

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

	X	
	:	
In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
THE CONTAINER STORE GROUP, INC., <i>et al.</i> ,	:	Case No. 24-90627 (ARP)
	:	
Debtors. <sup>1</sup>	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	
	X	

**NOTICE OF (I) COMMENCEMENT  
OF CHAPTER 11 CASES, (II) COMBINED HEARING ON  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, PREPACKAGED JOINT CHAPTER 11  
PLAN, AND RELATED MATTERS, (III) OBJECTION DEADLINES,  
AND (IV) SUMMARY OF PREPACKAGED JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** as follows:

The Container Store Group, Inc. and its affiliated debtors, as debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “**Debtors**”), each commenced a case under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “**Bankruptcy Code**”) in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the “**Court**”) on December 22, 2024 (the “**Petition Date**”).

Before the Petition Date, on December 21, 2024, the Debtors commenced solicitation of the *Prepackaged Joint Plan of Reorganization of The Container Store Group, Inc. and its Debtor Affiliates under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* (as may be amended, modified, or supplemented from time to time, the “**Plan**”)<sup>2</sup> attached as Exhibit A to the proposed *Disclosure Statement for Prepackaged Joint Plan of Reorganization of The Container Store Group, Inc. and its Debtor Affiliates under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* (as may be amended, modified, or supplemented from time to time, the “**Disclosure Statement**”) pursuant to sections 1125 and 1126(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. Copies of the Plan and the Disclosure Statement may be obtained free of charge by visiting the solicitation website maintained by the Debtors’ solicitation agent, Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC d/b/a Verita Global (the “**Solicitation Agent**” or “**Verita**”), at [www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore](http://www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore). Copies of the Plan and Disclosure Statement may also be obtained by calling the Solicitation Agent at (888) 251-3046 (U.S. / Canada,

---

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these cases, together with the last four digits of each Debtor’s taxpayer identification number, are: The Container Store Group, Inc. (5401); The Container Store, Inc. (6981); C Studio Manufacturing Inc. (4763); C Studio Manufacturing LLC (5770); and TCS Gift Card Services, LLC (7975). The Debtors’ mailing address is 500 Freeport Parkway, Coppell, TX 75019.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Plan.

toll-free) or (310) 751-2615 (International, toll), or by messaging the Solicitation Agent at [www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore/inquiry](http://www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore/inquiry).

### **Information Regarding Plan**

The Debtors commenced solicitation of votes to accept the Plan from Holders of Class 3 (Term Loan Claims) of record as of December 18, 2024. Only Holders of Claims in Class 3 are entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan. All other Classes of Claims and Interests are either presumed to accept or deemed to reject the Plan and, therefore, Holders of such Claims and Interests are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan. **The deadline for the submission of votes to accept or reject the Plan is January 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time).**

The Debtors are proposing a restructuring that, pursuant to the Plan, will provide substantial benefits to the Debtors and all of their stakeholders. Upon its full implementation, the Plan will reduce the Debtors' total funded debt from approximately \$243.1 million to approximately \$190 million. **Importantly, the Plan will not impair the Debtors' non-financial creditors, including general unsecured creditors such as vendors and suppliers—in other words, under the Plan, vendors and suppliers will be paid or otherwise satisfied in full in the ordinary course and on customary terms.** The restructuring will allow the Debtors' management team to focus on operational performance and value creation, execute on growth initiatives, and continue to serve as a leading national retailer of organizational solutions.

The Plan provides for certain releases, injunctions, and exculpations as set forth in Appendix A.

The Court has scheduled a combined hearing to consider final approval of the Disclosure Statement and any objections thereto and to consider confirmation of the Plan and any objections thereto to be held before the Court, Courtroom 400, 4th floor, 515 Rusk Street, Houston, Texas 77002, **on January 24, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time)** (the “***Combined Hearing***”). The time and location of the Combined Hearing may also be obtained by contacting the undersigned proposed counsel to the Debtors. The Combined Hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice other than by filing a notice on the Court's docket indicating such adjournment and/or announcement of the adjournment date or dates at the Combined Hearing. The adjourned dates will be available on the electronic case filing docket and the Solicitation Agent's website at [www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore](http://www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore).

