



neither the registered owner (which was Palmetto) nor the lien holder had responded to his notifications. He would not disclose that “Palmetto” (who he claimed was non-responsive) was in fact a business in his wife’s name.

4. Based on this information, the state magistrate permitted JOHN N. BABB to hold an auction to sell five trucks. Purchasing at auction would allow the purchaser to obtain a clear title. If the auction went through, the original lien holder would have no legal claim to the vehicle and would therefore lose the financed amount as well as any possibility of recovering the vehicle itself.

5. Although the auction for the trucks did not go forward because of irregularities discovered by the magistrate’s office, JOHN N. BABB further attempted to fraudulently gain clear title to one of the trucks by providing false documents and information to the SCDMV related to the truck’s title.

COUNTS 1-8  
(Mail Fraud)

6. The allegations of paragraphs 1-5 are incorporated by reference herein.

7. On or about each of the dates reflected below, in the District of South Carolina and elsewhere, JOHN N. BABB, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, as described above, did mail and cause to be mailed certified letters purporting to provide notice of a legitimate mechanic’s lien as further set forth below:

Count	Date	Description
1	June 4, 2025	A certified letter mailed to College Station, Texas
2	June 4, 2025	A certified letter mailed to College Station, Texas

3	June 4, 2025	A certified letter mailed to Ware Shoals, South Carolina.
4	June 4, 2025	A certified letter mailed to Ware Shoals, South Carolina.
5	June 4, 2025	A certified letter mailed to Wilmington, Ohio.
6	June 16, 2025	A certified letter mailed to Cockeysville, Maryland
7	June 4, 2025	A certified letter mailed to Ware Shoals, South Carolina.
8	June 4, 2025	A certified letter mailed to Ware Shoals, South Carolina.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

FORFEITURE

MAIL FRAUD:

As a result of the foregoing violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341, as charged in this Indictment, upon conviction, Defendant, JOHN N. BABB, shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, constituting, derived from or traceable to proceeds the Defendant obtained directly or indirectly as a result of such offenses.

PROPERTY:

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), the property which is subject to forfeiture upon conviction of Defendant for the violations charged in this Indictment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Proceeds/Forfeiture Judgment:

A sum of money equal to all proceeds the Defendant obtained, directly or indirectly, from the offenses charged in this Indictment, and all interest and proceeds traceable thereto, and/or such sum that equals all property derived from or traceable to their violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341.

SUBSTITUTE ASSETS:

If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of a Defendant-

- (1) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (2) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (3) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- (4) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (5) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p) to seek forfeiture of any other property of the said Defendants up to the value of the forfeitable property described above.

All pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

TRUE BILL

REDACTED

FOREPERSON

BRYAN P. STIRLING  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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