

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

GROWTH CAVE, LLC, et al.

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-01115-DOC-RAO

**STIPULATED ORDER FOR
PERMANENT INJUNCTION,
MONETARY RELIEF, AND
OTHER RELIEF AS TO
DEFENDANTS OSMANY
BATTE AND APEX MIND, LLC,
AND RELIEF DEFENDANT
FRIENDLY SOLAR, INC. [111]**

On February 10, 2025, Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission (“Commission” or “FTC”), filed its Complaint for Permanent Injunction, Monetary Judgment, and Other Relief pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTC Act”), 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b), 57b, and moved, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b), for a temporary restraining order, asset freeze, other equitable relief, and an order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not issue against Growth Cave, LLC, also doing business as Buffalo Bridge, LLC and PassiveApps (“Growth Cave”); Apex Mind, LLC (“Apex Mind”); Lucas Lee-

1 Tyson; Osmany Batte, also known as Ozzie Blessed; and Jordan Marksberry
2 (collectively, “Defendants”). Dkts. 1 & 2.

3 On February 13, 2025, the Court issued an *ex parte* Temporary Restraining
4 Order against Defendants that included an asset freeze and other equitable relief.
5 Dkt. 22. On February 25, 2025, the Court *sua sponte* extended the *ex parte*
6 Temporary Restraining Order through March 5, 2025. Dkt. 23.

7 Defendants Apex Mind and Batte were properly served with a summons, the
8 Complaint, the Temporary Restraining Order, and the Order Extending Temporary
9 Restraining Order through March 5, 2025. Dkt. 32, 33.

10 By way of stipulation filed March 26, 2025, the FTC and Defendants Apex
11 Mind and Batte stipulated to entry of a Preliminary Injunction. Dkt. 44, 47.

12 On May 9, 2025, Plaintiff FTC filed an Amended Complaint, joining new
13 parties Defendant LLT Research Limited Liability Company and Relief Defendant
14 Friendly Solar, Inc. Dkt. 59.

15 Relief Defendant Friendly Solar, Inc. was properly served with a summons
16 and the Amended Complaint. Dkt. 65.

17 Defendants Apex Mind and Batte were properly served with the Amended
18 Complaint.

19 By way of stipulation filed August 21, 2025, the FTC and Defendants Apex
20 Mind and Batte stipulated to amend the Stipulated Preliminary Injunction to permit
21 Batte sell specified vehicles and real property, with the net proceeds to be held in
22 the trust account of Apex Mind and Batte’s counsel, G. James Christiansen. Dkt.
23 94, 95.

24 Defendants Apex Mind and Batte (“Stipulating Defendants”), Relief
25 Defendant Friendly Solar, Inc. (“Relief Defendant”), and Plaintiff FTC now
26 stipulate to entry of this Stipulated Order for Permanent Injunction, Monetary
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Judgment, and Other Relief (“Order”) to resolve all matters in dispute in this action between them.

FINDINGS

A. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter.

B. The Amended Complaint charges that Stipulating Defendants, along with the other defendants, participated in deceptive and unfair acts or practices in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45; the FTC’s Trade Regulation Rule entitled “Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Business Opportunities” (“Business Opportunity Rule”), 16 C.F.R. Part 437, as amended; the Credit Repair Organizations Act (“CROA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1679; and the FTC’s Trade Regulation Rule on the Use of Consumer Reviews and Testimonials (“Reviews and Testimonials Rule”), 16 C.F.R. Part 465.

C. The Amended Complaint further alleges that Relief Defendant received funds from Defendants traceable to funds obtained from consumers through deceptive acts or practices, and that Relief Defendant did not provide services in exchange for the funds it received and would therefore be unjustly enriched if it is not required to disgorge such funds.

D. Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant neither admit nor deny any of the allegations in the Complaint, except as specifically stated in this Order. Only for the purposes of this action, Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant admit the facts necessary to establish jurisdiction.

E. Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant waive any claim that they may have under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, concerning the prosecution of this action through the date of this Order, and agree to bear their own costs and attorney fees.

F. Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant waive all rights to appeal or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this order.

