FILED CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT MILBERG LLP 1 JEFF S. WESTERMAN (SBN 94559) jwesterman@milberg.com DAVID E. AZAR (SBN 218319) 2 DEC 1 9 2012 dazar@milberg.com 3 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA One California Plaza 4 300 South Grand Avenue, Suite 3900 Los Angeles, California 90071 5 Telephone: (213) 617-1200 Facsimile: (213) 617-1975 6 WOLF HALDENSTEIN ADLER 7 FREEMAN & HERZ LLC ADAM J. LEVITT (pro hac vice) 8 levitt@whafh.com 55 West Monroe Street, Suite 1111 Chicago, Illinois 60603 9 Telephone: (312) 984-0000 Facsimile: (312) 984-0001 10 Interim Class Counsel 11 Additional Counsel on Signature Page 12 13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 14 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 15 WESTERN DIVISION 16 IN RE CONAGRA FOODS, INC. 17 Case No. CV 11-05379-MMM (AGRx) 18 MDL NO. 2291 19 CLASS ACTION 20 SECOND CONSOLIDATED 21 AMENDED CLASS ACTION **COMPLAINT** 22 23 JURY TRIAL DEMANDED 24 25 26 27 28 SECOND CONSOLIDATED AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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	SECOND	CONSOLIDATED A	AMENDED CLASS	ACTION COMPL	AINT

This Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint (the "SAC") against Defendant ConAgra Foods, Inc. ("ConAgra" or "Defendant") is brought by individual consumers residing in California, Nebraska (where ConAgra is headquartered), and 13 other states¹—on behalf of themselves and 15 state-law classes alleging violations of the following types in the states in which the named Plaintiffs reside: (1) state consumer protection statutes (2) state express warranty statutes; (3) state implied warranty statutes, and (4) unjust enrichment claims or rights (collectively, the "Classes"). The allegations in this SAC are based on the personal knowledge of each of the Plaintiffs as to themselves, and on information and belief as to all other matters.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 1. Plaintiffs allege that from at least June 27, 2007 through the present (the "Class Period"), ConAgra deceptively and misleadingly labeled and marketed its Wesson brand cooking oils, including Wesson Vegetable Oil, Wesson Canola Oil, Wesson Corn Oil, and Wesson Best Blend (collectively, "Wesson Oils"), as "100% Natural" when, in fact, Wesson Oils are made from unnatural, genetically-modified organisms ("GMO" or "GMOs").
- 2. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra has systematically labeled its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural," such that any United States consumer who purchases Wesson Oils is exposed to ConAgra's "100% Natural" claim, and marketed and advertised Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" on its Wesson Oils website, and in print and television advertisements.
- 3. ConAgra deceives and misleads consumers by labeling and marketing its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" because Wesson Oils are made with unnatural ingredients. Specifically, Wesson Oils are made with plants whose genes have

¹ The states are: California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming.

III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV);

(f)

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IV);

Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count

Massachusetts: Consumer Protection (Count I), Express

•]	(g) Nebraska: Consumer Protection (Count I, for appellat				
2	purposes only), Express Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and				
3	Unjust Enrichment (Count IV);				
4	(h) New Jersey: Consumer Protection (Count I, for appellat				
5	purposes only), Express Warranty (Count II), and Implied Warranty (Count III);				
6	(i) New York: Consumer Protection (Count I), Express Warrant				
7	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV);				
8	(j) Ohio: Consumer Protection (Count I) and Unjust Enrichmen				
9	(Count IV, for appellate purposed only);				
10	(k) Oregon: Consumer Protection (Count I), Express Warrant				
11	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV);				
12	(l) South Dakota: Consumer Protection (Count I), Expres				
13	Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count				
14	IV);				
15	(m) Texas: Consumer Protection (Count I) and Unjust Enrichmen				
	(Count IV);				
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17	(n) Washington: Consumer Protection (Count I), Express Warrant				
	(n) Washington: Consumer Protection (Count I), Express Warrant, (Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV);				
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17 18	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV);				
17 18 19	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV); (o) Wyoming: Express Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty				
17 18 19 20	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV); (o) Wyoming: Express Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV).				
17 18 19 20 21	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV); (o) Wyoming: Express Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV). JURISDICTION AND VENUE				
17 18 19 20 21 22	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV); (o) Wyoming: Express Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV). JURISDICTION AND VENUE 6. On October 13, 2011, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation				
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV); (o) Wyoming: Express Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV). JURISDICTION AND VENUE 6. On October 13, 2011, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ("JPML") ordered all related actions filed outside this District to be transferred.				
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV); (o) Wyoming: Express Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV). JURISDICTION AND VENUE 6. On October 13, 2011, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ("JPML") ordered all related actions filed outside this District to be transferred here for all pre-trial proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 1407.				
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	(Count II), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV); (o) Wyoming: Express Warranty (Count II), Implied Warranty (Count III), and Unjust Enrichment (Count IV). JURISDICTION AND VENUE 6. On October 13, 2011, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ("JPML") ordered all related actions filed outside this District to be transferred here for all pre-trial proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 1407. 7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this consolidated				

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and (3) over two-thirds of the members of the proposed Classes hold different state citizenship than ConAgra.

- 8. This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over ConAgra because a substantial portion of the wrongdoing alleged by Plaintiffs occurred in California, ConAgra has sufficient minimum contacts with and/or otherwise intentionally avails itself of the markets in California, and ConAgra has sufficient contacts with this District such that it is fair and just for ConAgra to adjudicate this dispute here.
- 10. Venue is proper in this District because ConAgra is subject to personal jurisdiction here, a substantial portion of ConAgra's alleged wrongdoing occurred here, and many of the witnesses to ConAgra's alleged wrongdoing are believed to be located here. Additionally, venue is proper here because the parties are subject to the JPML order transferring this litigation here.

