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

In re:	)	Chapter 11
ASCEND ELEMENTS, INC. *et al.*,[1]	)	Case No. 26-90440 (CML)
Debtors.	)	(Jointly Administered)

DECLARATION OF DARLENE CALDERON REGARDING THE SOLICITATION AND TABULATION OF VOTES ON THE COMBINED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND JOINT PLAN OF LIQUIDATION FOR ASCEND ELEMENTS, INC., *ET AL.*

I, Darlene Calderon, hereby declare as follows under penalty of perjury:

1. I am a Director of Corporate Restructuring Services employed by Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global ("Verita"), located at 222 North Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 300, El Segundo, California 90245. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to these chapter 11 cases.

2. I submit this declaration (this "Declaration") with respect to the solicitation of votes and the tabulation of Ballots cast on the *Combined Disclosure Statement and Joint Plan of Liquidation for Ascend Elements, Inc., et al.* [Docket No. 570] (as modified, amended, or supplemented from time to time, the "Combined Disclosure Statement and Plan").[2] Except as

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Ascend Elements, Inc. (2893) and Ascend Elements US, LLC (8309). The location of the Debtors' service address is: 133 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

[2] Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Combined Disclosure Statement and Plan or the *Order (I) Conditionally Approving the Adequacy of the Disclosure Statement; (II) Approving the Solicitation and Notice Procedures; (III) Approving the Form of Ballot and Notices; (IV) Approving Certain Dates and Deadlines in Connection with the Solicitation and Confirmation of the Plan; and (V) Scheduling a Combined Hearing on (A) Final Approval of the Disclosure Statement and (B) Confirmation of the Plan* [Docket No. 575] (the "Solicitation Procedures Order"), as applicable.

otherwise noted, all facts set forth herein are based on my personal knowledge that I acquired from individuals under my supervision, and/or my review of the relevant documents. I am authorized to submit this Declaration on behalf of Verita. If I were called to testify, I would testify competently as to the facts set forth herein.

A. Retention of Verita.

3. On April 10, 2026, the Bankruptcy Court entered the *Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global as Claims, Noticing, and Solicitation Agent* [Docket No. 28] authorizing the Debtors to retain Verita as the claims, noticing, and the solicitation agent. Verita was authorized to, among other things, serve solicitation materials and tabulate votes cast to accept or reject the Plan. Verita's employees have considerable experience in soliciting and tabulating votes to accept or reject proposed chapter 11 plans.

4. On July 15, 2026, the Bankruptcy Court entered the Solicitation Procedures Order, establishing, among other things, the Solicitation and Voting Procedures, and authorizing the Debtors, with the assistance of Verita, to distribute solicitation materials and tabulate the votes cast to accept or reject the Plan. As described in greater detail herein, Verita adhered to the Solicitation Procedures Order and distributed, or caused to be distributed, the Solicitation Packages, including the Ballots, to Holders of Claims entitled to vote on the Plan. I supervised the solicitation and tabulation performed by Verita's employees.

B. Service and Transmittal of Solicitation Packages and Related Notices.

5. The Solicitation Procedures Order established July 14, 2026 at 4:00 pm (prevailing Central Time) as the record date (the "Voting Record Date") for determining which creditors were entitled to vote on the Plan. Pursuant to the Plan, only Holders of Claims as of the Voting Record

Date in Class 3 (General Unsecured Claims) (the "Voting Class") were entitled to vote to accept or reject the Plan. No other Holders of Claims or Interests were entitled to vote on the Plan.

6. In accordance with the Solicitation Procedures Order and consistent with the above, on July 17, 2026, and from time to time thereafter, Verita caused the Solicitation Packages[3] to be distributed to all known Holders of Claims entitled to vote on the Plan as of the Voting Record Date. Verita worked closely with the Debtors and their advisors to identify all Holders of Claims entitled to vote in the Voting Class as of the Voting Record Date and to coordinate the distribution of the Solicitation Packages to such Holders. Pursuant to the Solicitation Procedures Order, Verita relied on the Debtors' Schedules of Assets and Liabilities and the Claims Register to identify and solicit Holders of Claims in the Voting Classes.

7. Further, in lieu of a Solicitation Package, on July 17, 2026, Verita distributed the applicable Notice of Non-Voting Status and Opt-In Form to all known Holders of Claims or Interests in Class 1 (Other Priority Claims), Class 2 (Other Secured Claims), Class 4 (Intercompany Claims), Class 5 (Intercompany Interests), and Class 6 (Interests in Ascend Elements) that were not entitled to vote on the Plan (collectively, the "Non-Voting Classes").