1 **DEFINITIONS**

2 For the purpose of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

3 A. **“Assisting Others”** includes the following:

- 4 1. Performing customer service functions, including receiving or
5 responding to consumer complaints;
- 6 2. Formulating or providing, or arranging for the formulation or
7 provision of, any advertising or marketing material, including any
8 telephone sales script, direct mail solicitation, or the design, text,
9 or use of images of any Internet website, email, or other electronic
10 communication;
- 11 3. Formulating or providing, or arranging for the formulation or
12 provision of, any marketing support material or service, including
13 web or Internet Protocol addresses or domain name registration for
14 any Internet websites, affiliate marketing services, or media
15 placement services;
- 16 4. Providing names of, or assisting in the generation of, potential
17 customers;
- 18 5. Performing marketing, billing, payment processing, or payment
19 services of any kind; or
- 20 6. Acting or serving as an owner, officer, director, manager, or
21 principal of any entity.

22 B. **“Business Opportunity”** means a commercial arrangement in which:

- 23 (1) A seller solicits a prospective purchaser to enter into a new business; and (2)
- 24 The prospective purchaser makes a required payment; and (3) The seller, expressly
- 25 or by implication, orally or in writing, represents that the seller or one or more
- 26 designated persons will: (i) Provide locations for the use or operation of
- 27 equipment, displays, vending machines, or similar devices, owned, leased,
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1 controlled, or paid for by the purchaser; or (ii) Provide outlets, accounts, or
2 customers, including, but not limited to, Internet outlets, accounts, or customers,
3 for the purchaser's goods or services; or (iii) Buy back any or all of the goods or
4 services that the purchaser makes, produces, fabricates, grows, breeds, modifies, or
5 provides, including but not limited to providing payment for such services as, for
6 example, stuffing envelopes from the purchaser's home.

7 C. **"Clearly and conspicuously"** means that a required disclosure is
8 difficult to miss (i.e., easily noticeable) and easily understandable by ordinary
9 consumers, including in all of the following ways:

- 10 1. In any communication that is solely visual or solely audible, the
11 disclosure must be made through the same means through which
12 the communication is presented. In any communication made
13 through both visual and audible means, such as a television
14 advertisement, the disclosure must be presented simultaneously in
15 both the visual and audible portions of the communication even if
16 the representation requiring the disclosure ("triggering
17 representation") is made through only one means.
- 18 2. A visual disclosure, by its size, contrast, location, the length of
19 time it appears, and other characteristics, must stand out from any
20 accompanying text or other visual elements so that it is easily
21 noticed, read, and understood.
- 22 3. An audible disclosure, including by telephone or streaming video,
23 must be delivered in a volume, speed, and cadence sufficient for
24 ordinary consumers to easily hear and understand it.
- 25 4. In any communication using an interactive electronic medium,
26 such as the Internet or software, the disclosure must be
27 unavoidable.
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1 5. The disclosure must use diction and syntax understandable to
2 ordinary consumers and must appear in each language in which the
3 triggering representation appears.

4 6. The disclosure must comply with these requirements in each
5 medium through which it is received, including all electronic
6 devices and face-to-face communications.

7 7. The disclosure must not be contradicted or mitigated by, or
8 inconsistent with, anything else in the communication.

9 D. **“Close proximity”** means that the disclosure is very near the
10 triggering representation. For example, a disclosure made through a hyperlink,
11 pop-up, interstitial, or other similar technique is not in close proximity to the
12 triggering representation.

13 E. **“Credit Repair Service”** means any service, in return for payment of
14 money or other valuable consideration, for the express or implied purpose of: (1)
15 improving any consumer’s credit report, credit record, credit history, credit profile,
16 credit score, or credit rating; or (2) providing any advice or assistance to any
17 consumer with regard to any activity or service the purpose of which is to improve
18 a consumer’s credit report, credit record, credit history, credit profile, credit score,
19 or credit rating.

20 F. **“Earnings Claim(s)”** means any oral, written, or visual representation
21 to a prospective purchaser that conveys, expressly or by implication, a specific
22 level or range of actual or potential sales, or gross or net income or profits.
23 Earnings Claims include, but are not limited to: (1) any chart, table, or
24 mathematical calculation that demonstrates possible results based upon a
25 combination of variables; and (2) any statements from which a prospective
26 purchaser can reasonably infer that he or she will earn a minimum level of income.
27 G. **“Relief Defendant”** means Friendly Solar, Inc.

28 G. **“Relief Defendant”** means Friendly Solar, Inc.

1 H. “**Stipulating Defendants**” means Apex Mind, LLC and Osmany
2 Batte, also known as Ozzie Blessed, individually, collectively, or in any
3 combination.