PARTIES

I. Plaintiffs

California Plaintiffs

Robert Briseño

11. Plaintiff Robert Briseño is a consumer residing in California. During the Class Period, Mr. Briseño purchased Wesson Canola Oil about once every two months for his and his family's consumption, most recently in April 2011. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Mr. Briseño saw "100% Natural" in ConAgra's advertisements approximately once a week on the label of Wesson Canola Oil bottles in stores, several times per year in print and television advertisements, and at least weekly on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil in his home. Mr. Briseño purchased Wesson Canola Oil because he believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil was "100% Natural." Mr. Briseño would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Mr. Briseño was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Mr. Briseño paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Mr. Briseño received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Christi Toomer

12. Christi Toomer is a consumer residing in California. During the Class Period, Ms. Toomer purchased Wesson Canola Oil at Wal-Mart for her and her family's personal consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Toomer saw ConAgra claim Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural" in ConAgra's advertisements several times annually in print media, including coupons, and in television advertisements, approximately once a week on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles in retail stores, and approximately daily on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles in her home. Ms. Toomer purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Toomer would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Toomer was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Toomer paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Toomer received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

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13. Plaintiff Michele Andrade is a consumer residing in California. During the Class Period, Ms. Andrade purchased Wesson Canola Oil approximately one or two times per year for her and her family's consumption, most recently in June 2011. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Andrade saw ConAgra market Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural" at least once in a magazine advertisement, and repeatedly on Wesson Canola Oil labels she saw in stores and in her home. Ms. Andrade purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Andrade would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Andrade was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Andrade paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Andrade received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Lil Marie Birr

14. Plaintiff Lil Marie Birr is a consumer and restaurant general manager residing in California. During the Class Period, Ms. Birr purchased Wesson Oils regularly for her own use and her restaurant's use. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Oils as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Birr saw ConAgra market Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" several times in television advertisements, and repeatedly on Wesson Oil labels she saw in stores, in her home, and in the restaurant she manages. Ms. Birr purchased Wesson Oils because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural." Ms. Birr would not have purchased Wesson Oils but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural."

Ms. Birr was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Oils as "100% Natural." Ms. Birr paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Birr received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Colorado Plaintiff

Jill Crouch

15. Plaintiff Jill Crouch is a consumer residing in Colorado. During the Class Period, Ms. Crouch purchased Wesson Canola Oil approximately two times per year for her and her family's consumption, most recently around May or June 2011. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Crouch saw ConAgra market Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural" on Wesson Canola Oil product packaging a few times per month when she went shopping in retail stores, on approximately a weekly basis when she saw the "100% Natural" claim on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil products in her home, and approximately one or two times annually in print or television advertisements. Ms. Crouch purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Crouch would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Crouch was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Crouch paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Crouch received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

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Julie Palmer

16. Plaintiff Julie Palmer is a consumer residing in Florida. During the Class Period, Ms. Palmer purchased Wesson Canola Oil as her needs arose for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Palmer saw "100% Natural" in ConAgra's advertisements on Wesson Canola Oil packaging in retail stores approximately on a weekly basis and in print advertisements approximately four or five times per year. Ms. Palmer purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Palmer would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Palmer was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Palmer paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Palmer received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Janeth Ruiz

17. Plaintiff Janeth Ruiz is a consumer residing in Florida. During the Class Period, Ms. Ruiz purchased Wesson Oils approximately once per month for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Oils as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Ruiz saw ConAgra represent that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural" several times in television advertisements, at least monthly on the packaging of Wesson Oil bottles in retail stores, and approximately weekly on the packaging of Wesson Oil bottles in her home. Ms. Ruiz purchased Wesson Oils because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural." Ms. Ruiz would

not have purchased Wesson Oils, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that they are "100% Natural." Ms. Ruiz was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Oils as "100% Natural." Ms. Ruiz paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Ruiz received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Illinois Plaintiff

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Pauline Michael

18. Plaintiff Pauline Michael is a consumer residing in Illinois. During the Class Period, Ms. Michael purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil approximately twice per year for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Vegetable Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Michael saw Wesson Vegetable Oil marketed as "100% Natural" approximately daily on the packaging of Wesson Vegetable Oil bottles in her home, a couple times per year on the packaging of Wesson Vegetable Oil bottles in retail stores, and several times in coupon advertisements. Ms. Michael purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Vegetable Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Michael would not have purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Michael was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Vegetable Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Michael paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Michael received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Indiana Plaintiff

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Cheri Shafstall

Plaintiff Cheri Shafstall is a consumer residing in Indiana. During the 19. Class Period, Ms. Shafstall purchased at least one bottle of Wesson Canola Oil for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Shafstall saw Wesson Canola Oil marketed as "100% Natural" in print advertisements, including coupons, on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles in retail stores approximately once a month, and repeatedly on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil in her home. Ms. Shafstall purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Shafstall would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Shafstall was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Shafstall paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Shafstall received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Massachusetts Plaintiff

Bonnie McDonald

20. Plaintiff Bonnie McDonald is a consumer residing in Massachusetts. During the Class Period, Ms. McDonald purchased Wesson Oils approximately every few months for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Oils as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. McDonald saw Wesson Oils marketed as "100% Natural" in television advertisements approximately a couple times per year, in print advertisements every three to four months, on product packaging in retail stores every other month, and on product packaging of Wesson Oils in her home once a

week. Ms. McDonald purchased Wesson Oils because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural." Ms. McDonald would not have purchased Wesson Oils, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that they are "100% Natural." McDonald was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Oils as "100% Natural." Ms. McDonald paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. McDonald received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Nebraska Plaintiff

Dee Hopper-Kercheval

Plaintiff Dee Hopper-Kercheval is a consumer residing in Nebraska. 21. During the Class Period, Ms. Hopper-Kercheval purchased Wesson Canola Oil approximately once per month for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Hopper-Kercheval saw Wesson Canola Oil marketed as "100% Natural" on the product packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles she purchased and kept in her home. Ms. Hopper-Kercheval purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Hopper-Kercheval would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Hopper-Kercheval was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Hopper-Kercheval paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Hopper-Kercheval received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

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Brenda Krein

22. Plaintiff Brenda Krein is a consumer residing in New Jersey. During the Class Period, Ms. Krein purchased a bottle of Wesson Vegetable Oil at a retail store in New Jersey for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Vegetable Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Krein repeatedly saw Wesson Vegetable Oils marketed as "100% Natural" on the packaging of Wesson Vegetable Oil bottles. Ms. Krein purchased Wesson Vegetable Oils because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Vegetable Oils are "100% Natural." Ms. Krein would not have purchased Wesson Vegetable Oils, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that they are "100% Natural." Ms. Krein was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Vegetable Oils as "100% Natural." Ms. Krein paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Krein received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Phyllis Scarpelli

During the Class Period, Ms. Scarpelli purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil approximately once every two months at the ShopRite Supermarket in Carteret, New Jersey, for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Vegetable Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Scarpelli saw Wesson Vegetable Oil marketed as "100% Natural" around two times per week on the label of the Wesson Vegetable Oil bottle she owned, approximately once per week in ShopRite weekly circulars, and on the label when purchasing Wesson Vegetable Oil. Ms. Scarpelli purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's

representations that Wesson Vegetable Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Scarpelli would not have purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Scarpelli was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Vegetable Oils as "100% Natural." Ms. Scarpelli paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Scarpelli received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