The Court has set the deadline for filing objections to the final approval of the Disclosure Statement and/or confirmation of the Plan as **January 21, at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time)** (the “***Objection Deadline***”). Any objections to the Disclosure Statement and/or the Plan must be: (a) in writing, (b) filed with the Clerk of the Court together with proof of service thereof, (c) set forth the name of the objecting party, and the nature and amount of any Claim or Interest asserted by the objecting party against the Debtors' estates or property of the Debtors, (d) state the legal and factual basis for such objection, and (e) conform to the applicable Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “***Bankruptcy Rules***”) and the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the “***Bankruptcy Local Rules***”).

In addition to being filed with the Clerk of the Court, any such objections should be served upon the following parties in accordance with the Bankruptcy Local Rules:

<p><b>Debtors</b>  The Container Store Group, Inc.  500 Freeport Parkway,  Coppell, TX 75019  Attn: Tasha Grinnell  Email: tlgrinnell@containerstore.com</p>	<p><b>Office of the U.S. Trustee</b>  Office of the United States Trustee for the Southern District of Texas  515 Rusk Street, Suite 3516  Houston, TX 77002  Attn: Ha Nguyen and Vianey Garza  Email: Ha.Nguyen@usdoj.gov  Vianey.Garza@usdoj.gov</p>
<p><b>Proposed Co-Counsel to the Debtors</b>  Latham &amp; Watkins LLP  355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 100  Los Angeles, CA 90071  Attn: Ted A. Dillman  Email: ted.dillman@lw.com</p> <p>Latham &amp; Watkins LLP  1271 Avenue of the Americas  New York, NY 10020  Attn: Hugh Murtagh  Email: hugh.murtagh@lw.com</p>	<p><b>Proposed Co-Counsel to the Debtors</b>  Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP  600 Travis Street, Suite 4200  Houston, TX 77002  Attn: Timothy A. Davidson, Ashley L. Harper, Philip M. Guffy  Email: taddavidson@HuntonAK.com  ashleyharper@HuntonAK.com  pguffy@HuntonAK.com</p>
<p><b>Counsel to the DIP Agent</b>  Riemer &amp; Braunstein LLP  Times Square Tower  Seven Times Square, Suite 2506  New York, NY 10036  Attn: Donald E. Rothman and Steven E. Fox  Email: drothman@riemerlaw.com  sfox@riemerlaw.com</p>	<p><b>Co-Counsel to the DIP Agent</b>  Frost Brown Todd LLP  Rosewood Court  2101 Cedar Springs Road, Suite 900  Dallas, TX 75201  Attn: Rebecca L. Matthews  Email: rmatthews@fbtlaw.com</p>
<p><b>Counsel to the Ad Hoc Group</b>  Paul Hastings LLP  200 Park Avenue  New York, NY 10166  Attn: Jayme Goldstein, Charles Persons, Isaac Sasson and William Reily  Email: williamreily@paulhastings.com  jaymegoldstein@paulhastings.com  charlespersons@paulhastings.com  isaacsasson@paulhastings.com</p>	<p><b>Counsel to the ABL Facility Agent</b>  Simpson Thacher &amp; Bartlett LLP  425 Lexington Avenue  New York, NY 10017  Attn: Ian Kitts  Email: ian.kitts@stblaw.com</p>
<p><b>Counsel to the DIP Term Loan Agent</b>  Paul Hastings LLP  200 Park Avenue  New York, NY 10166  Attn: Alex Cota and Liz Loonam  Email: alexcota@paulhastings.com  lizloonam@paulhastings.com</p>	

**UNLESS AN OBJECTION IS TIMELY FILED AND SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES IN THIS NOTICE, SUCH OBJECTION MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE COURT AT THE COMBINED HEARING.**

## **Notice of Assumption of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases of Debtors and Related Procedures**

Please take notice that, in accordance with Article V.A of the Plan and sections 365 and 1123 of the Bankruptcy Code, except as otherwise provided in the Plan, each Executory Contract and Unexpired Lease will be deemed assumed (the “*Assumed Contracts and Leases*”) unless it: (a) is identified on the Rejected Executory Contract/Unexpired Lease List (which, if any, will initially be filed with the Court as part of the Plan Supplement on or before January 14, 2025) as an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease to be rejected, (b) is the subject of a separate motion or notice to reject pending as of the Effective Date, or (c) previously expired or terminated pursuant to its own terms (disregarding any terms the effect of which is invalidated by the Bankruptcy Code). The Debtors are serving this Combined Notice on all parties to Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, reflecting the Debtors’ intention to assume the Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases in connection with the Plan and indicating that the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, as applicable, will cure any defaults under the Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases.

