1			ÖÖTHE HONORABLE KAREN DONOHUE
2	GEGÍÁØÒÓÁF€Á€JKEEÁŒT SŒPÕÁÔUWÞVŸ		
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8	SUPERIOR COURT OF	WASHINGT	ON IN AND FOR KING COUNTY
9	In re FUNKO, INC. SECURITIES)	Case No. 17-2-29838-7 SEA
10	LITIGATION)	Case No. 17-2-29838-7 SEA (Consol. with Nos. 18-2-01264-3 SEA, 18-2- 01582-1 SEA, 18-2-02535-4 SEA, 18-2-
11	This Document Relates To:		08153-0 SEA, 18-2-12229-5 SEA, 18-2-14811-1 SEA and 18-2-12229-5 SEA)
12	ALL ACTIONS.)	CLASS ACTION
13	ALL ACTIONS.		MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT
14		,	OF CLASS REPRESENTATIVES' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR
15			PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT
16			ACTION SETTEEMENT
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T. INTRODUCTION

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Class Representatives Robert Lowinger, The Ronald and Maxine Linde Foundation, and Carl Berkelhammer (collectively, "Class Representatives") respectfully submit this memorandum of law in support of their unopposed motion for preliminary approval of the settlement of this class action ("Action") on the terms outlined in the Stipulation of Settlement, dated February 7, 2025 ("Stipulation"). The proposed settlement ("Settlement") provides for the payment of \$14.75 million in cash for the benefit of the Class² and is the result of hard-fought litigation and arm's-length negotiations between the Parties with the assistance of an experienced mediator, Michelle Yoshida of Phillips ADR ("Mediator"). The Settlement resolves all claims against all Defendants in this Action.

The Settlement is an excellent result for the Class, especially considering the risk of a much smaller – or zero – recovery if the Action were to proceed through summary judgment, trial, and likely appeals. During the course of the Action, Class Representatives' Counsel conducted a comprehensive investigation, undertook significant motion practice (including successfully obtaining reversal of an order granting Defendants' motion to dismiss), obtained certification of the Class, reviewed and analyzed more than 1.2 million pages of documents produced by Defendants and third parties, evaluated the value of the claims asserted with the assistance of a financial expert, Bjorn I. Steinholt, CFA, and meaningfully assessed the likelihood of success in further proceedings and at trial. The Parties also participated in extensive settlement negotiations overseen by an experienced mediator, where the strengths and weaknesses of the Parties' respective positions were fully

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The Stipulation is attached to the Declaration of James I. Jaconette filed in support of this motion ("Jaconette Decl.") as Exhibit 1. All capitalized terms not otherwise defined shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Stipulation. Citations are omitted and emphasis is added throughout unless otherwise indicated.

[&]quot;Class" means all Persons who purchased or otherwise acquired common stock pursuant to or traceable to the Registration Statement and Prospectus issued in connection with Funko, Inc.'s ("Funko") November 1, 2017 Initial Public Offering, excluding Defendants, the officers, directors, and affiliates of Defendants, members of their Immediate Families, their legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns, and any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest, as well as those Persons who timely and validly request exclusion from the Class.

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10 II.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

adequacy of the proposed Settlement.

explored and debated. Class Representatives and Class Representatives' Counsel, therefore, had

sufficient information to make an informed decision regarding the fairness, reasonableness, and

Preliminarily Approving Settlement and Providing for Notice ("Preliminary Approval Order"),

submitted herewith. Class Representatives also request that the Court schedule a Settlement Hearing

to consider final approval of the proposed Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, Class Representatives'

Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and expenses, and Class Representatives' request for payment

L.L.C. ("ACON Equity GenPar") (collectively, "ACON Defendants") and Fundamental Capital,

LLC ("Fundamental") and Fundamental Capital Partners, LLC ("Fundamental Capital Partners")

(collectively, "Fundamental Defendants"), certain of ACON's and Fundamental's Officers and

Directors, and underwriters Goldman Sachs & Co. L.L.C., J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Merrill

Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Piper Jaffray & Co., Jefferies LLC, Stifel, Nicolaus &

Company, Incorporated, BMO Capital Markets Corp., and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.

