#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

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**COMMISSIONERS:** 

Joseph J. Simons, Chairman Noah Joshua Phillips Rohit Chopra Rebecca Kelly Slaughter Christine S. Wilson

In the Matter of

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Docket No. C-4720

#### **COMPLAINT**

Pursuant to the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), and its authority thereunder, the Federal Trade Commission ("Commission"), having reason to believe that Respondent Tri Star Energy, LLC has entered into an agreement to acquire certain assets of Respondent Hollingsworth Oil Company, Inc. and Respondent C & H Properties, among other entities, from Respondent Mr. Ronald L. Hollingsworth (collectively, "Hollingsworth"), that such acquisition, if consummated, would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and that a proceeding in respect thereof would be in the public interest, hereby issues this complaint, stating its charges as follows.

## I. <u>RESPONDENTS</u>

## <u>Tri Star Energy, LLC</u>

1. Respondent Tri Star Energy, LLC is a limited liability company organized, existing, and doing business under, and by virtue of, the laws of the State of Delaware, with its office and principal place of businesscated at 1740 Ed Temple Boulevard, Nashville, Tennessee 37208.

2. Respondent Tri Star Energy, LLC is, and at all times relevant herein has been, engaged in, among other things, the retail sale of gasoline and diesel fuel in the United States.

3. Respondent Tri Star Energy, LLC and the corporate entities under its control are, and at all times relevant herein have been, engaged in commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 1 of the Clayton Act as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 12, and Section 4 of the tract, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 44.

### <u>Hollingsworth</u>

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# II. THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION

7. Pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement dated March 6, 2020, as amended (the "Asset Purchase Agree

a new retail fuel outlet, and the time associated with obtaining necessary permits and approvals.

#### VI. EFFECTS OF THE ACQUISITION

15. The effects of the Acquisition, if consummated, may be to substantially lessen competition and tend to create a monopoly in each relevant market in violation of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, by increasing the likelihood that Respondent Tri Star would unilaterally exercise market power in each relevant market.

### VII. VIOLATIONS CHARGED

16. The Acquisition described in Paragraph 7, if consummated, would constitute a violation of Section 7 of the loyton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the FTC Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45.

17. The Asset Purchase Agreement entered into by Tri Star Energy, LLC, and Hol1 (d, 15 U)22 1 Tf 2.585 0 Td [(T)1 (he)-1 ( A)2 (c)-1 (quig (e)-1ctA5 (ey /LBody a)-)5 (T)1 (rL)1 (Bright Action 10 (Bright Action