4 **ORDER**

5 **I. BAN ON SALE OR MARKETING OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

6 **IT IS ORDERED** that Stipulating Defendants are permanently restrained
7 and enjoined from:

8 A. Advertising, marketing, distributing, promoting, or offering for sale,
9 or Assisting Others in advertising, marketing, distributing, promoting, or offering
10 for sale, any Business Opportunity; and

11 B. Holding, directly or through a third party, any ownership or other
12 financial interest in any business entity that is advertising, marketing, distributing,
13 promoting, or offering for sale, or that is Assisting Others in advertising,
14 marketing, distributing, promoting, or offering for sale, any Business Opportunity,
15 or any product or service to assist in the creation or development of a Business
16 Opportunity.

17 **II. BAN ON CREDIT REPAIR ACTIVITIES**

18 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Stipulating Defendants are permanently
19 restrained and enjoined from:
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21 A. Advertising, marketing, distributing, promoting, or offering for sale,
22 or Assisting Others in the advertising, marketing, distributing, promoting, or
23 offering for sale, any Credit Repair Service; and

24 B. Holding, directly or through a third party, any ownership or other
25 financial interest in any business entity that is advertising, marketing, distributing,
26 promoting, or offering for sale, or that is Assisting Others in advertising,
27 marketing, distributing, promoting, or offering for sale, any Credit Repair Service,
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1 or any product or service to assist in the creation or development of a Credit Repair
2 Service.

3 **III. PROHIBITED BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

4 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Stipulating Defendants, Stipulating
5 Defendants' officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in
6 active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this
7 Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with promoting or
8 offering for sale any good or service are permanently restrained and enjoined from:

9 A. Making any Earnings Claims, or Assisting Others in making any
10 Earnings Claims, to a prospective purchaser, unless the Earnings Claim is non-
11 misleading and, at the time the Earnings Claims is made, Stipulating Defendants
12 (1) have a reasonable basis for the claim; (2) have in their possession written
13 materials that substantiate the claimed earnings and that the claimed earnings are
14 typical for consumers similarly situated to those to whom the claim is made; and
15 (3) make the written substantiation for Earnings Claims available upon request to
16 the consumer, potential purchaser, or the FTC;

17 B. Making or disseminating, or Assisting Others in making or
18 disseminating, false, unsubstantiated, or misleading testimonials;

19 C. Misrepresenting or failing to disclose, Clearly and Conspicuously and
20 in Close Proximity to the representation, or Assisting Others in misrepresenting or
21 failing to disclose, Clearly and Conspicuously and in Close Proximity to the
22 representation, that a reviewer or testimonialist has a material relationship to the
23 company or individual selling the product or service;

24 D. Misrepresenting, or Assisting Others in misrepresenting:

- 25 1. The level or range of actual or potential sales, or gross or net
26 income or profits, revenues, financial gains, percentage gains,
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1 or return on investment associated with a particular product or
2 service;

3 2. That a product or service will use artificial intelligence (AI) to
4 maximize revenues or otherwise enhance the profitability,
5 effectiveness, or efficiency of the product or service; or

6 3. The amount of time a product or service will take to use, be
7 effective, complete, or become profitable;

8 E. Misrepresenting or Assisting Others in misrepresenting, expressly or
9 by implication, any other fact material to consumers concerning any good or
10 service, such as: the total costs; the amount of time necessary to achieve the
11 represented results; any material restrictions, limitations, or conditions; or any
12 material aspect of its performance, efficacy, nature, or central characteristics.

13 **IV. MONETARY JUDGMENT AND PARTIAL SUSPENSION**

14 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

15 A. Judgment in the amount of Forty-Eight Million, Five Hundred and
16 Ninety-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Eight Dollars (\$48,597,538) is
17 entered in favor of the Commission against Stipulating Defendants as monetary
18 relief. The liability of Stipulating Defendants for the judgment shall be joint and
19 several with any other Defendants or others to the extent subsequently ordered.

20 B. In partial satisfaction of the monetary judgment set forth in Section
21 IV.A, the following transfers shall be made to the Commission by electronic fund
22 transfer in accordance with instructions provided by a representative of the
23 Commission:
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25 1. To the extent he has not already done so pursuant to the Amended
26 Stipulated Preliminary Injunction ([Dkt. 47.95](#)), Individual
27 Defendant Osmany Batte shall take the following steps to sell all
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1 interests in the 2023 Cadillac Escalade (“Cadillac”), 2021 Rolls-
2 Royce Cullinan (“Rolls-Royce”), and 2022 Ferrari SF90
3 (“Ferrari”) (collectively, “the Vehicles”) identified in Item 16 of
4 the Financial Statement of Batte, provided to the FTC on March
5 25, 2025:

- 6 a. Batte shall immediately attempt to sell each of the Vehicles at
7 a fair market value (based on Kelly Blue Book value);
- 8 b. If Batte has not sold the Vehicles within 60 days of entry of
9 this Order, he shall sell each of the unsold Vehicles at a fair
10 market value (based on Kelly Blue Book value) by advertising
11 it for sale through an online auction service and selling it to
12 the highest bidder, or by placing the unsold Vehicles for sale
13 through an appropriate broker or automobile listing service;
- 14 c. Before accepting a bid or offer, Batte’s counsel shall notify
15 FTC counsel of the proposed sale price and the name, address,
16 and telephone number of the purchaser(s) of the Vehicle;
- 17 d. Pending sale of the Vehicles, Batte shall (i) maintain the
18 Vehicles in good working order and in substantially the same
19 condition as of March 25, 2025, the date Batte provided his
20 sworn financial statement to the FTC; (ii) take no action to
21 encumber or diminish the value of the Vehicles; (iii) maintain
22 existing insurance coverage for the Vehicles; and (iv) remain
23 current on any tax, registration, maintenance costs, loans, and
24 other fees and expenses related to the Vehicles; and
- 25 e. Within three (3) business days of receipt of the net proceeds
26 from the sale of the Rolls-Royce and the Ferrari, or within
27 three (3) business days of the date of this Order if the Rolls-
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Royce or Ferrari has already been sold pursuant to the Amended Stipulated Preliminary Injunction (Dkt. 47, 95), Batte's counsel G. James Christiansen shall transfer the net proceeds to the Commission by electronic fund transfer, in accordance with instructions provided by a representative of the Commission;

f. Within three (3) business days of receipt of the net proceeds from the sale of the Cadillac, or within three (3) business days of the date of this Order if the Cadillac has already been sold pursuant to the Amended Stipulated Preliminary Injunction (Dkt. 47, 95), Batte's counsel G. James Christiansen shall transfer Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) of the Cadillac net proceeds to the Commission by electronic fund transfer, in accordance with instructions provided by a representative of the Commission, and Batte may receive the remainder of the Cadillac net proceeds; and

g. Except as set out in this Subsection, Batte shall in no way profit directly or indirectly from the sale of any of the Vehicles, including by sharing in any sales commission or fee, or by receiving anything of value of any kind.

2. If he has not already done so pursuant to the Amended Stipulated Preliminary Injunction (Dkt. 47, 95), Individual Defendant Osmany Batte shall take the following steps to sell at fair market value all interests in the properties located at 22115 Hackney Street, West Hills, California 91304 and 10122 Jovita Avenue, Los Angeles, California 91311 (collectively, the "Investment Properties"):

- a. Batte shall within three (3) days of entry of this Order list each of the Investment Properties for sale, provided that Batte first obtains from counsel for the FTC written approval of the terms that Batte establishes for the listing, including the list price and any real estate agent retained, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld;
- b. Immediately upon receiving any offer to purchase either Investment Property, Batte's counsel shall notify FTC counsel of the amount of the offer, any other conditions of the offer, and the name(s) and address(es) of the person(s) or entity(ies) making such offer;
- c. Batte shall take all reasonable steps to effectuate the sale of the Investment Properties, including, but not limited to, signing contracts with real estate agents, keeping the Investment Properties in good repair, keeping the Investment Properties in a condition suitable for showing to prospective purchasers, signing contracts for the sale of the Investment Properties, and signing all documents necessary or appropriate for the transfer of the Investment Properties to a new buyer(s);
- d. If, after three (3) months from the date of the entry of this Order, all interests in the Investment Properties have not been sold, Batte shall immediately retain an auction company and direct it to sell all remaining interests in the Investment Properties at public auction, provided that Batte first obtains from counsel for the FTC written approval of the auction company and of the terms that Batte establishes for the auction, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld;

- 1 e. Until Batte transfers title and possession of the Investment
2 Properties, Batte shall take no action to diminish the value of
3 the Investment Properties, including any structures, fixtures,
4 and appurtenances thereto, but instead shall maintain the
5 Investment Properties in the same condition as on March 25,
6 2025, the date Batte provided his sworn financial statements
7 to the FTC. Batte shall be responsible for timely payment of
8 all taxes, fees, association dues, and all other attendant
9 expenses related to the maintenance and ownership of the
10 Investment Properties until such time as each property is sold
11 or auctioned. Batte further is required to continue and to
12 maintain in full force insurance coverage on the Investment
13 Properties until the sale or auction of each Investment
14 Property;
15
16 f. Within three (3) business days of receipt of the net proceeds
17 of the sale or auction of each of the Investment Properties, or
18 within three (3) business days of the date of this Order if an
19 Investment Property has already been sold or auctioned
20 pursuant to the Amended Stipulated Preliminary Injunction
21 (Dkt. 47, 95), Batte's counsel G. James Christiansen shall
22 transfer all net proceeds (funds from the sale or auction of the
23 Investment Property after payment of obligations due and
24 owing to any valid mortgage holders and other priority lien
25 holders, any property taxes owed, any adjustments in favor of
26 the buyer(s) required to sell the property, and any reasonable
27 and customary real estate agent fees and closing costs
28 incurred in connection with such sale or auction that have