8. On July 17, 2026, Verita posted links to the electronic versions of the Combined Disclosure Statement and Plan, the Solicitation Procedures Order, and the Combined Hearing Notice the Debtors' case website at https://www.veritaglobal.net/ascend.

9. Furthermore, to accommodate the Debtors' claims bar date of July 20, 2026 at 5:00 pm (prevailing Central Time) (the "General Claims Bar Date"), the Solicitation Procedures Order

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[3] The following materials constituted the solicitation package (the "Solicitation Package"): (a) the Solicitation Procedures Order (without exhibits); (b) a copy of the Combined Disclosure Statement and Plan, provided in electronic format by including in the Combined Hearing instructions for accessing such documents on the Debtors' restructuring website; (c) a Ballot, including an option to opt in to the releases under the Plan, with detailed voting instructions, (d) a preaddressed, postage-prepaid return envelope; and (e) a copy of the Combined Hearing Notice.

established a supplemental voting record date applicable to any Holder of a Claim that was subject to the Debtors' General Claims Bar Date and who filed a Proof of Claim after the Voting Record Date but on or before the General Claims Bar Date as the date that such Proof of Claim was filed. Accordingly, from time to time after July 20, 2026, Verita also caused supplemental mailings of the Solicitation Packages to be served upon additional creditors in the Voting Class who filed a Proof of Claim after the Voting Record Date, but on or before the General Claims Bar Date.

10. Lastly, on July 17, 2026, Verita caused the Combined Hearing Notice to be served on the Debtors' full creditor matrix and all other parties required to receive such notice pursuant to the Solicitation Procedures Order.

11. A certificate of service evidencing the foregoing was filed at Docket No. 630.

12. From time to time following the initial Solicitation and Notice Deadline, Verita caused to be served the Solicitation Package and Combined Hearing Notice pursuant to updated noticing data provided by a postal forwarding address. A supplemental certificate of service evidencing the foregoing was filed at Docket No. 633.

C. The Tabulation Process.

13. In accordance with the Solicitation and Voting Procedures, Verita reviewed, determined the validity of, and tabulated the Ballots submitted to vote on the Plan. Each Ballot submitted to Verita was processed in accordance with Verita's standard tabulation procedures and in compliance with the Solicitation and Voting Procedures. To be included in the tabulation results as valid, a Ballot must have been (a) properly completed pursuant to the Solicitation and Voting Procedures, (b) executed by the relevant Holder entitled to vote on the Plan (or such Holder's authorized representative), (c) returned to Verita via first-class mail or another approved method of delivery set forth in the Solicitation and Voting Procedures, and (d) received by Verita by 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) on August 14, 2026 (the "Voting Deadline").

14. All validly executed Ballots cast by Holders of Claims entitled to vote in the Voting Class received by Verita on or before the Voting Deadline were tabulated in accordance with the Solicitation and Voting Procedures.

15. Set forth below is a summary of the voting results with respect to the Voting Classes tabulated on a consolidated basis:

Total Ballots Received			
Accept		**Reject**	
Number (% of Number)	**Amount (% of Amount)**	**Number (% of Number)**	**Amount (% of Amount)**
Class 3 – General Unsecured Claims			
31 (83.78%)	$99,539,524.90 (85.39%)	6 (16.22%)	$17,033,049.25 (14.61%)

16. The final tabulation of votes cast by timely and properly completed Ballots received by Verita is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and **Exhibit A-1**.

D. Opt-In Election.

17. In accordance with the Solicitation and Voting Procedures, Verita reviewed, determined the validity of, and documented the elections recorded on the Ballots from Holders of Claims in the Voting Class and the Opt-In Forms from Holders of Claims and Interests in the Non-Voting Classes to opt in to the Plan's Third-Party Release. Specifically, to be included in the tabulation results as valid, the applicable Opt-In Form must have been actually received by Verita by 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) on August 14, 2026 (the "Opt-In Deadline"). Ultimately, 22 parties elected to opt in to the Third-Party Release prior to the Opt-In Deadline. The affirmative opt-ins received by the Debtors are summarized as follows:

Class	Voting Rights	Total Opt-Ins Received
Class 1 – Other Priority Claims	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	7
Class 2 – Other Secured Claims	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Accept)	1
Class 3 – General Unsecured Claims	Entitled to Vote	12
Class 4 – Intercompany Claims	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Reject)	0
Class 5 – Intercompany Interests	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Reject)	0
Class 6 – Interests in Ascend Elements	Not Entitled to Vote (Presumed to Reject)	2

18. A report of all Entities who opted in to the Third-Party Release by checking the opt-in box on the Opt-In Form or checking the opt-in box on their Ballot is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

19. A report of all Ballots not included in the tabulation prepared by Verita and the reasons for exclusion of such Ballots is attached as **Exhibit C** hereto.