New York Plaintiffs

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Kelly McFadden

24. Plaintiff Kelly McFadden is a consumer residing in New York. Throughout the Class Period, Ms. McFadden purchased Wesson Corn Oil approximately two or three times per month for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Corn Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. McFadden saw Wesson Corn Oils marketed as "100% Natural" on the Wesson Oil website and on Wesson Corn Oil labels. Ms. McFadden purchased Wesson Corn Oil because Ms. McFadden believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Corn Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. McFadden would not have purchased Wesson Corn Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that Wesson Corn Oil was "100% Natural." Ms. McFadden was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Corn Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. McFadden paid for a 100% natural product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. McFadden received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Necla Musat

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25. Plaintiff Necla Musat is a consumer residing in New York. During the Class Period, Ms. Musat purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil approximately three times per year for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Vegetable Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Musat saw Wesson Vegetable Oil marketed as "100% Natural" once or twice on the Wesson Oils website, at least thirty times in the last year in online advertisements, two or three times a year in coupons, at least three times per year in television advertisements, and approximately daily on the packaging of Wesson Vegetable Oil bottles in retail stores and/or in her home. Ms. Musat purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Vegetable Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Musat would not have purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that they are "100% Natural." Ms. Musat was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Vegetable Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Musat paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Musat received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Ohio Plaintiff

Maureen Towey

26. Plaintiff Maureen Towey is a consumer residing in Ohio. During the Class Period, Ms. Towey purchased Wesson Canola Oil approximately one time per year for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Towey repeatedly saw Wesson Canola Oil marketed as "100% Natural" on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles in retail stores and in her home. Ms. Towey purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and

relied on ConAgra's representations that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Towey would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Towey was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Towey paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Towey received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Oregon Plaintiff

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Erika Heins

27. Plaintiff Erika Heins is a consumer residing in Oregon. During the Class Period, Ms. Heins purchased Wesson Canola Oil approximately twice per month for her consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Heins saw Wesson Canola Oil marketed as "100% Natural" in online advertisements once or twice a year, in coupons approximately once a week, on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles every time she went shopping in retail stores, and on a near daily basis on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles in her home. Ms. Heins purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Heins would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Heins was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Heins paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Heins received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

South Dakota Plaintiff

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Rona Johnston

28. Plaintiff Rona Johnston is a consumer residing in South Dakota. During the Class Period, Ms. Johnston purchased one bottle each of Wesson Canola Oil and Wesson Corn Oil for her consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil and Wesson Corn Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Johnston saw Wesson Canola Oils marketed as "100% Natural" in television advertisements approximately once or twice a month, on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil and Wesson Corn Oil bottles in retail stores approximately once every six months, and on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil and Wesson Corn Oil bottles in her home on a daily basis. Ms. Johnston purchased Wesson Canola Oil and Wesson Corn Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil and Wesson Corn Oil are "100% Natural." Ms. Johnston would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil and Wesson Corn Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that they are "100% Natural." Ms. Johnston was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil and Wesson Corn Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Johnston paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Johnston received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Texas Plaintiff

Anita Willman

29. Plaintiff Anita Willman is a consumer residing in Texas. During the Class Period, Ms. Willman purchased Wesson Canola Oil approximately once per week for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Willman saw Wesson Canola Oil marketed as "100%

Natural" on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles in retail stores approximately once a week and on the packaging of Wesson Canola Oil bottles in her home. Ms. Willman purchased Wesson Canola Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Canola Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Willman would not have purchased Wesson Canola Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Willman was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Canola Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Willman paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Willman received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Washington Plaintiff

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Anne Cowan

30. Plaintiff Anne Cowan is a consumer residing in Washington. During the Class Period, Ms. Cowan purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil approximately once every two months, and more recently once every couple of months, for her and her Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and family's consumption. advertised Wesson Vegetable Oil as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Cowan saw Wesson Vegetable Oil marketed as "100% Natural" in print advertisements approximately two to three times per month, on the packaging of Wesson Vegetable Oil bottles in retail stores a couple times per month, and on the packaging of Wesson Vegetable Oil in her home approximately four times per month. Ms. Cowan purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Vegetable Oil is "100% Natural." Ms. Cowan would not have purchased Wesson Vegetable Oil, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that it is "100% Natural." Ms. Cowan was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Vegetable Oil as "100% Natural." Ms. Cowan paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not

receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Cowan received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

Wyoming Plaintiff

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Patty Boyer

31. Plaintiff Patty Boyer is a consumer residing in Wyoming. During the Class Period, Ms. Boyer purchased Wesson Oils approximately once per year for her and her family's consumption. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra labeled and advertised Wesson Oils as "100% Natural." During the Class Period, Ms. Boyer saw Wesson Oils marketed as "100% Natural" on Wesson Oils packaging on an approximately twice monthly basis when she went shopping in retail stores, on approximately a weekly basis when she saw the "100% Natural" claim on the packaging of Wesson Oil products in her home, and also saw the claim in printed coupon advertisements, though she cannot recall how often. Ms. Boyer purchased Wesson Oils because she believed and relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural." Ms. Boyer would not have purchased Wesson Oils, but for ConAgra's misrepresentation that they are "100% Natural." Ms. Boyer was injured in fact and lost money as a result of ConAgra misrepresenting Wesson Oils as "100% Natural." Ms. Boyer paid for a "100% Natural" product, but did not receive a product that was 100% natural. Instead, Ms. Boyer received a product that was genetically engineered in a laboratory and had its genetic code artificially altered to exhibit not natural qualities.

