IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

AARON ANTONIO, Individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

CASE NO.

JUDGE

Plaintiff,

VS.

COMPLAINT FOR CLASS ACTION

SUNPRO SOLAR, LLC

Defendant.

Now comes Aaron Antonio, individually and as representative of all others similarly situated, and for his Class Action Complaint states:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is a class action brought by Aaron Antonio, individually and as a putative class representative, against SunPro Solar, LLC ("SunPro" or "Defendant"). Defendant has violated federal law by using automatic telephone dialing systems ("ATDS") to place unsolicited calls to the telephones of consumers nationwide without the consent of the telephone's owner.
- 2. Under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq., ("TCPA") Plaintiff seeks to stop Defendant from placing the unsolicited calls and to obtain redress for all persons injured by this conduct.
- 3. Plaintiff alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to himself and his own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, based on the investigation conducted by his attorneys.

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff Aaron Antonio (hereinafter, "Plaintiff") is an individual and resident of the State of Ohio, County of Geauga, and City of Chardon.
- 5. Defendant SunPro Solar, LLC is a Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business located at 22171 MCH Rd, Mandeville, LA 70471.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. The Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because this action arises under the laws of the United States, specifically the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227. *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740 (2012).
- 7. Because a substantial portion of the events giving rise to the present claim occurred in this District, venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 8. The TCPA serves that purpose and exists to prevent communications like the ones described within this complaint. "Voluminous consumer complaints about abuses of telephone technology for example, computerized calls dispatched to private homes prompted Congress to pass the TCPA." *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740, 744 (2012).
- 9. Congress also found that "the evidence presented to the Congress indicates that automated or prerecorded calls are a nuisance..." *Id.* at §§12-13.
- 10. Congress passed the TCPA to make it illegal to send autodialed, artificial, or prerecorded messages without prior express consent. 47 U.S.C. §227 et seq.
- 11. The TCPA expressly prohibits the use of an automatic telephone dialing system ("ATDS") to call any telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service, absent an

emergency purpose (inapplicable in the present case) or absent Defendant obtaining the prior express consent of the called party.

- 12. Thus, under the TCPA, companies (like Defendant SunPro) may not send unsolicited calls to its users without their prior express consent. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 13. What's more, companies (like Defendant SunPro) specifically may not make unsolicited *telemarketing* calls to users' cell phone numbers without prior express *written* consent. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(a)(2).
- 14. The FCC has defined telemarketing as "the initiation of a telephone call or message for the purpose of encouraging the purchase or rental of, or investment in, property, goods, or services, which is transmitted to any person." 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(f)(12).
- 15. Furthermore, The FCC has stated that telemarketing occurs when the context of a call indicates that it was initiated and transmitted to a person for the purpose of promoting property, goods, or services. 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(a)(2)(iii); 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(f)(12); 18 FCC Rcd. 14014,14098 ¶141 (FCC 2003).
- 16. SunPro is one of the leading providers of rooftop solar for the Gulf Coast and Southeast regions. SunPro designs, installs, and maintains the solar panels on residential and commercial properties.
- 17. In an attempt to market and sell residential solar panels, Defendant repeatedly made automated promotional telephone calls to Plaintiff and the other members of the putative Class's telephones, in violation of the TCPA.
- 18. Defendant SunPro made calls to Plaintiff and the putative class members using an ATDS, and did so to promote its products and services without Plaintiff's, or the putative class members', prior express written consent.

- 19. By making these unauthorized telephone calls, SunPro has violated Plaintiff's and other individuals' statutory and privacy rights. SunPro has also caused actual concrete harm, not only because Plaintiff and the class were subjected to the aggravation, time, and invasion of privacy that necessarily accompanies unwanted phone calls, but also because the Plaintiff and the class frequently pay their cell phone service providers for the receipt of such unwanted telephone calls, have lost use of their cell phone and cell phone line when receiving such calls, are subjected to increased electricity costs to charge their phones after receiving such calls, and waste their time answering or otherwise acknowledging such calls.
- 20. The telemarketing calls placed by SunPro are a nuisance and infringe on the established privacy rights of Plaintiff, infringe on the Plaintiff's right to be left alone, and represent the exact concrete harm that Congress sought to prevent when it enacted the TCPA.
- 21. The nuisance of these unwanted and unconsented telemarketing calls require the Plaintiff and the class to waste time answering or otherwise acknowledging such calls. These telemarketing calls are therefore distracting, interrupt the lives of Plaintiff and the class, and cause Plaintiff and the class to lose valuable time.
- 22. Further, the telemarketing calls intrude on the ability of the Plaintiff and the class to use their cell phone line.
- 23. These unsolicited autodialed telemarketing calls, placed to Plaintiff and the class who have not provided consent, are not just annoying but deplete a cell phone's battery and increase the cost of electricity that Plaintiff and the class have to pay to recharge their cell phones.
- 24. SunPro has placed, and continue to place, thousands of these unsolicited autodialed telemarketing calls to individuals who have not provided consent or otherwise to

SunPro, all in violation of the TCPA and each individual's right to privacy, right to be left alone, and causes further concrete harm.

