Meyer:

Class #1: Uncredited prepaid and unpumped gasoline Class. All persons who, in the four-year period preceding the filing of this action to the present, prepaid for gasoline at a Fred Meyer retail fuel outlet, who did not pump the entire value of the prepaid gasoline purchased and who did not receive a credit back to the debit card accounts used to purchase the gasoline or who did not otherwise receive reimbursement for the value of the unpumped prepaid gasoline.

Class #2: Double-charged Class: All persons who, in the fouryear period preceding the filing of this action to the present, purchased gasoline at a Fred Meyer retail fuel outlet, who were double-charged for the gasoline purchased, and who did not receive a credit back to the debit card accounts used to purchase the gasoline or who did not otherwise receive reimbursement for the value of the double charges.

- 7.3 Numerosity. The members of the putative classes are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, the number of members of the putative classes exceeds 40.
- 7.4 Common Questions of Law and Fact. The questions of law and fact are the same for Plaintiff and for all members of the putative classes, including whether the conduct of Fred Meyer in retaining amounts it should have credited back to Plaintiff's and putative class members' debit card accounts or otherwise not reimbursing amounts that Plaintiff and members of the putative class members had prepaid for gasoline but had not pumped constituted conversion, breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and violations of the WCPA, such that those

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issues dominate any issues that affect only individual members.

- 7.5 The Plaintiff's Claims Are Typical of the Classes. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the putative classes in that they arise from Defendant Fred Meyer's retention of Plaintiff's and members of the putative classes' money paid for unpumped gasoline at Defendant's retail gasoline facilities.
- 7.6. The Plaintiff Will Fairly and Adequately Protect the Class. Plaintiff will adequately represent and protect the interests of the putative Class because he has retained competent and experienced counsel and his interest in the litigation is not antagonistic to the other members of the putative classes.
- 7.7. A Class Action is Maintainable Under Civil Rule 23(b)(3). The questions of law and fact common to all members of the putative classes predominate over questions affecting only individual members of the classes, because all members of the putative classes have been subjected to Defendant Fred Meyer's unlawful conduct. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the putative classes against Defendant Fred Meyer would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications and incompatible standards of treatment. On information and belief, there are no other pending class actions against Defendant Fred Meyer concerning the issues in this action. A class action is superior to any other available means for the adjudication of this controversy. This action will cause an orderly and expeditious administration of the putative class members' claims; economies of time, effort and expense will be fostered; and uniformity of decisions will be ensured at the lowest cost and with the least expenditure of judicial resources.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

1. For an Order certifying the putative classes identified herein in Paragraph 7.2

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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES - 7

under CR 23(b)(3), with Plaintiff as the Class Representative and the undersigned legal counsel as Class Counsel.

- 2. For Judgment declaring that Defendant Fred Meyer's conduct in retaining the value of Plaintiff's and putative class members' prepaid but unpumped gasoline and double-charges for prepaid gasoline sales violates the WCPA and is unlawful.
- 3. For Judgment for money damages for Plaintiff and members of the putative class for all sums retained by Defendant Fred Meyer for uncredited or unreimbursed amounts prepaid by Plaintiff and members of the putative classes for gasoline that was not pumped, and for which Plaintiff and members of the putative classes were double-charged in an amount to be proven at trial, but in no event less than \$10,001.00.
- 4. For treble damages for all sums awarded to Plaintiff and putative class members, up to the statutory maximum of \$25,000 per person, pursuant to RCW 19.86.090.
- 5. For prejudgment interest at the statutory rate provided in RCW 19.52.010 on all sums awarded to Plaintiff and putative class members for liquidated damage amounts, until the date of entry of Judgment herein.
- 6. For an award of Plaintiff's and putative class members' costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to RCW 19.86.090.
- 7. For post-judgment interest at the rate of 12% per annum on all money damage sums awarded to Plaintiff and members of the putative classes.
 - 8. For leave to conform his pleadings to the proof presented at trial.
 - 9. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.



DATED: August 9, 2023. BERRY & BECKETT, PLLP /s/ Guy Beckett Guy W. Beckett, WSBA #14939 1708 Bellevue Avenue Seattle, WA 98122 Telephone: (206) 441-5444 Facsimile: (206) 838-6346 E-mail: gbeckett@beckettlaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES - 9



ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Fred Meyer Failed to Credit Consumer's Account for Prepaid Gasoline That Went Unpumped, Class Action Claims