(n/k/a Truist Securities, Inc.) (collectively, "Underwriter Defendants," and together with Funko

of their time and expenses they incurred in prosecuting this Action on behalf of the Class.

Accordingly, Class Representatives respectfully ask the Court to enter the proposed Order

This Action A.

12 This certified class action alleges strict liability and negligence claims under Sections 11,

13 12(a)(2), and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") against defendants Funko, certain of 14 Funko's current and former Officers and Directors (collectively, "Funko Defendants"), private 15 equity firms ACON Investments, L.L.C. ("ACON"), ACON Funko Manager, L.L.C. ("ACON Funko Manager"), ACON Funko Investors, L.L.C. ("ACON Funko Investors"), ACON Funko

16 17 Investors Holdings I, L.L.C. ("ACON Funko Investors Holdings I"), and ACON Equity GenPar,

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Defendants, ACON Defendants, and Fundamental Defendants, "Defendants"). The Action arises from alleged misstatements and omissions of material fact in the Registration Statement and MEM. LAW CLASS REPS.' UNOPPOSED MOT. PRELIM. APPROVAL CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT - 2 of 13 4924-9912-4503.v1

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Prospectus ("Offering Documents") issued in connection with Funko's November 1, 2017 Initial Public Offering ("IPO").

To effectuate Funko's IPO, Defendants issued Offering Documents that Class Representatives allege contain materially false and misleading statements and omissions concerning, *inter alia*, Funko's financial performance and operations. Among other allegations, Class Representatives asserted that the Offering Documents misrepresented and omitted material facts related to, accumulated excess and obsolete inventory and Funko's inventory tracking systems, Funko's channels and practices related to pulling forward revenues, graphics concerning Funko's performance, and an abandoned e-commerce platform. The Class Representatives also contended that as alleged omitted material facts began to be revealed to the market, Funko's stock price precipitously fell, damaging Class Representatives and other Class members. Defendants have denied, and continue to deny, Class Representatives' allegations and claims.

B. Procedural History

Starting in November 2017, multiple plaintiffs filed the first of several related actions in this Court and other courts. *See, e.g.*, Compl. for Violations of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933, *Lowinger v. Funko, Inc.*, No. 17-2-29838-7 SEA (King Cnty. Super. Ct. Nov. 16, 2017); Compl. for Violations of Sections 11, 12 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933, *Baskin v. Funko, Inc.*, No. 18-2-02535-4 SEA (King Cnty. Super. Ct. Jan. 30, 2018); Compl. for Violations of the Securities Act of 1933, *Berkelhammer v. Funko, Inc.*, No. 18-2-02458-31 (Snohomish Cnty. Super. Ct. Mar. 13, 2018). Generally, the actions alleged that Defendants had violated Sections 11, 12(a)(2), and 15 of the Securities Act by selling, or offering to sell, Funko common stock pursuant to the allegedly negligently prepared Offering Documents. In July 2018, those actions were consolidated before this Court. *See* Order Granting Stipulation Consolidating Cases, Appointing Lead & Liaison Counsel, and Providing Schedule for Resp. to Consolidated Compl., No. 17-2-29838-7 SEA (July 2, 2018).

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On August 1, 2018, plaintiffs The Ronald and Maxine Linde Foundation, Robert Lowinger, Michael Surratt, Ernest Baskin, Carl Berkelhammer, and Michael Lovewell (together, "Plaintiffs") filed the Consolidated Complaint for Violations of the Securities Act of 1933 ("Consolidated Complaint").³ Thereafter, on October 1, 2018, Defendants moved to dismiss the Action, Plaintiffs opposed on October 31, 2018, and on August 2, 2019, the Court dismissed the Consolidated Complaint without prejudice.