- 25. To redress these injuries, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and a nationwide class, brings this class action under TCPA.
- 26. On behalf of himself and the Class, Plaintiff seeks an injunction requiring Defendant to cease all unsolicited telephone calling activities and an award of statutory damages to the Class members, together with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

THE CALL TO PLAINTIFF AARON ANTONIO

- 27. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein all previous paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 28. Between January 29, 2018 and February 1, 2018 (inclusive), SunPro placed six separate telemarketing calls to the Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
- 29. The calls from SunPro came from (727) 223-6405, (727) 228-1754, (352) 353-0514 and (352) 353-0505, out of Clearwater and Archer, Florida.
- 30. When answering the call, Plaintiff heard a pause followed immediately by a "click" noise. This unmistakably was NOT a human being manually dialing a phone number and executing a call, but a machine automatically calling people and then automatically connecting that call to a human in SunPro's call center only after a recipient, such as the Plaintiff, answered the call.
- 31. Plaintiff has never given express consent, written or otherwise, to receive a telephone call from Defendant.

32. Plaintiff does not have a relationship with Defendant, has never provided his telephone number to Defendant, nor consented or requested that Defendant call him or offer him products or services.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 33. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein all previous paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 34. Defendant and its agents have made, and continue to make, unsolicited calls to cellular telephone numbers, including to Plaintiff's and the other members of the class, using an automatic telephone dialing system.
- 35. These calls were made without the prior express consent of Plaintiff or the class members.
- 36. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and for all other persons similarly situated (herein collectively referred to as "Plaintiffs" or "putative class members") defined as follows:

All individuals who received one or more calls from Defendant to a cell phone through the use of an automatic telephone dialing system at any time without their consent.

- 37. This class numbers over one hundred (100) persons and is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, and it is further impracticable to bring all such persons before this Court.
- 38. The injuries and damages to these class members present questions of law and fact that are common to each class member, and that are common to the entire class as a whole. Those common questions include, and are not limited to:
 - (a) Whether the subject calls were auto-dialed;
 - (b) Whether the subject calls are covered by the TCPA;

- (c) Whether the subject calls violate the TCPA; and
- (d) Whether the class members are entitled to relief under the TCPA.
- 39. Defendant has have engaged in the same conduct regarding all of the other members of the class asserted in this suit.
- 40. The claims, defenses, and injuries of the representative Plaintiff are typical of the claims, defenses and injuries of the entire class, and the claims, defenses and injuries of each class member are typical of those of the entire class.
- 41. Representative Plaintiff will fully and adequately protect and represent the entire class, and all of its putative class members.
- 42. The identity of all members of this class cannot be determined at this time, but will be so determined at a later time upon obtaining discovery from Defendant and others.
- 43. The prosecution of separate actions by each member of this class would create a substantial risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with regard to individual members of the class that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant.
- 44. The prosecution of separate actions would also create a substantial risk of adjudication with respect to individual members of the class which, as a practical matter, would be dispositive of the interest of other members not parties to the adjudication, thereby substantially impairing and impeding their ability to protect these interests. Further, the maintenance of this suit as a class action is the superior means of disposing of the common questions which predominate herein.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF Violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, et seq.

45. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein all previous paragraphs of this Complaint.

