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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

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In re:

HOPEMAN BROTHERS, INC.,

Debtor.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-32428 (KLP)

RESPONSE OF THE FUTURE CLAIMANTS' REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MOTION OF THE CHUBB INSURERS TO ADJOURN PLAN CONFIRMATION HEARING AND RELATED DEADLINES

AND NOW, comes Marla Rosoff Eskin, Esq., in her capacity as the Future Claimants' Representative (the "<u>FCR</u>"), and her undersigned counsel, and files this Response to the *Motion to Adjourn Plan Confirmation Hearing and Related Deadlines* [Dkt. No. 882] (the "<u>Motion</u>") filed by Century Indemnity Company, as successor to CCI Insurance Company of North America ("<u>Century</u>") and Westchester Fire Insurance Company (on its own behalf and for policies issued by or novated to Westchester Fire Insurance Company) ("<u>Westchester Fire</u>" and collectively with Century, "Chubb") and avers as follows.



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1. The Motion seeks to compel an adjournment of both the confirmation hearing and the deadline for objecting to the Plan of Reorganization filed by the Debtor¹ for sixty (60) days, based upon alleged failures of the Debtor and Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors ("Committee") to adequately respond to Chubb discovery requests and Chubb's inability to retain an expert witness to support its anticipated confirmation objections.

2. Notably, as of this date, there are no pending motions to compel discovery filed by Chubb delineating the inadequacy of either the Debtor or Committee discovery responses or the impropriety of the privilege and/or other objections interposed by the Debtor and/or the Committee thereto.

3. As acknowledged in the Motion, the settlement which gave rise to the pending Plan of Reorganization was filed on March 7, 2025, and the Plan of Reorganization and accompanying Disclosure Statement were filed on April 29,2025.

4. Upon information and belief, Chubb has been vociferously asserting its anticipated confirmation objections ever since the settlement was announced, and there is no provision in the bankruptcy rules which prevented Chubb from either pursuing discovery it deemed appropriate, or retaining experts it deemed necessary to support its anticipated confirmation objections once such settlement was announced.

5. It is the FCR's understanding that the essence of the anticipated Chubb objections to plan confirmation will be grounded in issues of law, and the facts underlying the positions of the parties have been known by Chubb since the inception of the case.

¹ Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning ascribed to them in the Motion.

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6. The FCR deems the primary threat to the Plan of Reorganization's viability to be the cost of a protracted disproportionately expensive confirmation objection process against a Debtor's estate with limited liquid assets.

7. The FCR objects to Chubb's request to adjourn the hearing, as any delay of the Confirmation Hearing will give rise to excessive unnecessary administrative expenses which will severely burden the Debtor's estate and only inure to the prejudicial detriment of both present and future claimants of Debtor's bankruptcy estate.

WHEREFORE, the FCR requests this Court deny the Motion and/or grant the FCR such other relief as this Court deems necessary and appropriate.

Dated: June 23, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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