As provided in Article V.B of the Plan, any monetary default under the Assumed Contracts and Leases will be cured by payment in Cash on the Effective Date or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter. If there is a dispute with respect to assumption of an Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease under the Plan, then the Court will hear such dispute before assumption becoming effective, subject to the limitations set forth in the Plan.

**If a dispute arises regarding the amount of any payment needed to cure outstanding defaults under any Executory Contract or Unexpired Lease, the payment required by section 365(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code will be made following the entry of a Final Order(s) resolving the dispute and approving the assumption and will not prevent or delay implementation of the Plan or the occurrence of the Effective Date.**

### **Summary of the Plan**

Solicitation of votes on the Plan commenced before the Petition Date. The following chart summarizes the treatment provided by the Plan to each Class of Claims and Interests:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Claim / Interest</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Voting Rights</b>	<b>Approx. Percentage Recovery<sup>3</sup></b>
1	Other Secured Claims	Unimpaired	Presumed to Accept	Estimated Percentage Recovery: 100%
2	ABL Claims	Unimpaired	Presumed to Accept	Estimated Percentage Recovery: 100%

---

<sup>3</sup> For purposes of the projected recoveries under the Plan set forth herein, the Debtors’ investment banker conducted a valuation analysis, and the total enterprise value as of the assumed Effective Date of January 31, 2025 is estimated to be between approximately \$184 million and \$216 million, with a midpoint of \$200 million.

Class	Claim / Interest	Status	Voting Rights	Approx. Percentage Recovery <sup>3</sup>
3	<i>Term Loan Claims</i>	<i>Impaired</i>	<i>Entitled to Vote</i>	<i>Estimated Percentage Recovery: 4.5% to 17.6%.</i>
4	General Unsecured Claims	Unimpaired	Presumed to Accept	Estimated Percentage Recovery: 100%
5	Subordinated Claims	Impaired	Deemed to Reject	Estimated Percentage Recovery: 0%
6	Intercompany Claims	Unimpaired or Impaired	Presumed to Accept or Deemed to Reject	Estimated Percentage Recovery: N/A
7	Intercompany Interests	Unimpaired or Impaired	Presumed to Accept or Deemed to Reject	Estimated Percentage Recovery: N/A
8	Existing Equity Interests	Impaired	Deemed to Reject	Estimated Percentage Recovery: 0%

#### **Non-Voting Status of Holders of Certain Claims and Interests**

As set forth above, certain holders of Claims and Interests are **not** entitled to vote on the Plan. As a result, such parties did not receive any ballots and other related solicitation materials to vote on the Plan. Claims in Classes 1, 2, and 4 are Unimpaired under the Plan and, pursuant to section 1126(f) of the Bankruptcy Code, are conclusively presumed to accept the Plan. Claims and Interests in Classes 6 and 7 are either Unimpaired or Impaired under the Plan and are conclusively presumed to accept or deemed to reject the Plan, as applicable. Claims and Interests in Classes 5 and 8 (collectively with Classes 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7, the “***Non-Voting Classes***”) are Impaired under the Plan with no recovery and, pursuant to section 1126(g) of the Bankruptcy Code, are deemed to reject the Plan. In light of their presumed acceptance or rejection of the Plan, none of the Holders of Claims and Interests in the Non-Voting Classes were solicited to vote on the Plan. Instead, the Holders of Claims and Interests in the Non-Voting Classes (other than Holders of Intercompany Claims and Intercompany Interests) will receive a Non-Voting Status Notice. Because the Intercompany Claims and Intercompany Interests are all held by the Debtors or affiliates of the Debtors, the Debtors did not provide the Holders in Class 6 (Intercompany Claims) or Class 7 (Intercompany Interests) with a Non-Voting Status Notice (or a Solicitation Package). Further, Holders of Claims or Interests in the Non-Voting Classes can access the Disclosure Statement and the Plan at no cost on the website maintained by the Solicitation Agent: [www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore](http://www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore).

