

EXHIBIT A

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 1:22-cv-02946-STV

RON BROWN,
and MINKA GARMON,
individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JBS USA FOOD COMPANY;
TYSON FOODS, INC.;
CARGILL, INC.;
CARGILL MEAT SOLUTIONS CORP.;
HORMEL FOODS CORP.;
ROCHELLE FOODS, LLC;
AMERICAN FOODS GROUP, LLC;
TRIUMPH FOODS, LLC;
SEABOARD FOODS LLC;
NATIONAL BEEF PACKING CO., LLC;
SMITHFIELD FOODS, INC.;
SMITHFIELD PACKAGED MEATS CORP.;
AGRI BEEF CO.;
WASHINGTON BEEF, LLC;
PERDUE FARMS, INC.;
GREATER OMAHA PACKING CO., INC.;
NEBRASKA BEEF, LTD.;
INDIANA PACKERS CORPORATION;
QUALITY PORK PROCESSORS, INC.;
AGRI STATS, INC.;
and WEBBER, MENG, SAHL AND COMPANY, INC. d/b/a WMS & COMPANY, INC.,

Defendants.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CLASS PLAINTIFFS AND
DEFENDANT NATIONAL BEEF PACKING CO., LLC.**

Subject to the approval of the Court, this Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement” or “Agreement”) is made and entered into as of the Execution Date, by and between National Beef (as hereinafter defined) and the Class Plaintiffs (as hereinafter defined), individually and on behalf of a Settlement Class (as hereinafter defined), through Interim Co-Lead Counsel for the proposed Settlement Class, and in the above-captioned action (the “Action”).

RECITALS

A. Class Plaintiffs are prosecuting the Action on their own behalf and on behalf of a putative litigation class. Class Plaintiffs and the putative litigation class are currently represented by Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

B. Class Plaintiffs have alleged, among other things, that National Beef entered into a contract, combination or conspiracy in restraint of trade, the purpose and effect of which was to suppress competition for labor and to allow National Beef to pay sub-competitive compensation to hourly and salaried workers in its Red Meat Processing Operations (as defined below) in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

C. National Beef denies all allegations of wrongdoing in the Action and believes it has numerous legitimate defenses to Class Plaintiffs' claims.

D. This Settlement Agreement shall not be deemed or construed to be an admission or evidence of any violation of any statute, law, rule, or regulation or of any liability or wrongdoing by National Beef or of the truth of the Allegations or Claims (as those terms are defined below), nor shall it be deemed or construed to be an admission or evidence of National Beef's defenses.

E. Interim Co-Lead Counsel have conducted an investigation into the facts and law regarding the Action and the possible legal and factual defenses thereto and have concluded that (1) a settlement with National Beef according to the terms set forth below is fair, reasonable, adequate, and beneficial to, and in the best interests of, the Settlement Class, given the uncertainties, risks, and costs of continued litigation; (2) the Settlement Fund (as hereinafter defined) reflects fair, reasonable, and adequate compensation for the Settlement Class to release, settle, and discharge their claims that they were undercompensated as a result of the alleged anticompetitive conduct of National Beef; and (3) the Cooperation (as defined below) to which

National Beef has agreed will reduce the substantial burden and expense associated with prosecuting the Action.

F. Despite National Beef's belief that it is not liable for and has strong defenses to the Claims (as defined below) asserted by Class Plaintiffs, National Beef desires to settle the Action to avoid the further expense, inconvenience, disruption, and burden of litigation and other present or future litigation arising out of the allegations that gave rise to this Action, to avoid the risks inherent in uncertain complex litigation and trial, and thereby to put to rest this controversy.

G. Arm's-length settlement negotiations have taken place between Interim Co-Lead Counsel and National Beef's Counsel, and this Agreement has been reached as a result of those negotiations.

H. The Settling Parties (as hereinafter defined) wish to preserve all arguments, defenses, and responses related to all claims in the Action, including any arguments, defenses, and responses related to any litigation class proposed by Class Plaintiffs in the event this Settlement Agreement does not receive Final Approval (as defined below).

I. The Settling Parties desire to fully and finally settle all actual and potential claims arising from or related to the conduct alleged, or that could have been alleged, in the Action, and to avoid the costs and risks of protracted litigation and trial.

IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY AGREED, by and among the Settling Parties, that in consideration of the covenants, agreements, and releases set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, this Action and all Released Claims (as hereinafter defined) are finally and fully discharged, settled, and compromised as to the National Beef Released Parties (as hereinafter defined) and that this Action shall be dismissed in its entirety with prejudice as to National Beef, subject to approval of the Court pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, upon and subject to the following terms and conditions:

I. DEFINITIONS

A. Class Definition.

“Settlement Class” means the class described in Section II(F)(3) below.

B. General Definitions.

1. “Action” means the putative class action filed by Class Plaintiffs captioned *Brown, et al., v. JBS USA Food Co., et al.*, 1:22-CV-02946 (D. Colo.), which is currently pending in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado, or any action that is based on or related to the same set of facts, circumstances, or allegations as previously, currently, or hereafter set forth in the Complaint (as hereinafter defined).

2. “Allegations” means the allegations in the Action concerning an agreement, contract, combination or conspiracy in restraint of trade in the red meat industry, the purpose and effect of which was to suppress competition for labor and to allow National Beef to pay sub-competitive compensation to hourly and salaried workers in its Red Meat Processing Operations (as defined below) in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1. For the avoidance of doubt, this definition encompasses allegations that appear in the Class Action Complaint (ECF No. 1), the Corrected Class Action Complaint (ECF No. 23-1), and the Amended Class Action Complaint (ECF No. 260) in the Action.

3. “National Beef” means National Beef Packing Co., LLC and its current and former subsidiaries, and any of the respective former or current, direct or indirect trustees, directors, officers, members, attorneys, agents, and insurers of National Beef Packing Co., LLC and its current and former subsidiaries. “National Beef” includes Iowa Premium, LLC.

4. “National Beef’s Counsel” means the law firm of O’Melveny & Myers LLP, and any other legal advisors retained for purposes of advising National Beef with respect to the Action.

5. “National Beef Released Parties” means National Beef and all of its respective former or current, direct or indirect, parents, subsidiaries and affiliates, including but not limited to the predecessors, successors and assigns of each of them; and each of their respective former or current, direct or indirect trustees, owners, principals, partners, directors, officers, shareholders, managers, members, attorneys, equity holders, agents, insurers, supervisors, representatives, and employees. With the exception of Iowa Premium, LLC—which is a National Beef Released Party—“National Beef Released Parties” does not include any Defendant or Co-Conspirator named by Class Plaintiffs in any complaint filed to date in the Action, other than National Beef.

