



More than 1 Million Oregonians Will Receive Second Round of Settlement Checks from BP Class Action Lawsuit

Attorney General and Oregon Consumer Justice let recipients know checks are legitimate

(SALEM, Ore.—July 20, 2020)—Over the next few weeks, more than 1 million Oregonians who used a debit card to buy gas at Oregon ARCO and am/pm gas stations between January 1, 2011, and August 30, 2013, will receive a check in the mail for \$94.42. The nonprofit organization Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ), in partnership with Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum of the Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ), wants the public to know that the checks are not a scam; they are a settlement from a [class action lawsuit](#) against BP.

According to OCJ, 27% of the checks from the first round of settlement checks distributed last year were not cashed before their expiration and the organization wants to ensure that doesn't occur this time around. To assure recipients that the settlement checks are valid, they have launched a public awareness campaign and website: www.ThisCheckIsReal.org and in Spanish at www.EsteChequeEsReal.org.

"We always encourage Oregonians to be on the look out for scams and to know the signs that something could be a scam. But, in this case, the checks are real, and we want Oregonians to know they are safe to cash this check at the bank," said Oregon Attorney General Rosenblum. "If you used a debit card at an Oregon ARCO and am/pm gas station during this time period, you qualify for this class action settlement. This is your money, and we hope that all Oregonians will help us spread the word."

The mass mailing of settlement checks is the result of a class action lawsuit known as [Scharfstein v. BP West Coast Products LLC](#). The suit was brought against ARCO's owner BP West Coast Products, on behalf of people who used a debit card to buy gas at Oregon ARCO and am/pm gas stations between January 1, 2011, and August 30, 2013. In 2014, the jury and the court concluded that class members in this case were unfairly and illegally charged a \$0.35 debit card fee in violation of Oregon regulations and the Oregon Unfair Trade Practices Act. The jury verdict resulted in an award of damages of \$409 million.

Henry Kantor, OCJ board chair, said, "Oregon Consumer Justice was launched as a result of this case to advance consumer rights in Oregon through advocacy, research, education and engagement. We felt it is important that Oregonians who have been impacted as a result of this case know that they have a check coming to them, understand that it is their money to keep and also have access to cashing the check even if they don't have a bank account. Especially in this time of community need, \$94.42 can go a long way."

Settlement recipients in the Portland area without a bank account can still get their money, thanks to Beneficial State Bank. A list of their locations can be found at ThisCheckIsReal.org and EsteChequeEsReal.org. Individuals will need to present the check and a valid

government-issued photo ID card, and the name on the check must match the ID. Face masks will be required at all participating bank locations.

For more information, visit ThisCheckisReal.org, EsteChequeEsReal.org and debitcardclassaction.com.

Oregon residents who have information about or have fallen victim to a scam should contact the Oregon Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or online at OregonConsumer.gov. Last year, the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline received 36,000 phone calls, resulting in more than 6,500 written consumer complaints from Oregonians, and the Oregon Department of Justice may be able to help.

About Oregon Consumer Justice

Oregon Consumer Justice is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that all people in Oregon experience a safe and fair marketplace. The organization advances the rights of consumers through advocacy, research, education and engagement, and works to bring consumer justice into balance for all Oregonians. OregonConsumerJustice.org

About Oregon Department of Justice

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) is led by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, and serves as the state's law firm. The Oregon DOJ advocates for and protects all Oregonians, especially the most vulnerable, such as children and seniors. OregonConsumer.gov

#