II. Defendant

32. ConAgra is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters located in Omaha, Nebraska. Among other activities, ConAgra manufactures, markets, distributes, and sells Wesson Oils. The Wesson brand is part of ConAgra's Consumer Foods segment. ConAgra owns consumer foods manufacturing facilities in thirty-nine states, including California, and is registered as an active

corporation with the California Secretary of State. ConAgra claims that its products are in 96 percent of American households and reported over \$13.26 billion in net sales for its fiscal year ending May 27, 2012, with a gross profit of \$2.8 billion and an operating profit of \$1.6 billion.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

ConAgra Labels and Markets its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural"

- 33. Throughout the Class Period, ConAgra systematically labeled and marketed its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" in product packaging, print advertisements (e.g., coupons or magazine advertisements), both visually and audibly in television commercials, and on the Wesson Oils website (www.wessonoil.com).
- 34. Indeed, ConAgra labels every bottle of its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" in large, bright green letters on the front of the bottle as illustrated in the representative images of Wesson Oils product packaging reproduced below:







- 35. In addition to "100% Natural" appearing in vibrant green on the label of every bottle of Wesson Oil sold during the Class Period, "Wesson" is haloed by the image of the sun. Wesson Canola Oil also features a picture of a green heart. The imagery on the Wesson Oils labels reinforces ConAgra's "100% Natural" claim.
- 36. ConAgra also prominently features its "100% Natural" claim in numerous locations throughout the Wesson Oils website, including stating:
- (a) "Wesson | Pure, 100% Natural Oils" in the title bar for of the Wesson Oils website;
- (b) "Pure Wesson 100% Natural Canola Oil is the most versatile type of vegetable oil and it provides the best nutritional balance of all popular cooking oils . . . Pure Wesson 100 percent Natural Canola Oil is good for your heart." at http://www.wessonoil.com/canola_oil.jsp;
- (c) "Pure Wesson 100% Natural Oil is the perfect all-purpose cooking and baking vegetable oil." at http://www.wessonoil.com/vegetable_oil.jsp;

- (d) "Pure Wesson 100% Natural Corn Oil is the best oil to ensure a crispy [sic] coating on your fried foods while retaining moistness on the inside." at http://www.wessonoil.com/corn_oil.jsp; and
- (e) "Pure Wesson 100% Natural Best Blend Oil is highly versatile." at http://www.wessonoil.com/best blend.jsp.
- 37. By consistently and systematically labeling, marketing, and advertising its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" throughout the Class Period, ConAgra ensured that all consumers purchasing Wesson Oils would be exposed to ConAgra's "100% Natural" claim.
- 38. A claim that a product is "natural" is material to a reasonable consumer.
- 39. This is evidenced by ConAgra labeling and marketing its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" throughout the Class Period in nearly every media format, and on the front label of all bottles of Wesson Oils.

Genetically-Modified Organisms Are Not Natural

- 40. Genetically-modified organisms ("GMO") are not natural, let alone "100% Natural."
- 41. This is evidenced by the statements of the companies that make GMO, such as Monsanto. Monsanto defines GMO as "Plants or animals that have had their genetic makeup altered to exhibit traits that are not naturally theirs. In general, genes are taken (copied) from one organism that shows a desired trait and transferred into the genetic code of another organism." Monsanto Glossary, http://www.monsanto.com/newsviews/Pages/glossary.aspx#g (last visited Jan. 9, 2012) (emphasis added). As more fully alleged below, "unnatural" is a defining characteristic of genetically modified foods.
- 42. Romer Labs, a company that provides diagnostic solutions to the agricultural industry, defines GMO as "[a]griculturally important plants [that] are often genetically modified by the insertion of DNA material from outside the

- 43. That GMOs are not natural is further evidenced by the explanations of health and environmental organizations, such as the World Health Organization, which defines genetically-modified organisms as "organisms in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally. The technology is often called 'modern biotechnology' or 'gene technology', sometimes also 'recombinant DNA technology' or 'genetic engineering'. It allows selected individual genes to be transferred from one organism into another, also between non-related species. Such methods are used to create GM plants which are then used to grow GM food crops." World Health Organization, 20 Questions on Genetically Modified (GM) Foods at http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/biotech/en/20questions/en/ (last visited Dec. 18, 2012) (emphasis added).
- 44. The Environmental Protection Agency has distinguished conventional breeding of plants "through natural methods, such as cross-pollination" from genetic engineering using modern scientific techniques. See United States Environmental Protection Agency, Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Questions & Answers Biotechnology: Final Plant-Pesticide/Plant Incorporated Protectants (PIPs) Rules (Jul. 19, 2001) at http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/biotech/pubs/qanda.pdf ("Conventional breeding is a method in which genes for pesticidal traits are introduced into a plant through natural methods, such as cross-pollination. . . . Genetically engineered plant-incorporated protectants are created through a process that utilizes several different modern scientific techniques to introduce a specific pesticide-producing gene into a plant's DNA genetic

material.") (emphasis of "through natural methods" added; remaining emphasis in original).

45. As indicated by the definitions above, which come from a wide array of sources, including industry, government, and health organizations, GMOs are not "100% Natural." GMO are "created" artificially in a laboratory through genetic engineering. Thus, by claiming its Wesson Oils are "100% Natural," ConAgra deceives and misleads reasonable consumers.

Wesson Oils Are Made From GMO

- 46. Wesson Oils are made from GMO, including genetically modified rapeseed (canola oil), soybeans, and corn.
- 47. In the following statement on "Biotechnology" from ConAgra's corporate website, ConAgra impliedly admits that it uses genetically-modified plants, referred to by ConAgra as "biotech foods," to make its food products. ConAgra states that its food products not made from genetically-modified plants are limited to ConAgra's "Lightlife" brand and ConAgra's food products specifically labeled "organic":

Biotechnology

In the past two decades, biotechnology has been used to improve yield, nutrition, resistance to drought and insects, and other desirable qualities of several common food crops, including corn and soy. As consumers grow more conscious about the types of foods they put in their bodies, some have asked about the role of biotechnology in food production and health.

As such, ConAgra Foods only purchases and uses ingredients that comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations for food safety and nutrition. Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the FDA have concluded that biotech foods that are approved for human

consumption are as safe and nutritious as other foods that are developed through more conventional methods.

However, we understand the field of food biotechnology is constantly shifting as advancements are made in the world of science, and will continue to reevaluate our internal policies, relying heavily on evolving science, consumer and customer expectations, and regulatory decisions.

Ultimately, consumers will decide what is acceptable in the marketplace based on the best science and public information available. We will continue to listen carefully to our customers and consumers on biotechnology and provide alternatives for those who demand products without biotechnology ingredients. Two choices are our Lightlife brand, which is manufactured using non-GMO soy seeds, and our organic foods, which also do not use biotech ingredients.

http://company.conagrafoods.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=202310&p=biotechnology (emphasis added) (last visited Jan. 9, 2012).

48. Although ConAgra says that "consumers will decide what is acceptable in the marketplace," ConAgra's Wesson Oils' labeling and advertising robs consumers of the ability to make an *informed* decision because they are told that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural." Further, reasonable consumers who observe ConAgra's claim that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural" have no reason to "demand products *without biotechnology ingredients*"—the "100% Natural" labeling and advertising represents to consumers that they are getting biotech-free food.