6. “Claims” means any and all actual or potential, known or unknown, prior or current, causes of action, claims, contentions, allegations, assertions of wrongdoing, damages, losses, or demands for recoveries, remedies, or fees complained of, or relating or referred to, arising from or related to the conduct alleged in the Action, or that could or should have been alleged in the Action.

7. “Claims Administrator” means the third party to be retained by Interim Co-Lead Counsel and approved by the Court to manage and administer the process by which Settlement Class Members are notified of the Settlement Agreement and paid from the Net Settlement Fund.

8. “Class Plaintiffs” means all Plaintiffs named in the Complaint: Ron Brown and Minka Garmon.

9. “Compensation” means the provision of anything of value to Settlement Class Members and includes wages, salaries, insurance benefits, bonuses, overtime pay, night shift premiums, raises, promotions, retirement benefits, stocks or stock options, meals, and any other monetary and nonmonetary forms of remuneration or benefits.

10. “Complaint” means the Class Action Complaint (ECF No. 1), the Corrected Class Action Complaint (ECF No. 23-1), the Amended Class Action Complaint in the Action (ECF No. 260), and any amendment or supplement thereto or any other complaint filed in the Action.

11. “Cooperation,” as described in Section II(A)(2) below, shall mean providing data, documents, information, and witnesses concerning the Allegations.

12. “Court” means the United States District Court for the District of Colorado and the Honorable Chief Judge Philip A. Brimmer or the Honorable Scott T. Varholak or a successor, or any other Court with jurisdiction over the Action.

13. “Date of Final Approval” means the date on which the Court enters an order granting final approval of this Settlement Agreement, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, as provided in Section II(F)(9) below (“Final Approval”).

14. “Date of Final Judgment” means the first date upon which both of the following conditions shall have been satisfied: (a) the Court has entered an order granting Final Approval of this Settlement Agreement; and (b) either (1) thirty days have passed from the date of Final Approval with no notice of appeal having been filed with the Court; or (2) Final Approval has been affirmed by a mandate issued by any reviewing court to which any appeal has been taken, and any further petition for review (including certiorari) has been denied, and the time for any further appeal or review of Final Approval has expired. The provisions of Rule 60 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall not be considered in determining the above-stated times.

15. “Date of Preliminary Approval” means the date on which the Court enters an order granting preliminary approval of this Settlement Agreement, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, as provided in Section II(F)(4) below.

16. “Defendant” or “Defendants” means any or all of the Defendants named in the Action, now, in the past, or in the future.

17. “Defendant Processors” means all Defendants other than Webber, Meng, Sahl, and Company, Inc. (“WMS”) and Agri Stats, Inc. (“Agri Stats”).

18. “Documents” means (a) all papers, electronically stored information (“ESI”), statements, transcripts, or other materials within the scope of Rule 34(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; and (b) any copies or reproductions of the foregoing, including microfilm copies or computer images.

19. “Effective Date” shall be the Date of Final Judgment as defined in Section (I)(B).

20. “Escrow Account” means the account with the Escrow Agent that holds the Settlement Fund.

21. “Escrow Agent” means the bank into which the Settlement Fund shall be deposited and maintained as set forth in Section II(D) of this Agreement.

22. “Escrow Agreement” means the certain agreement between the Escrow Agent that holds the Settlement Fund and Class Plaintiffs (by and through Interim Co-Lead Counsel) pursuant to which the Escrow Account is established and funded for the benefit of the Settlement Class, as set forth in Section II(D) of this Agreement.

23. “Execution Date” means the date on which this Settlement Agreement is entered into and executed by all Settling Parties.

24. “Fairness Hearing” has the meaning provided in Section II(F)(4) below.

25. “Interim Co-Lead Counsel” and “Settlement Class Counsel” mean the law firms of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC, Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP, and Handley Farah & Anderson PLLC.

26. “Net Settlement Fund” means the Settlement Fund, plus accrued interest, less any award of attorneys’ fees or reimbursement of expenses and less applicable taxes, tax preparation expenses, or costs of notice and administration, that may be awarded or approved by the Court.

27. “Order and Final Judgment” means the order and final judgment of the Court approving the Settlement Agreement, including all of its material terms and conditions without modifications (except any modifications agreed upon by the Settling Parties and, as necessary, approved by the Court), and the settlement pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and dismissing National Beef with prejudice from the Action, as described in Section II(F)(8) below.

28. “Person(s)” means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, association, trust, unincorporated organization, or other entity or organization.

29. “Red Meat Processing Operations” means beef and pork (collectively referred to as “red meat”) processing plants, including slaughterhouse plants and further-processing plants, in the United States.

30. “Released Claims” means claims defined in Section II(B)(2) of this Settlement Agreement.

31. “Releasing Party” or “Releasing Parties” shall refer individually and collectively, to the Settlement Class and all members of the Settlement Class, including the Class Plaintiffs, each on behalf of themselves and their respective predecessors and successors; the assigns of all such persons or entities, as well as any person or entity acting on behalf of or through any of them in any capacity whatsoever, jointly and severally; and any of their past, present and future agents, officials acting in their official capacities, legal representatives, agencies, departments, commissions and divisions; and also means, to the full extent of the power of the signatories hereto to release past, present and future claims, persons or entities acting in a private attorney general, qui tam, taxpayer or any other capacity, whether or not any of them participate in this Settlement Agreement.

32. “Settlement Agreement” means this document and the agreement reflected herein.

33. “Settlement Amount” means the cash payment of \$14,200,000 (fourteen million, two hundred thousand U.S. dollars) described in Section II(A)(1) below.

34. “Settlement Class Member” means each member of the Settlement Class who is not timely and properly excluded from the Settlement Class.

35. “Settlement Class Notice” means the notice to the Settlement Class that is approved by the Court, in accordance with Section II(F)(5) below.

36. “Settlement Class Period” means the period from and including January 1, 2000, through February 27, 2024, the date of the first preliminary approval of a settlement in this action.

37. “Settlement Fund” means the funds described in Section II(A) of this Settlement Agreement, plus accrued interest, in the separate Escrow Account to be maintained by the Escrow Agent for the settlement contemplated by this Settlement Agreement established in accordance with Section II(D) below.

38. “Settling Parties” means National Beef and the Settlement Class, as represented by the Class Plaintiffs.

39. “Unrelated Co-Conspirator” means any alleged co-conspirator in the Action that does not satisfy the criteria for inclusion as a “Released Party” in the definition of “National Beef Released Parties.”