### **Section 341(a) Meeting**

The Debtors received approval from the Court to defer a meeting of creditors pursuant to section 341(a) of the Bankruptcy Code (the “***Section 341(a) Meeting***”) and **to not convene the Section 341(a) Meeting if the Plan is confirmed by February 23, 2025**. If the Section 341(a) Meeting will be convened, the Debtors will file and serve on the parties on whom they served this notice and any other parties entitled to notice pursuant to the Bankruptcy Rules, and post on the website at [www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore](http://www.veritaglobal.net/thecontainerstore) not less than twenty-one (21) days before the date scheduled for such meeting, a notice of, among other things, the date, time, and place of the Section 341(a) Meeting. The meeting may be adjourned or continued from time to time by notice at the meeting, without further notice to creditors.

*[Remainder of page left intentionally blank]*

Dated: December 23, 2024  
Houston, Texas

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Timothy A. ("Tad") Davidson II*

---

**HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH LLP**

Timothy A. ("Tad") Davidson II (Texas Bar No. 24012503)

Ashley L. Harper (Texas Bar No. 24065272)

Philip M. Guffy (Texas Bar No. 24113705)

600 Travis Street, Suite 4200

Houston, TX 77002

Telephone: (713) 220-4200

Email: taddavidson@HuntonAK.com

ashleyharper@HuntonAK.com

pguffy@HuntonAK.com

- and -

**LATHAM & WATKINS LLP**

George A. Davis (NY Bar No. 2401214)

Hugh Murtagh (NY Bar No. 5002498)

Tianjiao (TJ) Li (NY Bar No. 5689567)

Jonathan J. Weichselbaum (NY Bar No. 5676143)

1271 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10020

Telephone: (212) 906-1200

Email: george.davis@lw.com

hugh.murtagh@lw.com

tj.li@lw.com

jon.weichselbaum@lw.com

Ted A. Dillman (CA Bar No. 258499)

355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 100

Los Angeles, CA 90071

Telephone: (213) 485-1234

Email: ted.dillman@lw.com

*Proposed Co-Counsel for the Debtors  
and Debtors in Possession*

## Appendix A

### Release, Injunction, and Exculpation Provisions in the Plan<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Appendix A have the meanings given to them in the Plan.