- 46. Plaintiff did not expressly consent to receive calls from Defendant, as required by the TCPA.
- 47. Defendant used a computerized ATDS system to call Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
- 48. The call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone was a violation of 47 U.S.C. 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 49. Defendant placed this call in knowing violation of the TCPA. It willfully violated federal law.
 - 50. Defendant has acted in the same way toward all members of the class.
- 51. Plaintiff and the class members were harmed by Defendant's conduct. This included the harm envisioned by the TCPA in being a recipient of an unlawful robo-call for which the TCPA provides specific relief. This also included the harms and actual damages identified in paragraph 10 above, which is incorporated here.
- 52. As a result of these calls, Plaintiff and the class are entitled to relief, recovery, and damages under the TCPA.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF Injunction and Request for Restraining Order

- 53. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein all previous paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 54. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendant will not cease and desist the conduct described above, and continues that conduct unabated.
- 55. Plaintiff and the class have no adequate remedy at law to prevent Defendant from continuing this conduct in violation of law.
 - 56. The TCPA provides for injunctive relief against continuing violations, stating:

A person or entity may, if otherwise permitted by the laws or rules of court of a State, bring in an appropriate court of that State — A) an action based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation...47 USCS § 227(b)(3).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE Plaintiff demands judgment as follows:

- 1. For an Order determining at the earliest possible time that this matter may proceed as a class action under Civil Rule 23 and certifying this case as such;
- 2. For a preliminary and thereafter permanent injunction preventing Defendant from continuing its conduct described above;
- 3. For damages of actual monetary loss, or \$500 for each violation, whichever is greater, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3);
 - 4. For treble damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3);
 - 5. For reasonable costs and attorney fees necessarily incurred herein; and
 - 6. For such other or further relief to which Plaintiff and the class are entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Patrick J. Perotti

Patrick J. Perotti, Esq. (#0005481) Nicole T. Fiorelli, Esq. (#0079204) Frank A. Bartela, Esq. (#0088128) **DWORKEN & BERNSTEIN CO., L.P.A.** 60 South Park Place Painesville, Ohio 44077 (440) 352-3391 (440) 352-3469 Fax Email: pperotti@dworkenlaw.com

nfiorelli@dworkenlaw.com fbartela@dworkenlaw.com Case: 1:18-cv-00422 Doc #: 1-1 Filed: 02/21/18 1 of 2. PageID #: 10

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
AARON ANTONIO, individually and on behalf of all others similarl situated				SunPro Solar, LLC			
(b) County of Residence of	f First Listed Plaintiff	SEAUGA, OH		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant			
(E)	KCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ISES)		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)			
		NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Patrick J. Perotti, Esq. / Dworken & Bernstein, LPA 60 S. Park Place, Painesville, OH 44077 440-352-3391				Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place on "X" in O	ine Rox Only)	III. CI	I TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
_				(For Diversity Cases Only)			and One Box for Defendant)
U.S. Government Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)		Citize		FF DEF	Incorporated or Pri of Business In T	
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship)	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizo	en of Another State	2 Ø 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A	
				en or Subject of a reign Country		Foreign Nation	06 06
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) DRTS	1 701	ORFEITURE/PENALTY		here for: Nature o	of Suit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES
☐ 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUR		5 Drug Related Seizure	1	al 28 USC 158	☐ 375 False Claims Act
120 Marine	☐ 310 Airplane	🗇 365 Personal Injury -	l	of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 423 With		376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))
☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability	Product Liability 367 Health Care/	D 03	o Other			☐ 400 State Reapportionment
 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury	-		PROPEI	RTY RIGHTS	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking
151 Medicare Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers'	Product Liability	.		☐ 830 Pater	ıt	450 Commerce
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability 340 Marine	368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product	'			t - Abbreviated Drug Application	☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and
(Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPER	OTV	LABOR	☐ 840 Trade		Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit
of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud		0 Fair Labor Standards	☐ 861 HIA	(1395ff)	☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract	355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	☐ 371 Truth in Lending ☐ 380 Other Personal	G 72	Act O Labor/Management		(Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g))	850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	360 Other Personal	Property Damage	1	Relations	☐ 864 SSID	Title XVI	💢 890 Other Statutory Actions
196 Franchise	Injury 362 Personal Injury -	☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability		0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical	□ 865 RSI (403(g))	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters
REAL PROPERTY	Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIO	NS 179	Leave Act O Other Labor Litigation	FEDERA	AL TAX SUITS	☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act
210 Land Condemnation	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:		1 Employee Retirement	☐ 870 Taxe	s (U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 896 Arbitration
☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment	 463 Alien Detaince 510 Motions to Vacate 	.	Income Security Act	1	efendant) Third Party	899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of
☐ 240 Torts to Land	1 443 Housing/	Sentence				SC 7609	Agency Decision
☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	530 General 535 Death Penalty		IMMIGRATION	1		☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Other:		2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration			
	Other	550 Civil Rights		Actions			
	448 Education	☐ 555 Prison Condition ☐ 560 Civil Detainee -					
• •		Conditions of Confinement					
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" is	One Box Onlys	1 Commencent			<u> </u>		1
X 1 Original ☐ 2 Re	moved from 3	Remanded from Appellate Court	J 4 Rein Reo	istated or 5 Transfe pened Anothe (specify)	er District	☐ 6 Multidistri Litigation Transfer	
		tute under which you a	re filing (I	(specify) Do not cite jurisdictional stat			DAGGE FILE
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	N 47 USC 227	-					
	Brief description of ca	iuse: elephone Consume	er Prote	ction Act			
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. JURY DEMAND:							
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER							
DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD							
02/21/2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY							
RECEIPT #AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUD	GE

