

United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION Southwest Region

Dama J. Brown, Regional Director Federal Trade Commission – Southwest Region 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 2150 Dallas, Texas 75201

April 15, 2020

## WARNING LETTER

Via email to info@greenbeltoutdoors.com Greenbelt Outdoors 2028 East Ben White Boulevard #240-3707 Austin, Texas 78704

## Re: Unsubstantiated Claims for Coronavirus Prevention or Cure

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your websites at greenbeltoutdoors.com and linktr.ee/greenbeltoutdoors on April 13, 2020. We also reviewed your social media websites at www.instagram.com/greenbeltoutdoors, www.facebook.com/greenbeltoutdoors, and https://twitter.com/GreenbeltOutATX, which direct consumers to the two aforementioned websites and feature links to purchase Vitamin C supplements and chaga powder from affiliated websites. Based upon our review, we have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products treat or prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Some examples of Coronavirus prevention or treatment claims on your websites include:

- "Buy your Chaga Extract here to block receptor site for Covid-19 /Coronavirus" and "Buy Vitamin C Powder here to build up your Immune System against Coronavirus" (at https://linktr.ee/greenbeltoutdoors);
- "We partnered with @nutriflair to get you the most absorbable Vitamin C with Liposomal on the market. Build up your immune system against Coronavirus! Click our linktr.ee for link. #VitaminC #StayHome #coronavirus #COVID19 #covid\_19 #covid19 #corona #coronaviruspandemic #vitaminctreatment" (at www.instagram.com/greenbeltoutdoors and www.facebook.com/greenbeltoutdoors);
- "Vitamin C in high doses is safe in treatment of Coronavirus / Covid-19 Dr. Richard Cheng #VitaminCtreatsCoronavirus #VitaminConnection #Coronacrisis #Corona #CoronavirusUSA . . .". (at https://twitter.com/GreenbeltOutATX). This

post includes links to an April 9, 2020 blog post with a link redirecting to a website selling Vitamin C supplements;

 An April 9, 2020 blog post at https://greenbeltoutdoors.com titled "Why N95 Masks DO NOT WORK And Only Hardening Your Immune System With Chaga And Vitamin C, D Does?" that claims Coronavirus particles are too small to be filtered out by N95 masks and that Greenbelt is "Happy to announce we've found Vitamin C with Liposomal 1400 mg (180 capsules) for you. Click here for purchase. Sold out everywhere else or delayed shipping." The post includes links redirecting to websites selling Vitamin C supplements and Chaga powder.

It is unlawful under the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 41 *et seq.*, to advertise that a product can prevent, treat, or cure human disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence, including, when appropriate, well-controlled human clinical studies, substantiating that the claims are true at the time they are made. For COVID-19, no such study is currently known to exist for the products identified above. Thus, any coronavirus-related prevention or treatment claims regarding such products are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence. You must immediately cease making all such claims.

You are also advised to review all other claims for your products and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

Within 48 hours, please send a message to James E. Elliott via electronic mail at jelliott@ftc.gov describing the specific actions you have taken to address the FTC's concerns. If you have any questions regarding compliance with the FTC Act, please contact Reid Tepfer at rtepfer@ftc.gov.

Very truly yours,

Dama J. Brown

Regional Director Southwest Region, Federal Trade Commission