II. SETTLEMENT

A. Performance By National Beef.

1. **Settlement Payment.** In consideration for the release of the Released Claims and the dismissal with prejudice of the Action as to National Beef, within fourteen (14) business days of the later of (i) the Court’s grant of Preliminary Approval or (ii) the date on which National Beef is provided with wiring information for the Escrow Account, National Beef shall pay or

cause to be paid \$14,200,000 (fourteen million, two hundred thousand U.S. dollars) into the Settlement Fund.

a. National Beef's payment to the Escrow Agent described herein shall be by wire transfer pursuant to instructions from the Escrow Agent or Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

b. The payment described in Section II(A)(1) shall constitute the total Settlement Amount and National Beef shall have no other payment obligations to the Settlement Class or owe any further amount under this Settlement Agreement, and the obligations described in Section II(A)(2) shall continue until all claims in the Action against Defendants have been dismissed with prejudice or finally resolved and all appeals relating to the Action have been exhausted. Each Class Member shall look solely to the Net Settlement Amount for settlement and satisfaction, as provided herein, of all Released Claims pursuant to this Agreement.

2. **Cooperation.** Cooperation is a material term of this Settlement Agreement. National Beef's obligation to cooperate under this paragraph encompasses the Red Meat Processing Operations operated by National Beef and shall, upon Class Plaintiffs' request and after the Date of Preliminary Approval, consist of the following actions:

a. Within one hundred fifty (150) days of the Date of Preliminary Approval, National Beef will produce to Class Plaintiffs electronic structured compensation data for the Settlement Class Period and four years prior, identified after a reasonable search, regarding Settlement Class Members employed by National Beef's Red Meat Processing Operations. Such electronic structured compensation data will include the following (to the extent such data currently exists in National Beef's possession, custody, and control and is reasonably accessible to National Beef):

i. A running history of personal information, including name, email address, physical address, telephone number, hire date, employee ID, Social Security number, date of birth, contact information,

gender, education level, race, ethnicity, immigration status, channel of hiring, and information on seniority/prior employer(s);

- ii. Job title, dates of employment, job changes, wages or salaries, bonuses, overtime pay, shift premiums, benefits, changes in wage or salary rate, and any other reasonably accessible components of Compensation; and
- iii. Exit information, including date of termination of employment, reason(s) for termination of employment, and subsequent employer(s).

National Beef will use reasonable efforts to respond to a reasonable number of Class Plaintiffs' questions regarding, and otherwise assist Plaintiffs to understand, such electronic structured data.

b. National Beef agrees to use reasonable efforts to provide declarations or affidavits relating to authentication or admissibility of documents, if reasonably requested by the Class Plaintiffs in connection with this Action.

c. Class Plaintiffs will identify up to eight (8) current or former employees of National Beef as document custodians ("Custodians"), and Class Plaintiffs will provide National Beef with a list of reasonable search terms relating to the Allegations ("Search Terms"). With respect to each proposed custodian, National Beef will (i) identify the particular years for which it possesses ESI for that custodian and inform plaintiffs of the amount of ESI for that custodian, and (ii) plaintiffs will be given the opportunity to select a replacement custodian for any custodian that has two years or less of ESI dating from 2018 and earlier. Notwithstanding the foregoing or anything else contained herein, the Custodians shall not include any current or former Chief(s) or Member(s) of the Board of Managers.

d. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on a final list of search terms after good faith negotiations, the parties agree—within fourteen (14) days of reaching impasse—to submit any disputed terms to the presiding Magistrate Judge, whose decision shall be final, binding, and non-appealable. National Beef will, within 150 days of either (i) the Date of

Preliminary Approval or (ii) the date upon which the parties reach a resolution on search terms (through agreement or by order of the Magistrate Judge), whichever is later, produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control that are returned by the Search Terms and responsive to Plaintiffs' requests for production. The Parties may mutually agree to move these deadlines without seeking Court approval.

e. Within 150 days of the later of (i) the Date of Preliminary Approval or (ii) the date upon which Class Plaintiffs identify custodians, National Beef will produce all records of phone calls placed and received by the Custodians, including phone calls to or from phone numbers specifically associated with the Custodians, in National Beef's possession, custody, and control that are located through a reasonable search of the Custodians' electronic files. National Beef will also identify phone numbers specifically associated with the Custodians even if records of phone calls associated with those numbers are not in its possession, custody, or control. National Beef will also use reasonable efforts to obtain signed authorizations from the Custodians to allow Class Plaintiffs to obtain records of phone calls placed and received from third-party carriers, if necessary.

f. Class Plaintiffs will identify up to five (5) current employees of National Beef who will be deposed by Class Plaintiffs and will participate as witnesses at trial if requested by Class Plaintiffs, assuming they remain employed by National Beef at the time of trial. This limitation on depositions and trial witnesses does not apply to former employees of National Beef. This limitation includes depositions of corporate representatives under Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) regarding the topics concerning the Allegations, and general industry knowledge, which will be negotiated by the Settling Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing or anything else contained herein, deponents and trial witnesses shall not include any current or former Chief(s) or Member(s) of the Board of Managers.

g. National Beef will not object to Class Plaintiffs' subpoena to third-party phone carriers for phone records of Defendants' current and former employees that relate to the period such employees were employed by National Beef.

h. As part of the custodial searches discussed above in Section II(A)(2)(a), and to the extent such Documents are not protected by the attorney-client privilege, attorney work product doctrine, or another applicable privilege, National Beef will also produce the following Documents relating to the Allegations to Class Plaintiffs identified by a reasonable search of the Custodians' files:

- All Documents that (1) reference WMS, any of WMS's employees, or any surveys or survey results prepared by WMS, (2) were sent by National Beef or National Beef's employees to WMS or WMS's employees, and/or (3) were received by National Beef or National Beef's employees from WMS or WMS's employees;
- All documents related to, preparing, or discussing the Beef Industry Wage Index ("BIWI") and/or Pork Industry Wage Index ("PIWI");
- All documents produced to, and received from, the American Meat Institute, American Meat Institute Foundation, Joint Labor Management Committee or "JLM", North American Meat Institute, National Pork Producers Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the US Meat Export Federation, and the 21st Century Pork Club that reference any form or component of Compensation.

i. In addition to the custodial searches discussed above in Sections II(A)(2)(a) and II(A)(2)(d) and to the extent such Documents are not protected by the attorney-client privilege, attorney work product doctrine, or another applicable privilege, National Beef will produce the following Documents to Class Plaintiffs identified by a reasonable search:

- All written agreements or contracts with Agri-Stats, Inc. and/or Express Markets, Inc. related to Red Meat Processing Operations;
- All contracts executed with labor unions representing Class Members at National Beef's Red Meat Processing Operations and executed during the Settlement Class Period;

- Any documents that have been or will be produced to the Department of Justice by National Beef prior to the resolution of this Action against all Defendants in connection with any investigation regarding any form or component of Compensation paid to workers at Red Meat Processing Operations that have not already been produced to Class Plaintiffs within 14 days of the production of such Documents to the Department of Justice. National Beef is required to produce any such documents unless the Department of Justice objects to such production and National Beef is not otherwise ordered by the Court to produce any such documents. Unless prohibited by the Department of Justice, National Beef agrees to take no position on submissions by Class Plaintiffs to any court to obtain any documents submitted to the Department of Justice; provided, however, that National Beef reserves the right to designate any produced documents for confidential treatment pursuant to the applicable protective order in this Action.

j. To the extent National Beef withholds the production of any documents on the basis of attorney-client privilege or any other form of protection from disclosure, National Beef is obligated to produce a privilege log no later than 60 days after the document production from which documents were withheld. The privilege log must conform to the requirements of the ESI protocol in this Action (ECF No. 320).

k. The documents and information produced pursuant to this Settlement Agreement will be treated in conformance with the requirements of the protective order entered in this Action (ECF No. 321).

The Parties will have discretion to agree to modifications of these discovery obligations and deadlines, and such modifications will not require Court approval.

B. Release of Claims.

1. The Release of Claims is a material term of this Settlement Agreement.
2. **Release.** Upon the Date of Final Judgment, the Releasing Parties shall completely release, acquit, and forever discharge the National Beef Released Parties from any and all existing or potential, known or unknown, claims, demands, actions, suits, causes of action, upon any theory of law or equity, whether class, individual, *parens patriae*, or otherwise in nature

(whether or not any member of the Settlement Class has objected to the Settlement Agreement or makes a claim upon or participates in the Settlement Fund), whether directly, representatively, derivatively or in any other capacity that the Releasing Parties ever had, now have, or hereafter can, shall, or may ever have, on account of, or in any way arising out of, any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen, suspected or unsuspected, actual or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated claims, causes of action, injuries, losses, civil or other penalties, restitution, disgorgement, damages, and the consequences thereof that have been asserted, or could have been asserted, under federal or state law in any way arising out of or relating in any way to an alleged or actual conspiracy or agreement between Defendants relating to reducing competition for the hiring and retaining of, or to fixing, depressing, restraining, exchanging information about, or otherwise reducing the Compensation paid or provided to, the Releasing Parties by Defendants, co-conspirators, their respective subsidiaries and/or related entities or arising from or in connection with any act or omission during the Class Period relating to or referred to in the Action or arising from the factual predicate of the Action or any conduct that could have or should have been challenged, raised or alleged in the Action (collectively, the “Released Claims”). Notwithstanding the above, “Released Claims” do not include (i) claims asserted against any Defendant other than the National Beef Released Parties, and (ii) any claims wholly unrelated to the allegations or underlying conduct alleged in the Action that are based on breach of contract, negligence, personal injury, bailment, failure to deliver lost goods, damaged or delayed goods, product defect, discrimination, COVID-19 safety protocols, failure to comply with wage and hours laws unrelated to anticompetitive conduct, or securities claims. This reservation of claims set forth in (i) and (ii) of this paragraph does not impair or diminish the right of the National Beef Released Parties to assert any and all defenses to such claims. During the period after the expiration of the deadline for submitting an opt-out notice, as determined by

the Court, and prior to Final Judgment, the parties shall cooperate to move the Court to preliminarily enjoin and bar all Releasing Parties who have not submitted a valid request to be excluded from the Settlement Class from asserting any Released Claims against the National Beef Released Parties. The release of the Released Claims will become effective as to all Releasing Parties upon Final Judgment. Upon Final Judgment, the Releasing Parties further agree that they will not file any other suit against the National Beef Released Parties arising out of or relating to the Released Claims.

3. **Covenant Not to Sue.** Upon the Date of Final Judgment, Class Plaintiffs and each Settlement Class Member covenant not to sue, directly or indirectly, or otherwise seek to establish liability against the National Beef Released Parties for any transaction, event, circumstance, action, failure to act, or occurrence of any sort or type arising out of or related to the Released Claims, including, without limitation, seeking to recover damages or other relief relating to any of the Released Claims. This Paragraph shall not apply to any action to enforce this Settlement Agreement.

4. **Full Release.** The Settling Parties to this Agreement expressly agree and confirm that the Released Claims as set forth in the provisions of Section II(B) constitute a full and final release of the National Beef Released Parties by the Releasing Parties of the Released Claims, and that the Parties expressly agree that they intend for this Section II(B) to be interpreted as broadly as possible and to the fullest extent permitted by law.

5. **Waiver.** In addition to the provisions of Section II(B)(2), the Releasing Parties hereby expressly waive and release, solely with respect to the Released Claims, upon the Date of Final Judgment, any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which states:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY;

or by any law, regulation or rule of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to Section 1542 of the California Civil Code. Each Releasing Party may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which he, she, they, or it knows or believes to be true with respect to the claims which are released pursuant to the provisions of Section II(B)(2), but each Releasing Party hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles and releases, upon the Date of Final Judgment, any known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent claim that the Releasing Parties have agreed to release pursuant to Section II(B)(2), whether or not concealed or hidden, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

C. Claims Administrator.

Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, and subject to Court approval, Interim Co-Lead Counsel shall engage a qualified Claims Administrator. The Claims Administrator will assist with the settlement claims process as set forth herein.

1. The Claims Administrator shall effectuate the notice plan approved by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order, shall administer and calculate the claims, and shall oversee distribution of the Net Settlement Fund in accordance with a plan of distribution to be approved by the Court (the “Plan of Distribution”).

2. The Claims Administrator also shall assist in the development of the Plan of Distribution and the resolution of any disputes regarding the Plan of Distribution.

D. Settlement Fund Administration.

The Settlement Fund shall be administered pursuant to the provisions of this Settlement Agreement and subject to the Court's continuing supervision and control, until the funds in the Settlement Fund are fully distributed, as follows:

1. The Settlement Fund shall be established within an Escrow Account and administered by an Escrow Agent at a bank designated by Interim Co-Lead Counsel. Interim Co-Lead Counsel shall prepare an appropriate Escrow Agreement in conformance with this Agreement, and provide a draft of the Escrow Agreement to National Beef's Counsel for review and comment.