Case: 1:18-cv-00422 Doc #: 1-1 Filed: 02/21/18 2 of 2. PageID #: 11

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

I.	Civil Categories: (Please check one category only).						
	1. ✓ Gener	al Civil					
		istrative Review/Social Security					
	L	s Corpus Death Penalty					
	*If under Title 28, §2255, name the S	If under Title 28, §2255, name the SENTENCING JUDGE:					
		CASE NUMBER:					
11.	and assigned to a District Judge aft subsequently refiled, it shall be ass the place of holding court in which	LR 3.1 which provides in pertinent part: "If an action is filed or removed to this Court er which it is discontinued, dismissed or remanded to a State court, and gned to the same Judge who received the initial case assignment without regardfor the case was refiled. Counsel or a party without counsel shall be responsible for of the Court by responding to the questions included on the Civil Cover Sheet."					
	This action: is RELATED to and	ther PENDING civil case is a REFILED case was PREVIOUSLY REMANDED					
If appli	licable, please indicate on page 1 in s	ection VIII, the name of the Judge and case number.					
III.	divisional offices therein. Actions in	3.8, actions involving counties in the Eastern Division shall be filed at any of the volving counties in the Western Division shall be filed at the Toledo office. For the ivision, and for statistical reasons, the following information is requested.					
ANSWER ONE PARAGRAPH ONLY. ANSWER PARAGRAPHS 1 THRU 3 IN ORDER. UPON FINDING WHI PARAGRAPH APPLIES TO YOUR CASE, ANSWER IT AND STOP.							
	county <u>COUNTY:</u> <u>Corporation</u> For the purpose of ans	defendant resides in a county within this district, please set forth the name of such					
	it has its principal place of busines	it has its principal place of business in that district.					
	(2) Non-Resident defendant. If no defendant is a resident of a county in this district, please set forth the county wherein the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred.						
	COUNTY: GEAUGA						
	(3) Other Cases. If no defendant is a resident of this district, or if the defendant is a corporation not having a principle place of business within the district, and the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred outside this district, please set forth the county of the plaintiff's residence. COUNTY:						
IV.	The Counties in the Northern District of Ohio are divided into divisions as shown below. After the county is determined in Section III, please check the appropriate division.						
	EASTERN DIVISION						
		Counties: Carroll, Holmes, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne) Counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and Richland)					
	YOUNGSTOWN (Counties: Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull)					
	WESTERN DIVISION						
	L	Counties: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca VanWert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot)					

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of Ohio

Aaron Antonio, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated						
Plaintiff)						
v.)	Civil Action No.					
SunPro Solar, LLC	CIVII ACTION IVO.					
)						
Defendant)						
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION						
To: (Defendant's name and address)						
Registered Agents, Inc.						
3030 N. Rocky Point Drive, Suite 150A						
Tampa, FL 33607						
A lawsuit has been filed against you.						
Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:						
Patrick Perotti, Esq.						
Nicole Fiorelli, Esq. Frank Bartela, Esq.						
60 S. Park Place						
Painesville, OH 44077						
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	ed against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.					
	SANDY OPACICH, CLERK OF COURT					
	•					
Date:						
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk					

AO 440 (Rev. 12/09) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

was re	This summons for (name ceived by me on (date)	ne of individual and title, if any)						
	·	the summons on the individual	- dual at (place)					
		on (date)		; or				
	☐ I left the summons		e or usual place of abode with (name)rson of suitable age and discretion who resid	les there.				
	on (date)		by to the individual's last known address; or	,				
		I served the summons on (name of individual) esignated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)						
		on (date)						
	☐ I returned the summ	the summons unexecuted because						
	☐ Other (specify):							
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00				
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.							
Date:			Server's signature					
			Server's signature					
			Printed name and title					
			Server's address					

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Print Save As... Reset

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Man Sues SunPro Solar After Receiving Six Allegedly Illegal Telemarketing Calls