1 been approved by counsel for the FTC, which approval shall
2 not be unreasonably withheld) to the Commission by
3 electronic fund transfer, in accordance with instructions
4 provided by a representative of the Commission. Any sheriff,
5 title company, or other person involved in such a sale or
6 auction may rely on this Order as the authority to deliver the
7 net proceeds to the Commission;

- 8 g. To secure his performance under this Subsection B.2, Batte
9 hereby grants to Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission a lien on
10 and security interest in each of the Investment Properties in
11 the value of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000).
12 Batte represents and acknowledges that the Commission is
13 relying on the material representations that he is the sole
14 owner of each of the Investment Properties; that title to each
15 of the Investment Properties is marketable; and that none of
16 the Investment Properties is encumbered by any lien,
17 mortgage, deed of trust, assignment, pledge, security interest,
18 or other interest except for the lien, mortgage or security
19 interest identified in the Financial Statement of Individual
20 Defendant Osmany Batte provided to the FTC on March 25,
21 2025 and any lien, mortgage, or security interest held by the
22 Internal Revenue Service;
- 23 h. Batte expressly agrees that none of the Investment Properties
24 is a homestead property; and
- 25 i. Batte shall cooperate fully with the Commission in the
26 perfection of its liens and security interests of the Investment
27 Properties and be responsible for preparing, executing, and
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1 recording the necessary documents and taking other actions
2 necessary to perfect the Commission's voluntary liens on and
3 security interests in the Investment Properties. Batte shall be
4 responsible for paying all costs relating to the preparation,
5 execution, delivery, filing, recording, and termination of the
6 voluntary lien on and security interest in the Investment
7 Properties. Batte shall deliver to the Commission copies of all
8 recording documents used to perfect the Commission's
9 voluntary liens on and security interests in the Investment
10 Properties within ten days from the date of entry of this Order.

11 C. If, after six (6) months from the date of the entry of this Order, all net
12 proceeds from the sale of the assets referenced in Subsection B have not been
13 transferred to the FTC, Batte consents to the appointment of a receiver by the Court
14 for the purpose of taking possession and control of and liquidating the unsold
15 assets, with the rights, powers, and privileges of an equity receiver. The costs and
16 expenses of the receivership, including reasonable compensation for the receiver
17 and personnel retained by the receiver, shall be paid solely from the proceeds of
18 the sale of the assets.
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20 D. Upon completion of all transfers and requirements described in
21 Subsections B and C, the remainder of the judgment entered in Section IV.A is
22 suspended as to all Stipulating Defendants, subject to Subsections H, I, and J
23 below.

24 E. Judgment in the amount of Seven Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-
25 Five Thousand Dollars (\$7,565,000) is entered in favor of the Commission against
26 Relief Defendant, jointly and severally with Stipulating Defendants, as equitable
27 monetary relief.
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1 F. In partial satisfaction of the monetary judgment set forth in Section
2 IV.E, the following transfer shall be made to the Commission by electronic fund
3 transfer in accordance with instructions provided by a representative of the
4 Commission. Relief Defendant shall relinquish all legal and equitable right, title,
5 control, and interest in these assets and shall take all steps necessary to transfer
6 possession, custody, and control of the following assets to the Commission:

- 7 1. Within seven (7) days of entry of this Order, J.P. Morgan Chase
8 Bank, N.A. shall transfer to the Commission all assets held in the
9 accounts ending in account numbers 6368 and 3792 in the name of
10 Friendly Solar Inc.

11 G. Upon completion of the asset transfer set forth in Section IV.F, the
12 remainder of the judgment entered in Section IV.E is suspended, subject to
13 Subsections H, I, and J below.