On October 3, 2019, plaintiffs filed the First Amended Consolidated Complaint for Violations of the Securities Act of 1933 ("FAC"). Defendants again moved to dismiss the Action on December 6, 2019, plaintiffs again opposed on February 14, 2020, and on August 5, 2020, the Court dismissed the FAC with prejudice. Plaintiffs then filed a timely appeal to the Court of Appeals for the State of Washington (the "Court of Appeals") on September 4, 2020. Following full briefing and an oral argument, on November 1, 2021, the Court of Appeals issued an unpublished opinion affirming the district court's opinion in part, reversing it in substantial part, and remanding for further proceedings. Unpublished Op., *In re Funko, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 81811-2-I (Wash. Ct. App. Nov. 1, 2021). Following remand, the Parties conducted extensive fact discovery, including multiple document requests, subpoenas to third parties, and interrogatories, and litigated a number of discovery motions once negotiations to resolve certain discovery disputes reached impasse. In sum, all Parties, as well as third parties, produced over 245,000 documents (totaling over 1.2 million pages) in the Action. The parties litigated discovery disputes regarding the adequacy of discovery responses throughout the pendency of the Action, including during the periods of deposition discovery.

On April 15, 2019, plaintiff Berkelhammer was granted voluntary dismissal without prejudice from this action following Berkelhammer's appointment as the lead plaintiff in a substantially similar action in federal court. *See also* Order Granting Carl Berkelhammer's Renewed Mot. Appointment as Lead Pl. & Approval of Selection of Lead Counsel & Liaison Counsel, *Kanugonda v. Funko Inc.*, No. 2:18-cv-00812-DGE (W.D. Wash. Jan. 4, 2019), ECF No. 40. To increase the scope of class representatives by including the federal lead plaintiff, Berkelhammer rejoined this Action as a Court-appointed Class Representative following the federal court's entry of the Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Voluntary Dismissal. *Berkelhammer v. Funko, Inc.*, No. 2:18-cv-00812-DGE (W.D. Wash. Oct. 13, 2023) ECF No. 110.

On July 7, 2023, proposed Class Representatives The Ronald and Maxine Linde Foundation, Robert Lowinger, and Carl Berkelhammer moved for class certification. Thereafter, Defendants conducted discovery of the proposed Class Representatives, including the depositions of each of the three proposed Class Representatives and plaintiffs' expert, Bjorn Steinholt. Defendants then opposed the motion for class certification on September 27, 2023. The Court granted plaintiffs' motion for class certification in its entirety on November 6, 2023.

C. Settlement Negotiations

On May 16, 2023, the Parties participated in an all-day virtual mediation session conducted by Michelle Yoshida, an experienced mediator at the nationally-recognized complex litigation mediation firm, Phillips ADR. In advance of the mediation, the Parties exchanged mediation statements and extensive documentary exhibits. They also prepared answers to a series of confidential questions, posed by the Mediator in advance of the mediation, which were designed to meaningfully examine the strengths and weaknesses of the claims and defenses. Despite good faith efforts to reach a resolution, the mediation, while productive, was unsuccessful. Thereafter, the Parties continued to litigate the Action, proceeding, *inter alia*, through class certification, class representative depositions, and extensive document discovery, while simultaneously continuing their negotiations through the Mediator.

On October 18, 2024, the Mediator issued a "mediator's proposal" of \$14.75 million to settle the Action, which the Parties thereafter accepted.

III. THE SETTLEMENT WARRANTS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

Washington State has a well-established public policy favoring compromises of litigation, particularly in class actions. *Pickett v. Holland Am. Line-Westours, Inc.*, 145 Wn. 2d 178, 35 P.3d 351 (Wash. 2001); *Indoor Billboard/Wash., Inc. v. Integra Telecom of Wash., Inc.*, 162 Wn. 2d 59, 170 P.3d 10 (Wash. 2007).

