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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sprouters Northwest Expands Recall to Include All Sprouts, Wheatgrass and Pea Shoots Due to Possible Listeria Contamination

(JUNEAU, AK) – Sprouters Northwest has issued an expanded recall that includes all varieties of sprouts, wheatgrass and pea shoots it distributes due to potential contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Listeria monocytogenes is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea. *Listeria* infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

The affected product includes all varieties of sprout products sold under the Sprouters Northwest and LifeForce brand names: 3-Bean Munchie, Alfalfa, Bean, Broccoli, Brocco Sandwich sprouts, Clover, Deli, Spicy; Wheatgrass and/or Pea Shoots. The products are packaged in plastic clamshell containers, plastic cups, plastic trays in 3-ounce, 4-ounce, 5-ounce, and in plastic 1-pound, 2-pound, or 5-pound bags. All best-by dates are included, up to Feb. 17, 2013.

Alaska DEC has confirmed these products were distributed in Alaska. To date, no illnesses have been reported in Alaska or other states.

Consumers should not consume the recalled sprouts products and are advised to return them to the place of purchase. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 253-872-0577 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

For additional information, go to:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm337785.htm?source=govdelivery>.

For more information on recalls affecting Alaskans, visit DEC's website:

<http://www.dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/recalls/recallsalerts.html>.

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