ConAgra Deceptively Labels and Markets Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" to Boost Sales

49. ConAgra labels and markets its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" to bolster its sales of Wesson Oils for its own substantial financial gain.

50. ConAgra recognizes that consumers rely on "trusted seals, standards and symbols of higher quality" when making food product shopping decisions, and further recognizes that "Natural" is among the top eight trustmarks consumers look for when making purchases. For example, in a News Release dated May 8, 2006, ConAgra states as follows:

To determine what they should consider "better food," many consumers are turning to trusted seals, standards and symbols of higher quality—indeed, more than nine in 10 Americans today consider trust marks to some degree when shopping.

A new "What's In Store" survey of consumer shopping habits commissioned by ConAgra Foods confirms this trend:

- Fully 95 percent of Americans say they would consider quality symbols, seals & trust marks when food shopping.
- Four times as many survey respondents said they are more likely to consider buying foods based on trust marks today than they were a year ago, compared to only a quarter as many who said less likely.
- While many symbols are present in the market today, the top
 eight trust marks consumers look for are: WHOLE GRAINS,
 HEART-HEALTHY, ZERO GRAMS TRANS-FAT, LOW
 SODIUM, NATURAL, DIETARY GUIDELINES, ORGANIC
 & KOSHER.
- ConAgra Foods, News Release, ConAgra Foods Survey Seals & Standards of Quality Give Grocery Shoppers Confidence (May 8, 2006), http://investor.conagrafoods.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=202310&p=irol-newsArticle_pf&ID=1008637&highlight (emphasis added, footnotes omitted).
- 51. ConAgra labels and markets its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" to take advantage of consumers relying on trustmarks and to boost its profits.

52. As detailed in the allegations above, however, because Wesson Oils are made from GMOs, ConAgra's "100% Natural" representations are false, deceptive, misleading, and unfair to consumers who are injured in fact by purchasing a product that ConAgra claims is "100% Natural" when it is not.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

53. The twenty Plaintiffs named in this complaint reside in fifteen different states: California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action, pursuant to the provisions of Rules 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of fifteen separate state-wide classes they respectively seek to represent, defined as:

All persons who reside in California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, or Wyoming who have purchased Wesson Oils from June 27, 2007 through the final disposition of this and any and all related actions (collectively, the "Classes", and separately, the "California Class," "Colorado Class," "Florida Class," "Illinois Class," "Indiana Class," "Massachusetts Class," "Nebraska Class," "New Jersey Class," "New York Class," "Ohio Class," "Oregon Class," "South Dakota Class," "Texas Class," "Washington Class," and "Wyoming Class").

- 54. Excluded from the Classes are ConAgra and its subsidiaries and affiliates; all persons who make a timely election to be excluded from the Classes; governmental entities; and the judges to whom this case is assigned and any immediate family members thereof.
- 55. For ease of reference the SAC occasionally refers to the Classes as the "Class" strictly to facilitate the text. This grammatical construction is not intended

to mean Plaintiffs seek anything other than separate statewide classes. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend the definitions of the Classes at class certification.

- 56. Certification of Plaintiffs' claims for class-wide treatment is appropriate because Plaintiffs can prove the elements of their claims on a class-wide basis using the same evidence as would be used to prove those elements in individual actions alleging the same claims.
- 57. Numerosity—Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(1). The members of the Classes are so numerous that individual joinder of all Class members is impracticable. There are millions of individual purchasers of Wesson Oils. The precise number of members of the Classes and their addresses are unknown to Plaintiffs, but may be ascertained from ConAgra's books and records. Members of the Classes may be notified of the pendency of this action by recognized, Court-approved notice dissemination methods, which may include U.S. Mail, electronic mail, Internet postings, and/or published notice.
- 58. Commonality and Predominance—Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(2) and 23(b)(3). This action involves common questions of law or fact, which predominate over any questions affecting individual members of the Classes. All members of the Classes were exposed to ConAgra's deceptive and misleading labeling and marketing of its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" because that claim was on the label of every container of Wesson Oil sold. Furthermore, common questions of law or fact include:
 - (a) whether ConAgra engaged in the conduct as alleged herein;
 - (b) whether ConAgra's practices violate applicable law;
- (c) whether Plaintiffs and the other members of the Classes are entitled to actual, statutory, or other forms of damages, and other monetary relief; and

- (d) whether Plaintiffs and the other members of the Classes are entitled to equitable relief, including but not limited to injunctive relief and restitution.
- 59. ConAgra engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal rights sought to be enforced by Plaintiffs individually and on behalf of the other members of the Classes. Similar or identical statutory and common law violations, business practices, and injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any, pale by comparison, in both quality and quantity, to the numerous common questions that dominate this action.
- 60. Typicality—Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(3). Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Classes because, among other things, all members of the Classes were comparably injured through the uniform misconduct described above, were subject to ConAgra's false, deceptive, misleading, and unfair labeling and marketing practices, including the false claim that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural," found on every container of Wesson Oil sold. Further, there are no defenses available to ConAgra that are unique to Plaintiffs.
- 61. Adequacy of Representation—Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(4). Plaintiffs are adequate representatives of the members of the Classes because their interests do not conflict with the interests of the other members of the Classes they seek to represent; they have retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class action litigation; and Plaintiffs will prosecute this action vigorously. The Classes' interests will be fairly and adequately protected by Plaintiffs and their counsel.
- 62. Declaratory and Injunctive Relief—Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2). ConAgra has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to Plaintiffs and the other members of the Classes, thereby making

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appropriate final injunctive relief and declaratory relief, as described below, with respect to the members of the Classes as a whole.