## Article IX.

### DISCHARGE, RELEASE, INJUNCTION, AND RELATED PROVISIONS

#### *B. Releases by the Debtors*

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law and approved by the Bankruptcy Court, and except as otherwise expressly set forth in the Plan or the Combined Order, pursuant to section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, as of the Effective Date, in exchange for good and valuable consideration, the adequacy of which is hereby confirmed, each Released Party, in each case on behalf of itself and its respective successors, assigns, and Representatives, and any and all other Entities who may purport to assert any Claim or Cause of Action, directly or derivatively, by, through, for, or because of the foregoing Entities, is and is deemed to be, forever and unconditionally released, and absolved by each Debtor, Reorganized Debtor, and the Estates from any and all Claims and Causes of Action, whether known or unknown, including any derivative claims asserted or assertable on behalf of the Debtors, the Estates, or the Reorganized Debtors that such Entity would have been legally entitled to assert in its own right (whether individually or collectively) or on behalf of the Holder of any Claim against, or Interest in, a Debtor or other Entity, based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, (1) the management, ownership, or operation of the Debtors or the Non-Debtor Affiliates, (2) the purchase, sale, or rescission of any security of the Debtors or the Non-Debtor Affiliates, (3) the subject matter of, or the transactions, events, circumstances, acts or omissions giving rise to, any Claim or Interest that is treated in the Restructuring Transactions, including the negotiation, formulation, or preparation of the Restructuring Transactions, (4) the business or contractual arrangements between any Debtor or Non-Debtor Affiliate and any other Entity, (5) the Debtors' and Non-Debtor Affiliates' in- or out-of-court restructuring efforts, (6) intercompany transactions, (7) the formulation, preparation, dissemination, negotiation, filing, or consummation of the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, the Transaction Support Agreement, the Definitive Documents, the Prepetition ABL Facility Documents, the Prepetition Term Loan Documents, the DIP Facilities Documents, the Exit Facilities Documents (and any financing permitted thereunder), the Chapter 11 Cases, or any Restructuring Transaction, (8) any contract, instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, the Transaction Support Agreement, the Definitive Documents, the Prepetition ABL Facility Documents, the Prepetition Term Loan Documents, the DIP Facilities Documents, the Exit Facilities Documents (and any financing permitted thereunder), the Chapter 11 Cases, the pursuit of Confirmation of the Plan, the administration and implementation of the Plan, or the Restructuring Transactions, including the issuance or distribution of Securities pursuant to the Plan, (9) the distribution, including any disbursements made by a Distribution Agent, of property under the Plan or any other related agreement, or (10) any other act or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence related to any of the foregoing and taking place on or before the Effective Date; provided, that the Debtors do not release Claims or Causes of Action (1) that are of a commercial nature and arising in the ordinary course of business, such as accounts receivable and accounts payable on account of goods and services being performed or (2) arising out of, or related to, any act or omission of a Released Party that is determined by Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court or any other court of competent jurisdiction to have

constituted actual fraud, gross negligence, or willful misconduct (it being agreed that any Released Parties' consideration, approval, or receipt of any distribution did not arise from or relate to actual fraud (but not, for the avoidance of doubt, fraudulent transfers), gross negligence, or willful misconduct). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the Releases set forth above do not release (1) any obligations of any Person or Entity under the Plan, the Combined Order, any other Definitive Document, any Restructuring Transaction, any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement the Plan, or any agreement, Claim, or obligation arising or assumed under the Plan or (2) any Causes of Action specifically retained by the Debtors pursuant to the Schedule of Retained Causes of Action.

Entry of the Combined Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9019, of the Debtor Release, which includes by reference each of the related provisions and definitions contained in the Plan, and further, shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's finding that the Debtor Release is: (1) in exchange for the good and valuable consideration provided by each of the Released Parties, including the Released Parties' substantial contributions to facilitating the Restructuring Transactions and implementing the Plan; (2) a good-faith settlement and compromise of the Claims released by the Debtor Release; (3) in the best interests of the Debtors and all Holders of Claims and Interests; (4) fair, equitable, and reasonable; (5) given and made after due notice and opportunity for hearing; and (6) a bar to any of the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, or the Debtors' Estates asserting any Claim or Cause of Action released pursuant to the Debtor Release.

### *C. Releases by Holders of Claims and Interests*

To the extent permitted by applicable law and approved by the Bankruptcy Court, and except as otherwise expressly set forth in the Plan or the Combined Order, as of the Effective Date, in exchange for good and valuable consideration, the adequacy of which is hereby confirmed, each Releasing Party, in each case on behalf of itself and its respective successors, assigns, and Representatives, and any and all other Entities who may purport to assert any Claim or Cause of Action, directly or derivatively, by, through, for, or because of the foregoing Entities, has and is deemed to have, forever and unconditionally, released, and absolved each Released Party from any and all Claims and Causes of Action, whether known or unknown, including any derivative claims asserted or assertable on behalf of the Debtors, the Estates, or the Reorganized Debtors that such Entity would have been legally entitled to assert in its own right (whether individually or collectively) or on behalf of the Holder of any Claim against, or Interest in, a Debtor, based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, (1) the management, ownership, or operation of the Debtors or the Non-Debtor Affiliates, (2) the purchase, sale, or rescission of any Security of the Debtors or the Non-Debtor Affiliates, (3) the subject matter of, or the transactions, events, circumstances, acts or omissions giving rise to, any Claim or Interest that is treated in the Restructuring Transactions, including the negotiation, formulation, or preparation of the Restructuring Transactions, (4) the business or contractual arrangements between any Debtor or Non-Debtor Affiliate and any other Entity, (5) the Debtors' and Non-Debtor Affiliates' in- or out-of-court restructuring efforts, (6) intercompany transactions, (7) the formulation, preparation, dissemination, negotiation, filing, or consummation of the Plan,