E. Conclusion.

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the foregoing information concerning the distribution, submission, and tabulation of Ballots and Opt-In Forms in connection with the Plan is true. The Ballots received by Verita are stored at Verita's office and are available for inspection by or submission to the Bankruptcy Court.

Dated: August 14, 2026

/s/ Darlene Calderon

Darlene Calderon
Director, Corporate Restructuring Services
Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba
Verita Global

Exhibit A

Exhibit A
Ballot Summary

Class	Class Description	Unacceptable Votes	Members Voted	Members Accepted	Members Rejected	Members Abstained	% Members Accepted	% Members Rejected	Total $ Voted	$ Accepted	$ Rejected	$ Abstained	% $ Accepted	% $ Rejected	Class Accepted or Rejected
3	General Unsecured Claims	0	37	31	6	2	83.78%	16.22%	$116,572,574.15	$99,539,524.90	$17,033,049.25	$460,511.86	85.39%	14.61%	**Accepted**

Exhibit A-1

Exhibit A-1
Class 3 Ballot Detail
General Unsecured Claims

Date Filed	Ballot No.	Creditor Name	Voting Amount	Vote	Opt-In to Third Party Release?
07/28/2026	14	78 Barnum Road, LLC	$15,700,000.00	Reject	Yes
08/13/2026	33	ADG Flanders Westborough LLC, a MA LLC	$460,111.06	Abstain	No
08/14/2026	42	AM Construction Inc. dba AMCON Industrial	$8,706,478.48	Accept	No
07/21/2026	1	APX NET INC	$1.00	Accept	No
08/11/2026	29	Ausenco Engineering Canada ULC	$251,746.10	Accept	No
07/21/2026	2	BOSTON FLUID SYSTEMS INC DBA SWAGELOK BOSTON EASTERN NEW ENGLAND	$242.66	Accept	No
08/12/2026	31	CALL2RECYCLE, INC.	$13,193.20	Accept	Yes
07/27/2026	10	Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc.	$401,271.05	Reject	No
08/14/2026	43	COLLIER ASSOCIATES, INC	$1.00	Accept	No
07/29/2026	16	CORNERSTONE CONTROLS INC	$37,984.37	Accept	No
08/12/2026	32	Endress+Hauser, Inc.	$646,198.09	Accept	Yes
08/03/2026	25	F.W. Webb Company	$400.80	Abstain	Yes
08/14/2026	49	Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division	$750,000.00	Reject	No
08/13/2026	34	GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS, INC.	$6,096.79	Accept	Yes
07/28/2026	12	Greaves Brewster LLP	$27,902.23	Accept	No
07/21/2026	6	Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority	$3,059.72	Accept	No
07/27/2026	11	INDUSTRIAL TRANSFER AND STORAGE INC	$3,132.50	Reject	Yes
07/23/2026	8	INORGANIC VENTURES	$2,592.46	Accept	Yes
08/14/2026	38	Interco Trading, Inc.	$1.00	Reject	No
07/21/2026	3	L.E. GREGG ASSOCIATES, INC.	$1,551.60	Accept	Yes
07/22/2026	5	MARSH INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSING, LLC	$25,063.51	Accept	No
08/12/2026	30	MEMMERT USA LLC	$212.95	Accept	No
08/14/2026	45	Morimatsu Jiangsu Heavy Industry Co., Ltd.	$22,495.00	Accept	No
07/28/2026	13	Name on File - ID 16565087	$2,323.55	Accept	Yes
07/31/2026	21	Name on File - ID 16565131	$239.43	Accept	No
08/03/2026	23	Name on File - ID 16565806	$2,500.00	Accept	No
07/30/2026	17	Name on File - ID 16566457	$4,495.00	Accept	No
08/03/2026	22	Name on File - ID 16566931	$2,262.31	Accept	No
08/05/2026	26	Name on File - ID 16566949	$2,000.00	Accept	No
07/30/2026	19	Name on File - ID 16567019	$1,392.19	Accept	No
08/13/2026	35	Name on File - ID 16572400	$83,989.90	Accept	No
08/14/2026	39	Onward Resources, LLC	$178,644.70	Reject	No
08/13/2026	36	RMF Nooter, LLC	$1.00	Accept	Yes
08/14/2026	47	SLY, LLC	$1.00	Accept	Yes