14 H. The Commission's agreement to the suspension of part of the
15 judgment is expressly premised upon the truthfulness, accuracy, and completeness
16 of Stipulating Defendants' sworn financial statements and related documents
17 (collectively, "financial representations") submitted to the Commission, namely:

- 18 1. The financial information submitted by email from Mr. Batte to
19 FTC counsel on March 4, 2025, and all attachments thereto;
20 2. The financial information submitted by email from Mr. Batte to
21 FTC counsel on March 5, 2025, and any attachments thereto;
22 3. The financial information provided by Mr. Batte to FTC counsel at
23 the March 5, 2025 preliminary injunction hearing, including all
24 mortgage and other documentation shown to FTC counsel;
25 4. The information regarding Stipulating Defendants' financial
26 disclosures provided by Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James
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Christiansen to FTC counsel during a telephone call on March 21, 2025;

5. The additional information regarding Stipulating Defendants' financial disclosures submitted by email from Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC counsel on March 25, 2025, and all attachments thereto;
6. The information regarding the balance of Friendly Solar Inc.'s bank account and status of real property owned by Mr. Batte provided by Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC counsel during the meet and confer conference on May 5, 2025;
7. The additional information regarding Mr. Batte's possession of personal property submitted by email from Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC counsel on May 30, 2025, and any attachments thereto;
8. The additional information regarding Mr. Batte's residence and sale of personal property submitted by email from Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC counsel on June 2, 2025, and all attachments thereto;
9. The additional information regarding Mr. Batte's residence submitted by email from Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC counsel on June 3, 2025, and all attachments thereto;
10. The additional information regarding the repossession and sale of the 2021 Mercedes-Benz GLB submitted by email from Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC counsel on June 27, 2025;

- 1 11. The additional information regarding Mr. Batte's 2021 Rolls-
2 Royce, Mr. Batte's 2022 Ferrari, and the mortgage balance on Mr.
3 Batte's residence in Calabasas, California submitted by email from
4 Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC
5 counsel on July 10, 2025, and all attachments thereto;
- 6 12. The additional information regarding Mr. Batte's 2021 Rolls-
7 Royce and 2022 Ferrari submitted by email from Stipulating
8 Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC counsel on
9 August 5 and 6, 2025; and
- 10 13. The additional information regarding Mr. Batte's 2023 Cadillac
11 and the status of Mr. Batte's Investment Properties provided by
12 Stipulating Defendants' counsel G. James Christiansen to FTC
13 counsel during the video conference on August 18, 2025.

14 I. The partial suspension of the judgment will be lifted as to the
15 Stipulating Defendants or Relief Defendant if, upon motion by the Commission,
16 the Court finds that Stipulating Defendants or Relief Defendant failed to disclose
17 any material asset, materially misstated the value of any asset, made any other
18 material misstatement or omission in the financial representations identified above,
19 or failed to make the sales and asset transfers set out in Subsection B, C, or F
20 above.

21 J. If the partial suspension of the judgment is lifted, the judgment
22 becomes immediately due as to Stipulating Defendants in the amount specified in
23 Section IV.A above (which the parties stipulate only for purposes of this Section
24 represents the consumer injury alleged in the Complaint) or as to Relief Defendant
25 in the amount specified in Section IV.E (which the parties stipulate only for
26 purposes of this Section represents the unjust enrichment received by Relief
27 Defendant, as alleged in the Complaint), less any payment previously made
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1 pursuant to this Section, plus interest computed from the date of entry of this
2 Order.

3 **V. ADDITIONAL MONETARY PROVISIONS**

4 A. Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant relinquish dominion and
5 all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in all assets transferred pursuant to
6 this Order and may not seek the return of any assets.

7 B. The facts alleged in the Complaint will be taken as true, without
8 further proof, in any subsequent civil litigation by or on behalf of the Commission,
9 including in a proceeding to enforce its rights to any payment or monetary
10 judgment pursuant to this Order, such as a nondischargeability complaint in any
11 bankruptcy case.

12 C. The facts alleged in the Complaint establish all elements necessary to
13 sustain an action by the Commission pursuant to Section 523(a)(2)(A) of the
14 Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A), and this Order will have collateral
15 estoppel effect for such purposes.

16 D. Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant acknowledge that any
17 Employer Identification Number, Social Security Number, or other Taxpayer
18 Identification Number, including all such numbers that Stipulating Defendants and
19 Relief Defendant previously provided, may be used by the Commission for
20 reporting and other lawful purposes, including collecting on any delinquent amount
21 arising out of this Order in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 7701.