2. All funds held in the Escrow Account shall be deemed and considered to be in *custodia legis* of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as such funds shall be distributed pursuant to this Agreement and/or further order(s) of the Court.

3. Neither the Settlement Class, Interim Co-Lead Counsel, National Beef, nor National Beef's Counsel shall have any responsibility, financial obligation, or liability for any fees, costs, or expenses related to providing notice to the Settlement Class or obtaining approval of the settlement or administering the settlement. Such fees, costs, or expenses shall be paid solely from the Settlement Fund, subject to any necessary Court approval. National Beef shall not object to Interim Co-Lead Counsel withdrawing from the Settlement Fund, subject to any necessary Court approval, up to \$500,000 to pay the costs for notice and for Preliminary and Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement. Any costs of notice that Interim Co-Lead Counsel are permitted to withdraw from the Settlement Fund, either pursuant to the Settling Parties'

Settlement Agreement or order of the Court, shall be nonrefundable if, for any reason, the Settlement Agreement is terminated according to its terms. At their discretion, Class Plaintiffs may combine the notice of the National Beef settlement with the notice for any other Defendant in the Action. The timing of the filing of a motion to approve notice of the Settlement Agreement to the Settlement Class, and the timing proposed to the Court for the actual distribution of that notice to the Settlement Class, shall be at the sole discretion of Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

4. Under no circumstances will National Beef or the National Beef Released Parties be required to pay more than the Settlement Amount pursuant to this Agreement and the settlement set forth herein. For purposes of clarification, the payment of any fee and expense award, the notice and administrative costs (including payment of any applicable fees to Escrow Agent), and any other costs associated with the implementation of this Settlement Agreement shall be exclusively paid from the Settlement Amount. If the Settlement Fund is reduced, impaired, or otherwise becomes lost through fraud, negligence, or any other means after the Settlement Amount has been transferred to the Escrow Account, the Parties will continue to seek final approval for this Settlement Agreement and National Beef shall have no obligation to contribute any further amount to secure final approval of this Settlement Agreement.

5. Except as provided in Section II(F)(11), no other funds shall be paid or disbursements made from the Settlement Fund without an order of the Court.

6. The Escrow Agent shall, to the extent practicable, invest the funds deposited in the Settlement Fund in discrete and identifiable instruments backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government, or fully insured by the United States Government or any agency thereof, including a United States Treasury Fund or a bank account that is either: (i) fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; or (ii) secured by instruments backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. The proceeds of these accounts shall be

reinvested in similar instruments at their then-current market rates as they mature. All risks related to the investment of the Settlement Fund in accordance with the investment guidelines set forth in this paragraph shall be borne by the Settlement Fund. Any cash portion of the Settlement Fund not invested in instruments of the type described in the first sentence of this Section II(D)(6) shall be maintained by the Escrow Agent, and not commingled with any other funds or monies, in a federally insured bank account. Subsequent to payment into the Settlement Fund pursuant to Section II(A)(1), neither National Beef nor National Beef's Counsel shall bear any responsibility or risk related to the Settlement Fund or the Net Settlement Fund.

7. The Settling Parties agree that the Settlement Fund and the Net Settlement Fund are each intended to be a "Qualified Settlement Fund" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1, and to that end, the Settling Parties shall cooperate with each other and shall not take a position in any filing or before any tax authority that is inconsistent with such treatment. In addition, the Escrow Agent, as administrator of the Qualified Settlement Fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-2(k)(3), shall be solely responsible for filing all necessary information and tax returns for the Escrow Account and paying from the Escrow Account any Taxes, as defined below, owed with respect to the Escrow Account. In addition, Interim Co-Lead Counsel shall timely make, or cause to be made, such elections as necessary or advisable to carry out the provisions of this paragraph, including the "relation-back election" (as defined in Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1) back to the earliest permitted date. Such election shall be made in compliance with the procedures and requirements contained in such regulations. It shall be the responsibility of Interim Co-Lead Counsel to timely and properly prepare and deliver the necessary documentation for signature by all necessary parties, and thereafter to cause the appropriate filing to occur. All provisions of this Settlement Agreement shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Settlement Fund being a "Qualified Settlement Fund"

within the meaning of Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-1. Interim Co-Lead Counsel shall timely and properly file, or cause to be filed through the Escrow Agent, all information and other tax returns necessary or advisable with respect to the Settlement Fund (including without limitation the returns described in Treas. Reg. § 1.468B-2(k), (1)). Such returns shall reflect that all taxes (including any estimated taxes, interest or penalties) on the income earned by the Settlement Fund shall be paid out of the Settlement Fund. Neither National Beef nor National Beef's Counsel shall have any liability or responsibility of any sort for filing any tax returns or paying any Taxes with respect to the Escrow Account.

8. All: (i) taxes on the income of the Settlement Fund ("Taxes"), and (ii) expenses and costs incurred in connection with the taxation of the Settlement Fund (including, without limitation, expenses of tax attorneys and accountants) shall timely be paid by the Escrow Agent out of the Settlement Fund. Settlement Class Members shall be responsible for paying any and all federal, state, and local income taxes due on any distribution made to them pursuant to the Settlement provided herein.

9. After the Date of Final Approval, the Net Settlement Fund shall be disbursed in accordance with the Plan of Distribution. The Class Members shall look solely to the Net Settlement Fund for settlement and satisfaction of any and all Released Claims from Released Parties. The timing of a motion to approve a plan of distribution of the Net Settlement Fund created by this Settlement Agreement shall be in the discretion of Interim Co-Lead Counsel and may be combined with a plan to distribute proceeds from other settlements in this Action.

E. No Reversion.

National Beef shall have no rights to reversion, except as provided in Section II(F)(11) of this Settlement Agreement. In the event of a reversion, all funds not previously spent on notice and administrative costs shall be returned to National Beef, including any interest accrued.

F. Approval of Settlement Agreement and Dismissal of Claims.

1. **Notice of Settlement.** No later than thirty (30) days after the execution of this Settlement Agreement by National Beef, Interim Co-Lead Counsel and National Beef's Counsel shall jointly file with the Court a notice of settlement and stipulation for suspension of all proceedings by Class Plaintiffs against National Beef in the Action pending approval of the Settlement Agreement.

2. **Effectuating the Settlement.** Class Plaintiffs and National Beef shall cooperate in good faith and use their best efforts to effectuate this Settlement Agreement, including cooperating in seeking the Court's approval of the Settlement Agreement without modification of any of its material terms and conditions, providing appropriate Settlement Class Notice under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23, and seeking the complete and final dismissal with prejudice of the Action as to National Beef.

