

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO
Judge Christine M. Arguello**

Civil Action No. 10-cv-00872-CMA-MEH

COMONWEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, and
STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WARD MANUFACTURING, INC.,

Defendant.

ORDER OF REMAND

This matter is before Defendant's Notice of Removal. For the following reasons, the Court concludes that Defendant has not established subject matter jurisdiction.

As such, the Court will REMAND this case to the District Court, County of Eagle, Colorado, for further proceedings.

Plaintiffs filed their lawsuit in the District Court, County of Eagle, Colorado, on March 29, 2010. Defendant filed a Notice of Removal on April 19, 2010. Defendant purports to remove the lawsuit to this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1332, which provides for diversity jurisdiction.

Section 1332(a) sets forth two requirements for diversity jurisdiction. Those requirements are: (1) an "amount in controversy [that] exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs" and (2) diversity of citizenship between the parties. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).

A removing defendant must “prove jurisdictional facts by a preponderance of the evidence.” *McPhail v. Deer & Co.*, 529 F.3d 947, 952-53 (10th Cir. 2008). Typically, a defendant can establish the amount in controversy by providing factual allegations in the notice of removal, or by citing to allegations in the complaint. *Id.* However, with regard to jurisdictional facts, *McPhail* noted that there is little evidence that a Defendant can present at the time of removal. Aside from the complaint and notice of removal, other potential sources of evidence include interrogatories obtained in state court before the notice of removal was filed, a proposed settlement amount, or affidavits. See *id.* at 956. Defendants often cite to the state court Civil Cover Sheet as evidence of the amount in controversy, as well. However, this Court has previously addressed the evidentiary value, or lack thereof, of the state court Civil Cover Sheet in *Baker v. Sears Holding Corp.*, 557 F. Supp. 2d 1208 (D. Colo. 2007). In *Baker*, Judge Krieger held that the Colorado Civil Cover Sheet, by itself, does not establish the requisite amount in controversy to sustain diversity jurisdiction. *Id.* This rule has been supported by other judges in this district. See e.g., *Holladay v. Kone, Inc.*, 606 F.Supp.2d 1296, 1297-98 (D. Colo. 2009) (Judge Kane) and *Jones v. Camelot Acquisition, LLC*, No. 09-cv-00892, 2009 WL 1187263, *1 (D. Colo. April 30, 2009) (Judge Daniel) (listing other cases in which this district has supported the *Baker* proposition).

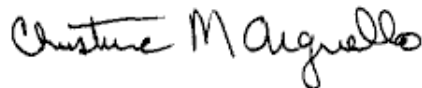
In this case, Plaintiff has not identified a specific amount of damages and the Court cannot discern that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 from the factual allegations in the Complaint. Defendant also fails to provide allegations from which the Court may determine that the amount in controversy requirement has been satisfied in the Notice of Removal. Likewise, Defendant has not presented any of the alternative sources of jurisdictional evidence described in *McPhail*. Rather, Defendant relies on the state court Civil Cover Sheet submitted with Plaintiff's state court Complaint to show that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000. However, under *Baker* and other cases from this district, the Civil Cover Sheet is not enough. Thus, the Court concludes that Defendant's Notice of Removal does not establish the requisite jurisdictional amount by a preponderance of the evidence.

Accordingly,

This action is REMANDED to District Court, County of Eagle, Colorado, for further proceedings.

DATED: April 22, 2010

BY THE COURT:



CHRISTINE M. ARGUELLO
United States District Judge