the Disclosure Statement, the Transaction Support Agreement, the Definitive Documents, the Prepetition ABL Facility Documents, the Prepetition Term Loan Documents, the DIP Facilities Documents, the Exit Facilities Documents (and any financing permitted thereunder), the Chapter 11 Cases, or any Restructuring Transaction, (8) any contract, instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, the Transaction Support Agreement, the Definitive Documents, the Prepetition ABL Facility Documents, the Prepetition Term Loan Documents, the DIP Facilities Documents, the Exit Facilities Documents (and any financing permitted thereunder), the Chapter 11 Cases, the pursuit of Confirmation of the Plan, the administration and implementation of the Plan, or the Restructuring Transactions, including the issuance or distribution of Securities pursuant to the Plan, (9) the distribution, including any disbursements made by a Distribution Agent, of property under the Plan or any other related agreement, or (10) any other act, or omission, transaction, agreement, event, or other occurrence relating to any of the foregoing and taking place on or before the Effective Date; provided, that the Releasing Parties do not release Claims or Causes of Action (1) arising out of, or related to, any act or omission of a Released Party that is determined by Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court or any other court of competent jurisdiction to have constituted actual fraud (but not, for the avoidance of doubt, fraudulent transfers), gross negligence, or willful misconduct (it being agreed that any Released Parties' consideration, approval, or receipt of any distribution did not arise from or relate to actual fraud, gross negligence, or willful misconduct) or (2) against a Released Party arising from any obligations owed to the Releasing Party that are wholly unrelated to the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the Releases set forth above do not release (1) any obligations of any Person or Entity under the Plan, the Combined Order, any other Definitive Document, any Restructuring Transaction, any document, instrument, or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement the Plan, or any agreement, claim, or obligation arising or assumed under the Plan or (2) any Causes of Action specifically retained by the Debtors pursuant to the Schedule of Retained Causes of Action.

Entry of the Combined Order shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the Third-Party Release, which includes by reference each of the related provisions and definitions contained in the Plan, and, further, shall constitute the Bankruptcy Court's finding that the Third-Party Release is: (1) consensual; (2) given and made after due notice and opportunity for hearing; and (3) a bar to any of the Releasing Parties asserting any Claim or Cause of Action released pursuant to the Third-Party Release.

#### ***D. Exculpation***

Effective as of the Effective Date, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the Exculpated Parties shall neither have nor incur any liability to any Person or Entity for any Claims or Causes of Action for any act taken or omitted to be taken between the Petition Date and the Effective Date in connection with, or related to, formulating, negotiating, preparing, disseminating, implementing, administering, confirming or effecting the Confirmation or consummation (as applicable) of the Plan, the Transaction Support Agreement, and the Disclosure Statement including any disbursements made by a Distribution Agent in connection with the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, the Definitive

Documents, the Plan Supplement, the Prepetition ABL Facility Documents, the Prepetition Term Loan Documents, the DIP Facilities Documents, the Exit Facilities Documents (and any financing permitted thereunder), or any Restructuring Transaction, contract, instrument, release, or other agreement or document created or entered into in connection with the Plan or any other postpetition act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with or in contemplation of the restructuring of the Debtors, the approval of the Disclosure Statement or Confirmation or consummation of the Plan; provided, that the foregoing provisions of this exculpation shall not operate to waive or release: (1) any Claims or Causes of Action arising from willful misconduct, actual fraud (but not, for the avoidance of doubt, fraudulent transfers), or gross negligence of such applicable Exculpated Party as determined by Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court or any other court of competent jurisdiction; and/or (2) the rights of any Person or Entity to enforce the Plan and the contracts, instruments, releases, indentures, and other agreements and documents delivered under or in connection with the Plan or assumed pursuant to the Plan or Final Order of the Bankruptcy Court; provided, further, that each Exculpated Party shall be entitled to rely upon the advice of counsel concerning its respective duties pursuant to, or in connection with, the above referenced documents, actions, or inactions.