3. **Settlement Class Certification.** Class Plaintiffs shall seek, and National Beef shall take no position with respect to, the appointment of Interim Co-Lead Counsel as Settlement Class Counsel for purposes of this Settlement and the certification in the Action of a class for settlement purposes only, referred to herein as the Settlement Class, which shall include Class Plaintiffs and be defined as:

All persons employed by Defendant Processors, their subsidiaries, and/or related entities at beef-processing or pork-processing plants in the continental United States from January 1, 2000 until February 27, 2024.

The following persons and entities are excluded from the Settlement Class: plant managers; human-resources managers and staff; clerical staff; guards, watchmen, and salesmen; Defendants, co-conspirators, and any of their subsidiaries, predecessors, officers, or directors;

and federal, state or local governmental entities. For the avoidance of doubt, “plant managers” means the General Manager at each plant.

4. **Preliminary Approval.** No later than thirty (30) business days after the Execution Date, Class Plaintiffs shall submit to the Court a motion requesting entry of an order preliminarily approving the settlement (“Preliminary Approval Order”). Class Plaintiffs may combine the motion for Preliminary Approval with a motion to grant preliminary approval for settlement with any other Defendants. The Settling Parties may delay the filing of Preliminary Approval by mutual agreement. At a reasonable time in advance of submission to the Court, the papers in support of Preliminary Approval, which shall include the proposed form of an order preliminarily approving this Settlement Agreement, shall be provided by Interim Co-Lead Counsel to National Beef’s Counsel for its review. National Beef shall not oppose and shall reasonably cooperate in such motion, subject to the provisions below. The proposed Preliminary Approval Order shall provide that, *inter alia*:

a. the settlement proposed in the Settlement Agreement has been negotiated at arm’s length and is preliminarily determined to be fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class;

b. after Settlement Class Notice has been carried out, a hearing on the settlement proposed in this Settlement Agreement shall be held by the Court to determine whether the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and whether it should be finally approved by the Court (the “Fairness Hearing”);

c. Settlement Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the settlement and the Settlement Agreement must submit an appropriate and timely request for exclusion;

d. Settlement Class Members who wish to object to this Agreement must submit an appropriate and timely written statement of the grounds for objection;

e. Settlement Class Members who wish to appear in person to object to this Agreement may do so at the Fairness Hearing pursuant to directions by the Court; and

f. all proceedings in the Action with respect to National Beef and Class Plaintiffs are stayed until further order of the Court, except as may be necessary to implement the settlement reflected in this Settlement Agreement or comply with the terms thereof.

5. **Settlement Class Notice.** The Settlement Class Notice shall provide for a right of exclusion, as set forth in Section II(F)(4). The Settlement Class Notice shall also provide for a right to object to the proposed Settlement. Individual notice of the Settlement to all Settlement Class Members who can be identified through reasonable effort shall be mailed, emailed and/or sent via text message to the Settlement Class in conformance with a notice plan to be approved by the Court. Interim Co-Lead Counsel will undertake all reasonable efforts to notify potential Settlement Class Members of the settlement, including publication notice through traditional, digital, and/or social media sources likely to reach Settlement Class Members. The timing of a motion to approve notice to the Settlement Class of this Settlement Agreement (“Notice Motion”) shall be in the discretion of Interim Co-Lead Counsel, and may be combined with notice of other settlements in this Action. The Notice Motion shall include a proposed form of, method for, and date of dissemination of notice.

6. **Cost of Settlement Class Notice.** The costs of providing Settlement Class Notice to Settlement Class Members shall be paid by the Escrow Agent from the Settlement Fund pursuant to Section II(D)(2) and (3).

7. **CAFA Notice.** Within ten days of the filing of the motion for Preliminary Approval, National Beef will provide to the appropriate state officials and the appropriate federal

official the notice required by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b) (“CAFA”).

8. **Final Approval.** If this Settlement Agreement is preliminarily approved by the Court, the Settlement Class shall seek entry of an Order and Final Judgment, which National Beef shall not oppose and with which it shall reasonably cooperate, that *inter alia*:

a. certifies the Settlement Class described in Section II(F)(3), pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for purposes of this settlement as a settlement class;

b. finally approves this Settlement Agreement and its terms as being a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement as to the Settlement Class Members within the meaning of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and directing its consummation according to its terms and conditions;

c. determines that the Settlement Class Notice constituted, under the circumstances, the most effective and practicable notice of this Settlement Agreement and the Fairness Hearing, and constituted due and sufficient notice for all other purposes to all Persons entitled to receive notice;

d. confirms that National Beef has provided the appropriate notice pursuant to CAFA;

e. orders that all claims made against National Beef in the Action, including in all class action complaints asserted by the Class Plaintiffs, are dismissed with prejudice and without further costs or fees;

f. discharges and releases the National Beef Released Parties from all Released Claims;

- g. enjoins Class Plaintiffs from suing, directly or indirectly, any of the National Beef Released Parties for any of the Released Claims;
- h. requires Interim Co-Lead Counsel to file with the clerk of the Court a record of potential Settlement Class Members that timely excluded themselves from the Settlement Class, and to provide a copy of the record to National Beef's Counsel;
- i. incorporates the release set forth in Section II(B)(2) of this Agreement and makes that release effective as of the Effective Date as to the Class Plaintiffs and all Settlement Class Members that were not timely and validly excluded from the Settlement Class;
- j. determines under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b) that there is no just reason for delay and directs that the judgment of dismissal as to National Beef shall be final and entered forthwith, and stating:
 - i. Final judgment as to the Action is entered in favor of National Beef; and
 - ii. Final judgment is granted in favor of the National Beef Released Parties on any Released Claim of a Settlement Class Member that did not file a timely notice for exclusion.
- k. reserves to the Court exclusive jurisdiction over the settlement and this Settlement Agreement, including the administration and consummation of this Agreement; and
- l. orders that Settlement Funds may be disbursed as provided in the Final Approval Order or other order of the Court.