Exhibit A-1
Class 3 Ballot Detail
General Unsecured Claims

Date Filed	Ballot No.	Creditor Name	Voting Amount	Vote	Opt-In to Third Party Release?
08/14/2026	48	THE SASKATCHEWAN RESEARCH COUNCIL	$96,501.91	Accept	No
07/21/2026	4	TRI CITI JANITORIAL AND MAID SERVICE LLC	$2,968.00	Accept	No
08/14/2026	44	Turner-Kokosing Joint Venture	$88,418,735.00	Accept	No
07/29/2026	15	U.S. WASTE INDUSTRIES	$17,296.45	Accept	No
08/14/2026	40	URT Umwelt und Recyclingtechnik GMBH	$1,160,000.00	Accept	Yes

Exhibit B

Exhibit B

Opt In to Third Party Release

Date Filed	Ballot No. / Opt-Out In No.	Creditor Name	Class	Voting Amount	Vote	Opt-In to Third Party Release?
07/28/2026	14	78 Barnum Road, LLC	3 General Unsecured Claims	$15,700,000.00	Reject	Yes
08/12/2026	31	CALL2RECYCLE, INC.	3 General Unsecured Claims	$13,193.20	Accept	Yes
07/30/2026	18	Cesar A. Hernandez	1 Other Priority Claims	N/A	N/A	Yes
08/12/2026	32	Endress+Hauser, Inc.	3 General Unsecured Claims	$646,198.09	Accept	Yes
08/03/2026	25	F.W. Webb Company	3 General Unsecured Claims	$400.80	Abstain	Yes
08/13/2026	34	GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS, INC.	3 General Unsecured Claims	$6,096.79	Accept	Yes
07/27/2026	11	INDUSTRIAL TRANSFER AND STORAGE INC	3 General Unsecured Claims	$3,132.50	Reject	Yes
07/23/2026	8	INORGANIC VENTURES	3 General Unsecured Claims	$2,592.46	Accept	Yes
07/21/2026	3	L.E. GREGG ASSOCIATES, INC.	3 General Unsecured Claims	$1,551.60	Accept	Yes
07/28/2026	13	Name on File - ID 16565087	3 General Unsecured Claims	$2,323.55	Accept	Yes
08/14/2026	41	Name on File - ID 16565162	6 Interests in Ascend Elements	N/A	N/A	Yes
07/21/2026	7	Name on File - ID 16565272	6 Interests in Ascend Elements	N/A	N/A	Yes
07/24/2026	9	Name on File - ID 16565460	1 Other Priority Claims	N/A	N/A	Yes
08/07/2026	27	Name on File - ID 16565875	1 Other Priority Claims	N/A	N/A	Yes
08/14/2026	46	Name on File - ID 16566195	1 Other Priority Claims	N/A	N/A	Yes
08/04/2026	24	Name on File - ID 16566652	1 Other Priority Claims	N/A	N/A	Yes
08/08/2026	28	Name on File - ID 16566807	1 Other Priority Claims	N/A	N/A	Yes
07/31/2026	20	Name on File - ID 16567109	1 Other Priority Claims	N/A	N/A	Yes
08/13/2026	36	RMF Nooter, LLC	3 General Unsecured Claims	$1.00	Accept	Yes
08/13/2026	37	RMF Nooter, LLC	2 Other Secured Claims	N/A	N/A	Yes
08/14/2026	47	SLY, LLC	3 General Unsecured Claims	$1.00	Accept	Yes
08/14/2026	40	URT Umwelt und Recyclingtechnik GMBH	3 General Unsecured Claims	$1,160,000.00	Accept	Yes

Exhibit C

Exhibit C

Ballots Not Counted

Date Filed	Ballot No.	Creditor Name	Class	Voting Amount	Vote	Reason Not Counted
08/13/2026	33	ADG Flanders Westborough LLC, a MA LLC	3 General Unsecured Claims	$460,111.06	Abstain	Abstained from Voting
08/03/2026	25	F.W. Webb Company	3 General Unsecured Claims	$400.80	Abstain	Abstained from Voting