22 E. All money received by the Commission pursuant to this Order may be
23 deposited into a fund administered by the Commission or its designee to be used
24 for consumer relief, such as redress and any attendant expenses for the
25 administration of any redress fund. If a representative of the Commission decides
26 that direct redress to consumers is wholly or partially impracticable or money
27 remains after such redress is completed, the Commission may apply any remaining
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1 money for such related relief (including consumer information remedies) as it
2 determines to be reasonably related to Defendants' practices alleged in the
3 Complaint. Any money not used for relief is to be deposited to the U.S. Treasury.
4 Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant have no right to challenge any actions
5 the Commission or its representatives may take pursuant to this Subsection.

6 F. The asset freeze set forth in the Amended Stipulated Preliminary
7 Injunction is modified to permit the asset transfers identified in the section titled
8 Monetary Judgment. Upon completion of the transfers, the asset freeze is dissolved
9 as to the Stipulating Defendants. The asset freeze shall remain in place as to the
10 other defendants that are not a party to this stipulation. Stipulating Defendants
11 must fully cooperate with the Commission as to the asset freeze. Stipulating
12 Defendants must take all steps reasonable and necessary to assist in the transfer of
13 assets, as identified in the section titled Monetary Judgment. If requested to
14 execute appropriate documents, such as to liquidate, transfer, or assign any frozen
15 asset, the Stipulating Defendants must execute such documents within 3 days of a
16 written request from a representative of the Commission or any entity holding
17 Stipulating Defendants' assets.

18 VI. CUSTOMER INFORMATION

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20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Stipulating Defendants, Stipulating
21 Defendants' officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in
22 active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this
23 Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, are hereby permanently restrained and
24 enjoined from directly or indirectly:

25 A. Failing to provide sufficient customer information to enable the
26 Commission to efficiently administer consumer redress. If a representative of the
27 Commission requests in writing any information related to redress, Stipulating
28

1 Defendants must provide it, in the form prescribed by the Commission, within 14
2 days.

3 B. Disclosing, using, or benefitting from customer information, including
4 the name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number, other
5 identifying information, or any data that enables access to a customer's account
6 (including a credit card, bank account, or other financial account), that any
7 Defendant obtained prior to entry of this Order in connection with the business
8 activities alleged in the Complaint; and

9 C. Failing to destroy such customer information in all forms in their
10 possession, custody, or control within 30 days after receipt of written direction to
11 do so from a representative of the Commission.

12 Provided, however, that customer information need not be disposed of, and
13 may be disclosed, to the extent requested by a government agency or required by
14 law, regulation, or court order.

15 VII. COOPERATION

16 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Stipulating Defendants must fully
17 cooperate with representatives of the Commission in this case and in any
18 investigation related to or associated with the transactions or the occurrences that
19 are the subject of the Amended Complaint. Stipulating Defendants must provide
20 truthful and complete information, evidence, and testimony. Stipulating
21 Defendants must appear for interviews, discovery, hearings, trials, and any other
22 proceedings that a Commission representative may reasonably request upon 5 days
23 written notice, or other reasonable notice, at such places and times as a
24 Commission representative may designate, without the service of a subpoena.

25 VIII. ORDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

26 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Stipulating Defendants and Relief
27 Defendant obtain acknowledgments of receipt of this Order:
28

1 A. Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant, within 7 days of entry
2 of this Order, must submit to the Commission an acknowledgment of receipt of
3 this Order sworn under penalty of perjury.

4 B. For 5 years after entry of this Order, for any business that any
5 Stipulating Defendant individually, or collectively with any other Defendant, is the
6 majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, Stipulating Defendant must
7 deliver a copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC
8 managers and members; (2) all employees having managerial responsibilities for
9 conduct related to the subject matter of this Order and all agents and
10 representatives who participate in conduct related to the subject matter of this
11 Order; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure as set
12 forth in the Section titled Compliance Reporting. Delivery must occur within 7
13 days of entry of this Order for current personnel. For all others, delivery must
14 occur before they assume their responsibilities.

15 C. From each individual or entity to which Stipulating Defendants
16 delivered a copy of this Order, Stipulating Defendants must obtain, within 30 days,
17 a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

18 IX. COMPLIANCE REPORTING

19
20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Stipulating Defendants and Relief
21 Defendant make timely submissions to the Commission:

22 A. One year after entry of this Order, each Stipulating Defendant must
23 submit a compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury:

- 24 1. Stipulating Defendant must: (a) identify the primary physical,
25 postal, and email address and telephone number, as designated
26 points of contact, which representatives of the Commission may
27 use to communicate with Stipulating Defendant; (b) identify all of
28 the Stipulating Defendant's business activities, including any