63. Superiority—Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3). A class action is superior to any other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, and no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action. The damages or other financial detriment suffered by Plaintiffs and the other members of the Classes are relatively small compared to the burden and expense that would be required to individually litigate their claims against ConAgra, so it would be impracticable for members of the Classes to individually seek redress for ConAgra's wrongful conduct. Even if the members of the Classes could afford individual litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation creates a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments, and increases the delay and expense to all parties and By contrast, the class action device presents far fewer the court system. management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Given the similar nature of the members of the Classes' claims, the absence of material differences in the statutes and common laws upon which the Class members' claims are based as applicable to the particular facts, claims, and legal theories asserted in this SAC, and the potential ability to conduct this litigation using a bellwether approach if necessary, the Classes will be easily managed by the Court and the parties, and will be managed more efficiently in this integrated class action than through multiple separate actions in the various states, particularly given the JPML Order transferring all such cases to this Court and this Court's consolidation thereof.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

Violation of State Consumer Protection Laws
(Brought on Behalf of the California Class, Colorado Class, Florida Class,
Illinois Class, Massachusetts Class, Nebraska Class, New Jersey Class, New
York Class, Ohio Class, Oregon Class, South Dakota Class, Texas Class, and
Washington Class)

64. The following Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-63 of the SAC as though fully stated herein: California Plaintiffs Robert Briseño, Christi Toomer, Michele Andrade, and Lil Marie Birr, Colorado Plaintiff Jill Crouch, Florida Plaintiffs Julie Palmer and Janeth Ruiz, Illinois Plaintiff Pauline Michael, Massachusetts Plaintiff Bonnie McDonald, Nebraska Plaintiff Dee Hopper-Kercheval, New Jersey Plaintiffs Brenda Krein and Phyllis Scarpelli, New York Plaintiffs Kelly McFadden and Necla Musat, Ohio Plaintiff Maureen Towey, Oregon Plaintiff Erika Heins, South Dakota Plaintiff Rona Johnston, Texas Plaintiff Anita Willman, and Washington Plaintiff Anne Cowan.

65. Plaintiffs named in the preceding paragraph bring their claims individually and on behalf of all others who purchased Wesson Oils in and reside in the same states as those Plaintiffs, specifically: the California Class, Colorado Class, Florida Class, Illinois Class, Massachusetts Class, Nebraska Class, New Jersey Class, New York Class, Ohio Class, Oregon Class, South Dakota Class,

The Court's November 15, 2012 Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Defendant's Motion to Dismiss dismissed Plaintiffs' Second Cause of Action for Violation of the Nebraska Consumer Protection Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 59-1601, et seq., with prejudice. Plaintiff Dee Hopper-Kercheval asserts this claim for violation of the Nebraska Consumer Protection Act, individually and on behalf of all Nebraska residents similarly situated, solely to preserve this claim for possible appeal at a future date when such appeal would be timely.

The Court's November 15, 2012 Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Defendant's Motion to Dismiss dismissed Plaintiffs' New Jersey Consumer Protection Claim with leave to amend. Plaintiffs Brenda Krein and Phyllis Scarpelli assert this claim for violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 56:8-1, et seq., solely to preserve this claim for possible appeal at a future date when such appeal would be timely, and reserve the right to seek leave to amend to the extent Plaintiffs obtain information to enable them to more fulsomely plead ascertainable loss under New Jersey law.

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815 ILCS §§ 505/1, et seq.;

(e)

Laws ch. 93A, et seq.;

Massachusetts Unfair and Deceptive Practices Act, Mass. Ann.

1	(f) Nebraska Consumer Protection Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 59-					
2	1601, et seq.; ⁴					
3	(g) New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 56:8-1, et					
4	seq.; ⁵					
5	(h) New York Deceptive Acts and Practices Act, N.Y. Gen. Bus.					
6	Law §§ 349, et seq.;					
7	(i) Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act, Ohio Rev. Code §§					
8	1345.01, et seq.;					
9	(j) Oregon Unfair Trade Practices Act, Or. Rev. Stat §§ 646.605, et					
10	seq.;					
11	(k) South Dakota Deceptive Trade Practices and Consumer					
12	Protection Law, S.D. Codified Laws §§ 37 24 1, et seq.;					
13	(l) Texas Deceptive Trade Practices - Consumer Protection Act					
14	Tex. Bus. & Com. Code §§ 17.41, et seq.; and					
15	(m) Washington Consumer Protection Act, Wash. Rev. Code §§					
16	19.86.010, et seq.					
17	69. Wesson Oils constitute products to which these consumer protection					
18	statutes apply.					
19	70. The Plaintiffs in the Consumer Protection States provided ConAgra					
20	notification that comports or that should be construed to comport with applicable					
21	notice requirements under each of the above listed statutes.					
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25	⁴ As noted above, this claim for violation of the Nebraska Consumer Protection Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 59-1601, et seq., is asserted solely to preserve this claim for possible appeal for a future date when such appeal would be timely.					
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⁵ As noted above, this claim for violation of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 56:8-1, et seq., is asserted solely to preserve this claim for possible appeal for a future date when such appeal would be timely.

- (a) California and Massachusetts: Plaintiffs provided direct notice by pre-suit demand letter of their California and Massachusetts consumer protection claims.
- (b) Texas: Defendant has already received written notice of the claims of Plaintiff Willman, and the class of Texas residents she seeks to represent, for violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices—Consumer Protection Act statute in that the correspondence between the parties prior to and after filing the Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint, the Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint itself, and subsequent pleadings in this action, including in particular Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendant's Motion to Dismiss, provided written notice in reasonable detail of Ms. Willman's specific complaint and damages. Nonetheless, and in an abundance of caution, and even though the following written notice is redundant and unnecessary, counsel for Plaintiff Willman is sending a letter to counsel for Defendant ConAgra advising ConAgra in reasonable detail of the Texas Class' claims and the amount of damages and expenses, including attorney's fees, reasonably incurred by the Texas Class in asserting this claim against ConAgra.
- (c) Remaining States: The consumer protection statutes of Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington do not require pre-suit notice to Defendant to assert a claim for violation of their respective consumer protection statutes.
- (d) Plaintiffs will provide notice to the Attorney Generals of all Consumer Protection States, including a copy of the SAC, after filing.
- 71. In the conduct of trade or commerce regarding the labeling, marketing and sale of its Wesson Oils, ConAgra engaged in unfair and deceptive acts or practices by representing that Wesson Oils are "100% Natural"—including through product labels, television commercials, print advertisements, in-store advertisements and/or Internet based advertisements, as described herein—when,

in fact, Wesson Oils are not natural, let alone "100% Natural" because they are made from GMOs.

- 72. ConAgra's representations and advertisements of its Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" were deceptive and likely to deceive consumers, including the Plaintiffs and members of the State Classes with Consumer Protection Claims.
- 73. ConAgra knew or should have known that its representations and advertisements of Wesson Oils as "100% Natural" were untrue or misleading.
- 74. ConAgra used or employed such deceptive and unlawful acts or practices with the intent that the Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Consumer Protection Claims relied thereon or otherwise be deceived.
- 75. The Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Consumer Protection Claims relied on ConAgra's "100% Natural" misrepresentation and/or were deceived or likely to be deceived.
- 76. The Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Consumer Protection Claims would not have purchased the Wesson Oils at the prices they paid, or would not have purchased such products at all, had they known the truth and are thus entitled to a full or partial refund as allowed under each of the several state laws alleged herein.
- 77. Further, as a result of ConAgra's misrepresentations, as alleged herein, the Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Consumer Protection Claims they respectively seek to represent did not receive the benefit of their bargain in purchasing Wesson Oils. As a result of ConAgra's conduct, the Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Consumer Protection Claims were damaged in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 78. The Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Consumer Protection Claims are entitled to actual compensatory and/or statutory damages, as well as attorneys' fees and legal expenses under the various state laws implicated by this Claim.