The Exculpated Parties have, and upon consummation of the Plan shall be deemed to have, participated in good faith and in compliance with the applicable laws with regard to the solicitation of votes and distribution of consideration pursuant to the Plan and, therefore, are not, and on account of such distributions shall not be, liable at any time for the violation of any applicable law, rule, or regulation governing the solicitation of acceptances or rejections of the Plan or such distributions made pursuant to the Plan.

The foregoing exculpation shall be effective as of the Effective Date without further notice to or order of the Bankruptcy Court, act, or action under applicable law, regulation, order, or rule or the vote, consent, authorization, or approval of any Person or Entity. For the avoidance of doubt and notwithstanding anything else herein, the foregoing exculpation shall be limited to Persons that served as Estate fiduciaries during the Chapter 11 Cases.

#### ***E. Permanent Injunction***

Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Transaction Support Agreement, the Plan or the Combined Order, from and after the Effective Date, all Persons and Entities are, to the fullest extent provided under Section 524 and other applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, permanently enjoined from (1) commencing or continuing, in any manner or in any place, any suit, action or other proceeding of any kind; (2) enforcing, attaching, collecting, or recovering in any manner or means any judgment, award, decree, or order; (3) creating, perfecting, or enforcing any Lien or encumbrance; (4) asserting a right of setoff or subrogation of any kind; or (5) commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind, in each case on account of or with respect to any Claim, demand, liability, obligation, debt, right, Cause of Action, Interest, or remedy released or to be released, exculpated or to be exculpated, settled or to be settled, or discharged or to be discharged pursuant to the Plan or the Combined Order against any Person or Entity so released, discharged, or exculpated (or the property or estate of any Person or Entity so released, discharged, or exculpated). All injunctions or stays provided for in the Chapter 11

Cases under Sections 105 or 362 of the Bankruptcy Code, or otherwise, and in existence on the Confirmation Date, shall remain in full force and effect until the Effective Date.

No Person or Entity may commence or pursue a Claim or Cause of Action, as applicable, of any kind against the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, the Exculpated Parties, or the Released Parties, as applicable, that relates to or is reasonably likely to relate to any act or omission in connection with, relating to, or arising out of a Claim or Cause of Action, as applicable, subject to Article IX thereof, without the Bankruptcy Court (i) first determining, after notice and a hearing, that such Claim or Cause of Action, as applicable, represents a colorable Claim of any kind, and (ii) specifically authorizing such Person or Entity to bring such Claim or Cause of Action, as applicable, against any such Debtor, Reorganized Debtor, Exculpated Party, or Released Party, as applicable. At the hearing for the Bankruptcy Court to determine whether such Claim or Cause of Action represents a colorable Claim of any kind, the Bankruptcy Court may, or shall if any Debtor, Reorganized Debtor, Exculpated Party, Released Party, or other party in interest requests by motion (oral motion being sufficient), direct that such Person or Entity seeking to commence or pursue such Claim or Cause of Action file a proposed complaint with the Bankruptcy Court embodying such Claim or Cause of Action, such complaint satisfying the applicable Rules of Federal Procedure, including, but not limited to, Rule 8 and Rule 9 (as applicable), which the Bankruptcy Court shall assess before making a determination. For the avoidance of doubt, any party that obtains such determination and authorization and subsequently wishes to amend the authorized complaint or petition to add any Claims or Causes of Action not explicitly included in the authorized complaint or petition must obtain authorization from the Bankruptcy Court before filing any such amendment in the court where such complaint or petition is pending. The Bankruptcy Court reserves jurisdiction to adjudicate any such claims to the maximum extent provided by the law.

*F. SEC Reservation of Rights*

Notwithstanding any language to the contrary in the Disclosure Statement, Plan and/or Combined Order, no provision shall (i) preclude the SEC from enforcing its police or regulatory powers or (ii) enjoin, limit, impair or delay the SEC from commencing or continuing any claims, Causes of Action, proceedings or investigations against any non-Debtor Person or non-Debtor Entity in any forum.