1 business for which the Stipulating Defendant performs services
2 whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which the
3 Defendant has any ownership interest, by all of their names,
4 telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet
5 addresses; (c) describe the activities of each business, including the
6 goods and services offered, the means of advertising, marketing,
7 and sales, and the involvement of any other Defendant (which
8 Stipulating Defendant must describe if it knows or should know
9 due to its own involvement); (d) describe in detail Stipulating
10 Defendant's involvement in each such business, including title,
11 role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control, and any
12 ownership; (e) describe in detail whether and how the Stipulating
13 Defendant is in compliance with each Section of this Order; and (f)
14 provide a copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant
15 to this Order, unless previously submitted to the Commission.
16

17 B. For 10 years after entry of this Order, each Stipulating Defendant
18 must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days
19 of any change in the following:

- 20 1. Stipulating Defendant must report any change in: (a) name,
21 including any aliases or fictitious names, (b) residential address, (c)
22 title or role in any business activity, including any business for
23 which the Stipulating Defendant performs services whether as an
24 employee or otherwise and any entity in which the Stipulating
25 Defendant has any ownership interest, and identify the name,
26 physical address, and any Internet address of the business or entity;
27 (d) any designated point of contact; or (e) the structure of any
28 entity the Stipulating Defendant has any ownership interest in or

controls directly or indirectly that may affect compliance obligations arising under this Order, including: creation, merger, sale, or dissolution of the entity or any subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to this Order.

C. Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant must submit to the Commission notice of the filing of any bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or similar proceeding by or against any Stipulating Defendant or Relief Defendant within 14 days of its filing.

D. Any submission to the Commission required by this Order to be sworn under penalty of perjury must be true and accurate and comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, such as by concluding: “I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on: _____” and supplying the date, signatory’s full name, title (if applicable), and signature.

E. Unless otherwise directed by a Commission representative in writing, all submissions to the Commission pursuant to this Order must be emailed to DEbrief@ftc.gov or sent by overnight courier (not the U.S. Postal Service) to: Associate Director for Enforcement, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580. The subject line must begin: FTC v. Growth Cave, X250025.

X. RECORDKEEPING

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Stipulating Defendants must create certain records for 10 years after entry of this Order, and retain such record for 5 years. Specifically, Stipulating Defendants, for any business that a Stipulating Defendant, individually or collectively with any other Defendant, is a majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must create and retain the following records:

1 A. Accounting records showing the revenues from all goods or services
2 sold;

3 B. Personnel records showing, for each person providing services,
4 whether as an employee or otherwise, that person's: name, address, telephone
5 numbers, job title or position, dates of service, and (if applicable) the reason for
6 termination;

7 C. Records of all consumer complaints and refund requests, whether
8 received directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;

9 D. All records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each
10 provision of this Order, including all submissions to the Commission; and

11 E. A copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material.
12

13 **XI. COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

14 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, for the purpose of monitoring
15 Stipulating Defendants' compliance with this Order, including the financial
16 representations upon which part of the judgment was suspended:

17 A. Within 14 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of
18 the Commission, Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant must: submit
19 additional compliance reports or other requested information, which must be sworn
20 under penalty of perjury; appear for depositions or testimony at a hearing or trial;
21 and produce documents for inspection and copying. The Commission is also
22 authorized to obtain discovery, without further leave of court, using any of the
23 procedures prescribed by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including
24 depositions by remote means), 31, 33, 34, 36, 45, and 69.

25 B. For matters concerning this Order, the Commission is authorized to
26 communicate directly with Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant.
27 Stipulating Defendants and Relief Defendant must permit representatives of the
28 Commission to interview any employee or other person affiliated with any

1 Defendant who has agreed to such an interview. The person interviewed may have
2 counsel present.

3 C. The Commission may use all other lawful means, including posing,
4 through its representatives, as consumers, suppliers, or other individuals or entities,
5 to Stipulating Defendants or Relief Defendant or any individual or entity affiliated
6 with Stipulating Defendants or Relief Defendant, without the necessity of
7 identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits the Commission's lawful
8 use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15
9 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.

10 D. Upon written request from a representative of the Commission, any
11 consumer reporting agency must furnish consumer reports concerning Stipulating
12 Defendants and Relief Defendant, pursuant to Section 604(1) of the Fair Credit
13 Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §1681b(a)(1).

14 XII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

15 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Court retains jurisdiction of this
16 matter for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.

17 IT IS SO ORDERED.

18 Dated: January 23, 2026

19 

20 HON. DAVID O. CARTER
21 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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