

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
WACO DIVISION**

ECOFACOR, INC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ECOBEE, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 6:22-cv-00033-ADA

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**DEFENDANT ECOBEE, INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS PURSUANT TO RULE  
12(b)(3), 12(b)(6) AND THE FIRST-TO-FILE RULE OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO  
TRANSFER OR STAY**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| I. INTRODUCTION .....  | 1           |
| II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND.....  | 3           |
| III. THE COURT SHOULD DISMISS, TRANSFER OR STAY THE CASE<br>PURSUANT TO THE FIRST-TO-FILE RULE .....   | 6           |
| A. The Court Should Dismiss Pursuant to Rule 12(b)(3), 12(b)(6) and the First<br>to File Rule, or Transfer This Case to Massachusetts, the Jurisdiction of the<br>First-Filed Complaint..... | 6           |
| B. Alternatively, the Court Should Stay Pending the Massachusetts Court’s<br>Decision on EcoFactor’s Motion to Dismiss Under the First-to-File Rule .....                                    | 9           |
| IV. CONCLUSION.....  | 10          |

**TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

|   | <b>Page(s)</b> |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Cases</b>  |                |
| <i>Aguilera v. Matco Tools Corp.</i> ,<br>No. 319-CV-01576, 2020 WL 1188142 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 12, 2020) .....   | 9              |
| <i>Apple Inc. v. VoIP-Pal.com Inc.</i> ,<br>506 F. Supp. 3d 947 (N.D. Cal. 2020) .....  | 9              |
| <i>Dynaenergetics Europe GMBH v. Hunting Titan, Inc.</i> ,<br>No. 6:20-cv-69-ADA, D.I. 41 (W.D. Tex. June 16, 2020) .....                             | 9              |
| <i>EcoFactor, Inc. v. ecobee Inc.</i> , No. 1:19-cv-12325-PBS .....   | 1              |
| <i>EcoFactor, Inc. v. ITC</i> ,<br>Case No. 21-2339, D.I. 1 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 22, 2021) .....  | 5              |
| <i>Enterl Prods., LLC v. Meds Direct RX of NY, LLC</i> ,<br>No. cv 16-00915, 2016 WL 9185156 (C.D. Cal. April 28, 2016) .....                         | 8              |
| <i>Mann Mfg., Inc. v. Hortex, Inc.</i> ,<br>439 F.2d 403 (5th Cir. 1971) .....  | 9              |
| <i>Overland Storage, Inc. v. BDT Automation Tech. (Zhuahai FTZ) Co., Ltd.</i> ,<br>No. 10-CV-1700 JLS, 2010 WL 5089002 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 8, 2010) ..... | 8              |
| <i>In re Princo Corp.</i> ,<br>486 F.3d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 2007).....  | 8              |
| <i>Save Power Ltd. v. Syntek Fin. Corp.</i> ,<br>121 F.3d 947 (5th Cir. 1997) .....   | 6              |
| <i>SmileDirect Club, LLC v. Candid Care Co.</i> ,<br>No. 1:20-cv-01764-CFC, 2021 WL 3269092 (D. Del. July 30, 2021) .....                             | 8, 9           |
| <i>Techn's ULC v. EcoFactor, Inc.</i> ,<br>No. 1:22-CV-10049-PBS, D.I. 1 .....  | 2              |
| <i>USX Corp. v. Penn Cent. Corp.</i> ,<br>130 F.3d 562 (3d Cir. 1997).....  | 6              |
| <i>VoIP-Pal.com, Inc. v. Apple Inc.</i> ,<br>6:20-cv-00275-ADA, D.I. 43, Order Staying Cases (W.D. Tex. Sept. 29,<br>2020) .....                      | 10             |

*West Gulf Maritime Ass'n v. ILA Deep Sea Local 24*,  
751 F.2d 721 (5th Cir. 1985) .....6

## I. INTRODUCTION

This case is an attempt by Plaintiff EcoFactor Inc. (“Plaintiff” or “EcoFactor”) to relitigate the same patent infringement claims that it previously filed, in 2019, against ecobee<sup>1</sup> (“Defendant” or “ecobee”) in both the District of Massachusetts (*EcoFactor, Inc. v. ecobee Inc.*, No. 1:19-cv-12325-PBS (“2019 Action”)) and the International Trade Commission (ITC Investigation No. 337-TA-1185 (“the 1185 Investigation”)). EcoFactor suffered a complete defeat at the ITC; it dropped many of the claims before trial because they were too weak to take to trial, and the claims it did try were held invalid and non-infringed by ecobee. Although EcoFactor filed an appeal of the ITC’s decision, it knew it had no hope of prevailing on appeal. So, on the eve of the due date of its opening appellate brief, EcoFactor engaged in a procedural gambit to avoid appellate review and—more relevant to the instant motion—divest the District of Massachusetts of jurisdiction so that it could re-file its baseless claims in the Western District of Texas. EcoFactor presumes—ecobee submits, incorrectly—that this Court will have more sympathy to its effort to disregard the ITC proceedings and relitigate its losing patent infringement claims than would the District of Massachusetts (which stayed the 2019 Action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1659(a) pending the outcome of the 1185 Investigation).

Specifically, on January 10, 2022—while the 2019 Action remained stayed—EcoFactor filed a notice of voluntary dismissal of the 2019 Action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(i). *2019 Action*, D.I. 20. On the same day (January 10, 2022), immediately after dismissing the 2019 Action, EcoFactor filed the present infringement action against ecobee,

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<sup>1</sup> ecobee, Inc. was recently acquired by Generac Holdings Inc. After the acquisition, ecobee, Inc. became ecobee Technologies ULC d/b/a/ ecobee, which is now the entity that makes, uses, offers for sale and/or sells the products at issue in the three relevant proceedings.

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