COUNT II

Breach of Express Warranty
(Brought on Behalf of the California Class, Colorado Class, Indiana Class, Massachusetts Class, Nebraska Class, New Jersey Class, New York Class, Oregon Class, South Dakota Class, Washington Class, and Wyoming Class)

- 79. The following Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-63 of the SAC as though fully stated herein: California Plaintiffs Robert Briseño, Christi Toomer, Michele Andrade, and Lil Marie Birr, Colorado Plaintiff Jill Crouch, Indiana Plaintiff Cheri Shafstall, Massachusetts Plaintiff Bonnie McDonald, Nebraska Plaintiff Dee Hopper-Kercheval, New Jersey Plaintiffs Brenda Krein and Phyllis Scarpelli, New York Plaintiffs Kelly McFadden and Necla Musat, Oregon Plaintiff Erika Heins, South Dakota Plaintiff Rona Johnston, Washington Plaintiff Anne Cowan, and Wyoming Plaintiff Patty Boyer.
- 80. Plaintiffs named in the preceding paragraph bring this claim individually and on behalf of all others who purchased Wesson Oils in and reside in the same states as those Plaintiffs: the California Class, Colorado Class, Indiana Class, Massachusetts Class, Nebraska Class, New Jersey Class, New York Class, Oregon Class, South Dakota Class, Washington Class, and Wyoming Class (referred to below as the "State Classes with Breach of Express Warranty Claims" for ease of reference).
- 81. The Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Breach of Express Warranty Claims formed a contract with ConAgra at the time they purchased Wesson Oils. The terms of that contract include the promises and affirmations of fact ConAgra makes on Wesson Oils' packaging and through its marketing of its Wesson Oils, including ConAgra's promise that its Wesson Oils are "100% Natural," as described above. This marketing and advertising constitute express warranties and became part of the basis of the bargain, and are part of the standardized contract between each of the Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Breach of Express Warranty Claims, and ConAgra.

- (d) Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 106 § 2-313;
- (e) Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-313;

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- (f) N.J. Stat. Ann. § 12A:2-313;
- (g) N.Y. U.C.C. Law § 2-313;
- (h) Or. Rev. Stat. § 72.3130;
- (i) S.D. Codified Laws. § 57A-2-313;
- (j) Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 62A.2-313; and
- (k) Wyo. Stat. § 34.1-2-313.
- 85. The above-listed states do not require privity of contract to recover for breach of express warranty.

- 86. As a result of ConAgra's breaches of its express warranty, Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Breach of Express Warranty Claims were damaged in the amount of the purchase price they paid for Wesson Oils, in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 87. Within a reasonable time after they knew or should have known of such breach, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of other members of the State Classes with Breach of Express Warranty Claims they respectively seek to represent, placed ConAgra on notice thereof.
- 88. Section 2-607(3)(a) of the U.C.C., as codified by each of the states listed above, does not explicitly require "pre-suit" notice or notice in any particular form. Rather, this section of the U.C.C. requires notice "within a reasonable time" after the buyer's discovery of the breach. U.C.C. § 2-607(3)(a). The U.C.C.'s official comments further state that "A reasonable time' for notification from a retail consumer is to be judged by different standards so that in his case it will be extended, for the rule of requiring notification is designed to defeat commercial bad faith, not to deprive a good faith consumer of his remedy." U.C.C. § 607 cmt.

 4. The notice "need only be such as informs the seller that the transaction is claimed to involve a breach, and thus opens the way for normal settlement through negotiation." *Id*.

COUNT III

Plaintiffs in the Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability (Brought on behalf of the California Class, Colorado Class, Indiana Class, Massachusetts Class, Nebraska Class, New Jersey Class, South Dakota Class, and Wyoming Class)

89. The following Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-63 of the SAC as though fully stated herein: California Plaintiffs Robert Briseño, Christi Toomer, Michele Andrade, and Lil Marie Birr, Colorado Plaintiff Jill Crouch, Indiana Plaintiff Cheri Shafstall, Massachusetts Plaintiff Bonnie McDonald, Nebraska Plaintiff Dee Hopper-Kercheval, New Jersey Plaintiffs Brenda Krein and

Phyllis Scarpelli, South Dakota Plaintiff Rona Johnston, and Wyoming Plaintiff Patty Boyer.

- 90. Plaintiffs named in the preceding paragraph bring this claim individually and on behalf of all others who purchased Wesson Oils in and reside in the same states as those Plaintiffs: the California Class, Colorado Class, Indiana Class, Massachusetts Class, Nebraska Class, New Jersey Class, South Dakota Class, and Wyoming Class (referred to below as the "State Classes with Breach of Implied Warranty Claims" for ease of reference).
- 91. The Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Breach of Implied Warranty Claims purchased Wesson Oils for the ordinary purposes of cooking oils.
- 92. By representing that its Wesson Oils were "100% Natural" in labeling and marketing them as described herein, ConAgra impliedly warranted that such products were of merchantable quality, such that the oils were of the same average grade, quality, and value as similar goods sold under similar circumstances.
- 93. Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Breach of Implied Warranty Claims they respectively seek to represent relied on ConAgra's representations that Wesson Oils were "100% Natural" when they purchased Wesson Oils.
- 94. ConAgra breached the warranty implied at the time of sale in that the Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Breach of Implied Warranty Claims did not receive goods that were "100% Natural" as represented and thus, the goods were not merchantable as fit for the ordinary purposes for which those goods are used or as promoted, marketed, advertised, packaged, labeled, or sold.
- 95. At all times relevant to this action, ConAgra has breached its implied warranties concerning Wesson Oils because Wesson Oils are not "100% Natural" but are made from GMO. ConAgra's conduct violates the following state implied warranty laws:

(a) Cal. Com. Code § 2314; 1 2 (b) Colo. Rev. Stat. § 4-2-314; Ind. Code § 26-1-2-314; 3 (c) (d) Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 106 § 2-314; 4 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-314; 5 (e) N.J. Stat. Ann. § 12A:2-314; 6 (f) S.D. Cod. Laws. § 57A-2-314; and 7 (g) 8 (h) Wyo. Stat. § 34.1-2-314. 96. The above states do not require privity of contract to recover for 9 breach of implied warranty. 10 97. As a result of the breach of implied warranties, the Plaintiffs and other 11 12 members of the State Classes with Breach of Implied Warranty Claims have been damaged in the amount of the price they paid for Wesson Oils. 13 Within a reasonable time after they knew or should have known of 14 98. 15 such breach, the Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and other members of the State Classes with Breach of Implied Warranty Claims, placed ConAgra on notice 16 17 thereof. 99. Section 2-607(3)(a) of the U.C.C., as codified by each of the states 18 listed above, does not explicitly require "pre-suit" notice or notice in any particular 19 form. Rather, this section of the U.C.C. requires notice "within a reasonable time" 20 after the buyer's discovery of the breach. U.C.C. § 2-607(3)(a). The U.C.C.'s 21 official comments further state that "A reasonable time' for notification from a 22 23 retail consumer is to be judged by different standards so that in his case it will be extended, for the rule of requiring notification is designed to defeat commercial 24 bad faith, not to deprive a good faith consumer of his remedy." U.C.C. § 607 cmt. 25 4. The notice "need only be such as informs the seller that the transaction is 26 27 claimed to involve a breach, and thus opens the way for normal settlement through negotiation." Id. 28

COUNT IV

Unjust Enrichment
(Brought on Behalf of the Colorado Class, Florida Class, Illinois Class,
Indiana Class, Massachusetts Class, Nebraska Class, New York Class, Ohio
Class, Oregon Class, South Dakota Class, Texas Class, Washington Class, and
Wyoming Class)

100. The following Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-63 of the SAC as though fully stated herein: Colorado Plaintiff Jill Crouch, Florida Plaintiffs Julie Palmer and Janeth Ruiz, Illinois Plaintiff Pauline Michael, Massachusetts Plaintiff Bonnie McDonald, Nebraska Plaintiff Dee Hopper-Kercheval, New York Plaintiffs Kelly McFadden and Necla Musat, Ohio Plaintiff Maureen Towey, Oregon Plaintiff Erika Heins, South Dakota Plaintiff Rona Johnston, Texas Plaintiff Anita Willman, Washington Plaintiff Anne Cowan, and Wyoming Plaintiff Patty Boyer.

101. Plaintiffs named in the preceding paragraph bring this claim individually and on behalf of all others who purchased Wesson Oils in and reside in the same states as those Plaintiffs: the Colorado Class, Florida Class, Illinois Class, Indiana Class, Massachusetts Class, Nebraska Class, New York Class, Ohio Class, Oregon Class, South Dakota Class, Texas Class, Washington Class, and Wyoming Class (referred to below as the "State Classes with Unjust Enrichment Claims or Remedies" for ease of reference).

102. As a result of ConAgra's deceptive, fraudulent, and misleading labeling, marketing and sales of its Wesson Oils, ConAgra was enriched, at the expense of the Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Unjust Enrichment Claims or Remedies they respectively seek to represent, through the payment of the purchase price for ConAgra's Wesson Oils.

⁶ The Court's November 15, 2012 Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Defendant's Motion to Dismiss dismissed Plaintiffs' Ohio unjust enrichment cause of action with prejudice. Plaintiff Maureen Towey asserts this claim for unjust enrichment under Ohio law, individually and on behalf of all Ohio residents similarly situated, solely to preserve this claim for possible appeal at a future date when such appeal would be timely.

conscience to permit ConAgra to retain the ill-gotten benefits that it received from Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Unjust Enrichment Claims or Remedies in light of the fact that the Wesson Oils purchased by the Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Unjust Enrichment Claims or Remedies were not "100% Natural," as ConAgra purports them to be. It would thus be unjust or inequitable for ConAgra to retain the benefit without restitution or disgorgement of monies paid to ConAgra for Wesson Oils, or such other appropriate equitable remedy as appropriate, to Plaintiffs and other members of the State Classes with Unjust Enrichment Claims or Remedies.

103. Under the circumstances, it would be against equity and good

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf other members of the Classes described in this Second Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint that they respectively seek to represent, respectfully request that:

- A. the Court certify the Classes pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3), and adjudge Plaintiffs and their counsel to be adequate representatives thereof;
- B. the Court enter an Order requiring ConAgra to pay Plaintiffs' and the other members of the Classes' economic, monetary, actual damages (including multiple damages), consequential, compensatory or statutory damages, whichever is greater; and, if its conduct is proved willful, awarding Plaintiffs and the other members of the Classes exemplary damages to the extent provided by law;
- C. the Court enter an Order awarding restitution and disgorgement of all monies ConAgra acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be wrongful, or any other appropriate remedy in equity, to Plaintiffs and the other members of the Classes;
- D. the Court enter an Order awarding declaratory and injunctive relief as permitted by law or equity, including: enjoining ConAgra from continuing the

unlawful practices set forth above; directing ConAgra to cease its deceptive and misleading marketing campaign in which it describes Wesson Oils as "100% Natural"; and directing ConAgra to disgorge all monies ConAgra acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be wrongful;

- E. the Court enter an Order awarding Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the other members of the Classes, their expenses and costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees and reimbursement of reasonable expenses, to the extent provided by law;
- F. the Court enter an Order awarding to Plaintiffs individually and on behalf of the other members of the Classes, pre- and post-judgment interest, to the extent allowable; and
 - G. for such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury of all claims in this Complaint so triable.

DATED: December 19, 2012

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY CM/ECF AND/OR MAIL

I, the undersigned, declare:

- 1. That declarant is and was, at all times herein mentioned, employed in the County of Los Angeles, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to or interest in the within action; that declarant's business address is One California Plaza, 300 South Grand Avenue, Suite 3900, Los Angeles, California 90071-3149.
- 2. Declarant hereby certifies that on December 19, 2012, declarant served the SECOND CONSOLIDATED AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT by electronically filing the foregoing document listed above by using the Case Management/ Electronic Case filing system.
 - 3. Declarant further certifies:

All participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the court's CM/ECF system

Participants in the case who are registered CM/ECF users will be served by the court's CM/ECF system. Participants in the case that are not registered CM/ECF users will be served by First-Class Mail, postage pre-paid or have dispatched to a third-party commercial carrier for delivery to the non-CM/ECF participants.

4. That there is a regular communication by mail between the place of mailing and the places so addressed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 19th day of December, 2012, at Los Angeles, California.

ELIZABETH VILLALOBOS TOPEZ

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	SECOND CONSOLIDATED AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT			

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