9. Class Counsel Fees and Expenses; No Other Costs.

- a. National Beef shall have no responsibility for any other costs, including Interim Co-Lead Counsel's attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses or the fees, costs, or expenses of any Plaintiff's or Class Member's respective attorneys, experts, advisors, or representatives,

provided, however, that with respect to the Action, including this Settlement Agreement, National Beef shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees.

b. Subject to Interim Co-Lead Counsel's sole discretion as to whether to apply and timing of such an application, Interim Co-Lead Counsel may apply to the Court for an attorney fee award, reimbursement of expenses and costs, and/or service awards for class representatives, to be paid from the proceeds of the Settlement Fund. National Beef shall have no responsibility, financial obligation, or liability for any such fees, costs, expenses, or service awards.

c. The procedure for and the allowance or disallowance by the Court of any applications by Interim Co-Lead Counsel for attorneys' fees, reimbursement of expenses, and/or service awards to class representatives are not part of or a condition to the Settlement set forth herein, and are to be considered by the Court separately from the Court's consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement set forth in this Agreement, and any order or proceeding relating to any application for attorneys' fees, reimbursement of expenses, and/or service awards to class representatives shall not operate to terminate or cancel this Agreement or the release set forth herein, or affect or delay the finality of the judgment approving this settlement.

d. Within 15 days after any order by the Court awarding attorneys' fees, reimbursing expenses, and/or providing service awards to class representatives, the Escrow Agent shall pay the approved attorneys' fees, reimbursement of expenses, and service award via wire transfer from the Settlement Fund as directed by Settlement Class Counsel in accordance with and attaching the Court's order. In the event the Settlement does not become Final or the award of attorneys' fees, reimbursement of expenses, and/or provision of service awards is reversed or modified, Settlement Class Counsel will cause the difference in the amount paid and

the amount awarded to be returned to the Settlement Fund within 30 days of the order from a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

10. **When Settlement Becomes Final.** The settlement contemplated by this Settlement Agreement shall become final on the Date of Final Judgment.

11. **Termination and Reduction.** If the Court declines to grant either preliminary or final approval to this Settlement Agreement or any material part hereof (as set forth in Sections II(F)(4) or (F)(8) above, respectively), or if the Court approves this Settlement Agreement in a materially modified form, or if after the Court's approval, such approval is materially modified or set aside on appeal, or if the Court does not enter the Order and Final Judgment, or if the Court enters the Order and Final Judgment and appellate review is sought and on such review such Final Order and Judgment is not affirmed (collectively, "Triggering Events"), then Class Plaintiffs and National Beef agree to negotiate in good faith to remedy the issues that resulted in that non-approval and to seek final approval of any revised settlement agreement. If, and only if, such good-faith negotiations fail to result in a revised settlement agreement for which parties seek court approval, then National Beef and Class Plaintiffs shall each, in their respective sole discretion, have the option to rescind this Settlement Agreement in its entirety by providing written notice of their election to do so ("Termination Notice") to each other within thirty (30) calendar days of any such Triggering Event. For purposes of this Section II(F)(11), a material modification includes but is not limited to any modification to the settlement payments, scope of the Settlement Class definition, or the scope of the Released Claims. If rescinded or terminated, this Settlement Agreement shall become null and void, and, with the exception of any Settlement Funds used for notice purposes pursuant to Section II(D)(2) and (3), all other funds remaining in the Escrow Account (including interest earned thereon) shall be returned to National Beef and the Settling Parties' position shall be returned to the status quo ante. In no way shall Class

Plaintiffs have the right to rescind or terminate this Settlement Agreement if the Court fails or refuses to grant any request for attorneys' fees, reimbursement of costs, or any service awards to class representatives.

12. **No Admission.**

a. National Beef denies all allegations of wrongdoing in the Action. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement constitutes an admission by National Beef as to the merits of the allegations made in the Action, or an admission by Class Plaintiffs or the Settlement Class of the validity of any defenses that have been or could be asserted by National Beef. The Settling Parties agree they will not make public statements to the media that disparage each other, their claims or defenses, or their conduct in connection with the Action.

b. This Settlement Agreement, and any of its terms, and any agreement or order relating thereto, shall not be deemed to be, or offered by any of the Settling Parties to be received in any civil, criminal, administrative, or other proceeding, or utilized in any manner whatsoever as, a presumption, a concession, or an admission of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever on the part of National Beef or other National Beef Released Parties; provided, however, that nothing contained in this Section II(F)(12) shall prevent this Settlement Agreement (or any agreement or order relating thereto) from being used, offered, or received in evidence in any proceeding to approve, enforce, or otherwise effectuate the settlement (or any agreement or order relating thereto) or the Order and Final Judgment, or in which the reasonableness, fairness, or good faith of any Settling Party participating in the settlement (or any agreement or order relating thereto) is in issue, or to enforce or effectuate provisions of this Settlement Agreement or the Order and Final Judgment. This Settlement Agreement may, however, be filed and used in other proceedings, where relevant, to demonstrate the fact of its existence and of this settlement, including but not limited to National Beef filing the Settlement

Agreement and/or the Order and Final Judgment in any other action that may be brought against it in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of res judicata, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, waiver, judgment bar or reduction, or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.

13. **Litigation Standstill.** Class Plaintiffs shall cease all litigation activities against National Beef in the Action except to the extent expressly authorized in this Settlement Agreement. National Beef and National Beef's Counsel shall cease all litigation activities against Class Plaintiffs in the Action, except in connection with providing the Cooperation provided for in Section II(A)(2). As is necessary to effectuate this Settlement Agreement, Class Plaintiffs will continue to name National Beef as a defendant in any amended complaint filed in the Action before the Date of Final Judgment. Provided, however, that in any such amended complaint or otherwise, Class Plaintiffs will not assert (or assist any other persons in asserting), before or after the Date of Final Judgment, any claims against any of the National Beef Released Parties other than the claims asserted in the operative complaint as of the date this Settlement Agreement is executed, which claims would be released as of the Effective Date. For the avoidance of doubt, should Class Plaintiffs seek to depose former National Beef employees on topics primarily related to their time of employment at National Beef, this litigation standstill shall not apply to preclude such depositions, and National Beef in its sole discretion shall be permitted to represent the interests of National Beef and the former employee in the deposition and any related discovery practice. None of the foregoing provisions shall be construed to prohibit Class Plaintiffs from seeking appropriate discovery from non-settling Defendants, Unrelated Co-Conspirators, former employees of National Beef consistent with Section II(A)(2)(e), or other third parties. This litigation standstill precludes National Beef or National Beef's Counsel from assisting any non-settling Defendant in the litigation or defense of this Action, including by

assisting in opposing Class Plaintiffs' motion for class certification, working with expert witnesses or on expert materials or providing relevant documents to non-settling Defendants without any formal discovery request from them. This litigation standstill does not, however, preclude National Beef or its counsel from (i) responding to discovery served by any non-Settling Defendant; (ii) negotiating in good faith to resolve any disputes regarding the scope of such discovery; (iii) taking steps they believe in good faith are necessary to reduce the scope or burden of discovery from non-Settling Defendants, including without limitation by providing information related to structured data productions; or (iv) representing (or paying for the representation of) current or former National Beef employees in connection with discovery, court hearings, or trial. National Beef will notify Interim Co-Lead Counsel within two (2) business days in the event any non-Settling Defendant requests a declaration, affidavit, or other written statement in lieu of a deposition.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Entire Agreement.

This Settlement Agreement shall constitute the entire, complete, and integrated agreement between the Settlement Class and National Beef pertaining to the settlement of the Action against National Beef and supersedes any and all prior and contemporaneous undertakings of the Settlement Class and National Beef in connection therewith. All terms of the Settlement Agreement are contractual and not mere recitals.

B. Inurement.

The terms of the Settlement Agreement are and shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of, to the fullest extent possible, each of the Releasing Parties and the National Beef Released Parties, and upon all other Persons claiming any interest in the subject matter hereto

through any of the Settling Parties, Releasing Parties, or National Beef Released Parties, including any Settlement Class Members.

C. Modification and Waiver.

Except for minor modifications of discovery obligations and deadlines as set forth in Section II(A)(2) above, this Settlement Agreement may be modified or amended only by a writing executed by the Class Plaintiffs (through Interim Co-Lead Counsel) and National Beef, subject (if after Preliminary or Final Approval) to approval by the Court. Amendments and modifications may be made without notice to the Settlement Class unless notice is required by law or by the Court. The waiver of any rights conferred hereunder shall be effective only if made by written instrument of the waiving Party.

D. Drafted Mutually.

For the purpose of construing or interpreting this Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Class and National Beef shall be deemed to have drafted it equally, and it shall not be construed strictly for or against any party.

E. Governing Law & Jurisdiction.

Any disputes relating to this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted according to the substantive laws of the state of Colorado without regard to its choice of law or conflicts of law provisions. Subject to Court approval, the United States District Court for the District of Colorado shall retain jurisdiction over the implementation, enforcement, and performance of this Settlement Agreement and shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any suit, action, proceeding, or dispute arising out of or relating to this Settlement Agreement or the applicability of this Settlement Agreement that cannot be resolved by negotiation and agreement by Class Plaintiffs and National Beef.

F. Counterparts.

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts by Interim Co-Lead Counsel and National Beef's Counsel, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which taken together shall constitute the same Settlement Agreement. A facsimile or .pdf signature shall be deemed an original signature for purposes of executing this Settlement Agreement.

G. Represented by Counsel.

Class Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class, and National Beef acknowledge that each have been represented by counsel, and have made their own investigations of the matters covered by this Settlement Agreement to the extent they have deemed it necessary to do so and are not relying on any representation or warranty by the other party other than as set forth herein. Therefore, the Settling Parties and their respective counsel agree that they will not seek to set aside any part of the Settlement Agreement on the grounds of mistake. The Settling Parties agree that this Settlement Agreement was negotiated in good faith by the Settling Parties, and reflects a settlement that was reached voluntarily after consultation with competent counsel, and no Settling Party has entered this Settlement Agreement as the result of any coercion or duress.

H. Authorization.

Each of the undersigned attorneys represents that he or she is fully authorized to enter into and execute this Settlement Agreement, subject to Court approval; the undersigned Interim Co-Lead Counsel represent that they are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of Class Plaintiffs; and the undersigned National Beef's Counsel represent that they are authorized to execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of National Beef.

I. Privilege and Confidentiality.

1. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, settlement, or the negotiations or proceedings relating to the foregoing is intended to or shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of

any applicable privilege or immunity, including, without limitation, the accountants' privilege, the attorney-client privilege, the joint defense privilege, or work product immunity.

2. The Settling Parties agree to continue to maintain the confidentiality of all settlement discussions and materials exchanged during the settlement negotiation. The Settling Parties may disclose the fact of the settlement and the cooperation provided for in Section II(A) of this Settlement Agreement to other parties in the Action. Furthermore, during the period following the notice of settlement in Section II(F)(1) and prior to the public filing of this Agreement, National Beef and Class Plaintiffs can, in addition, inform other parties to this Action as to the amount of the settlement, and the cooperation provided for in Section II(A) of this Settlement Agreement. Moreover, during the period prior to the public filing of this Agreement, National Beef may disclose the fact of settlement, the amount of settlement, and other terms of the Settlement Agreement to comply with any legal obligations.

J. No Unstated Third-Party Beneficiaries.

Other than as described in Section III(B), no provision of this Agreement shall provide any rights to, or be enforceable by, any Person that is not a Released Party, Class Plaintiff, Settlement Class Member, or Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

K. Breach.

This Agreement does not waive or otherwise limit the Settling Parties' rights and remedies for any breach of this Agreement. Any breach of this Agreement may result in irreparable damage to a Party for which such Party will not have an adequate remedy at law. Accordingly, in addition to any other remedies and damages available, the Settling Parties acknowledge and agree that the Settling Parties and any National Beef Released Parties may immediately seek enforcement of this Settlement Agreement by means of specific performance or injunction, without the requirement of posting a bond or other security. The waiver by any

Party of any particular breach of this Agreement shall not be deemed or construed as a waiver of any other breach, whether prior, subsequent or contemporaneous, of this Agreement.

L. Notice.

Other than Settlement Class Notice, any notice required pursuant to or in connection with this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and shall be given by: (1) hand delivery; (2) registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid; or (3) UPS or similar overnight courier, addressed, in the case of notice to any Plaintiff or Settlement Class Member, to Interim Co-Lead Counsel at their physical addresses set forth below, with a copy by email at the email addresses set forth below and, in the case of notice to National Beef, to its representatives at their physical addresses set forth below, with a copy by email at the email addresses set forth below, or such other physical or email addresses as National Beef or Interim Co-Lead Counsel may designate, from time to time, by giving notice to all Settling Parties in the manner described in this Section III(L).

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Settling Parties hereto, through their fully authorized representatives, have agreed to this Settlement Agreement as of the Execution Date.

Dated: _____, 2024

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Dated: July 2 _____, 2024



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Dated: 07/02, 2024

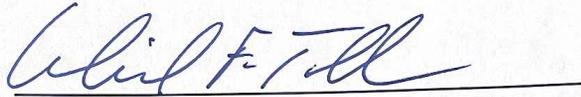


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*Interim Co-Lead Counsel for Plaintiffs and the
Proposed Class*

Dated: July 2, 2024



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