Washington State Superior Court Civil Rule 23 requires judicial approval of all class actions. CR 23(e). There are three steps class representatives must take in order to obtain such approval.

First, class representatives must move for preliminary approval of the settlement, requesting permission to provide notice of the settlement to the class and setting certain relevant dates, including for a settlement fairness hearing and deadlines for class members to object or withdraw. *See Pickett*, 145 Wn. 2d at 186; *Deien v. Seattle City Light*, 26 Wn. App. 2d 57, 61, 527 P.3d 102, 105 (Wash. Ct. App. 2023). Second, class representatives must disseminate notice to class members informing them of the proposed settlement and their right to object. *Pickett*, 145 Wn. 2d at 186; *Summers v. Sea Mar Cmty. Health Ctrs.*, 29 Wn. App. 2d 476, 491-99, 541 P.3d 381, 390-94 (Wash. Ct. App. 2024), *review denied sub nom. Barnes v. Sea Mar Cmty. Health Cntrs.*, 3 Wn. 3d 1002, 549 P.3d 1002 (Wash. 2024). Third, the court holds a settlement fairness hearing at which it considers the fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness of the settlement. *Pickett*, 145 Wn. 2d at 186; *Deien*, 26 Wn. App. 2d at 62.

Class Representatives have reached the first step in the process and now request that the Court preliminarily approve the Settlement. Thus, in determining whether to grant preliminary approval, the Court need only consider whether "the proposed settlement appears to be the product of serious, informed, non-collusive negotiations, has no obvious deficiencies, does not improperly grant preferential treatment to class representatives or segments of the class, and falls within the range of possible [judicial] approval." 4 William B. Rubenstein, *Newberg and Rubenstein on Class Actions* § 13:13 (6th ed. 2024) (quoting *Manual for Complex Litigation (Second)* § 30.44 (1985)). The Settlement easily satisfies these criteria.

A. The Settlement Is the Product of Informed, Arm's-Length Negotiations

Courts accord a presumption of fairness to a proposed settlement when settlement negotiations are overseen by a neutral mediator. *Mannacio v. Sovereign Lending Grp. Inc.*, No. 3:22-cv-05498-TMC, 2023 WL 6389792, at *4 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 2, 2023). As discussed above, the Settlement was reached only after extensive arm's-length negotiations under the guidance of Michelle Yoshida of Phillips ADR, an experienced mediator at a well-known mediation firm run by Layn R. Phillips, a retired federal judge who founded and operates his eponymous nationally-

MEM. LAW CLASS REPS.' UNOPPOSED MOT. PRELIM. APPROVAL CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT – 6 of 13 4924-9912-4503.v1

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recognized firm. During and after the mediation, Class Representatives and Defendants debated and fully explored the strengths and weaknesses of their respective claims and defenses. With an informed understanding of the disputed issues in the Action and the risks associated with continued litigation, they negotiated the Settlement. The Settlement is thus presumptively fair. *See Deien*, 26 Wn. App. 2d 57 at 62 ("The Settlement is the result of arms' length negotiations conducted in good faith by experienced attorneys familiar with the legal and factual issues of this case."); *Probst v. State of Wash. Dep't of Ret. Sys.*, 150 Wn. App. 1062, 2009 WL 1863993, at *1 (Wash. Ct. App. 2009) (approving settlement following "discussions with the guidance of an experienced mediator").

The Settlement also does not have any obvious deficiencies and does not unfairly favor any Class members, given that the aggregate cash consideration offered in the Settlement fairly values the claims and the Plan of Allocation treats all Class members equitably, granting everyone who submits a timely and valid Claim Form (Class Representative or not) a *pro rata* distribution of the Net Settlement Fund.

B. The Settlement Amount Is Within the Range of Reasonableness

The Settlement, which provides a large cash benefit to the Class, is certainly within the range of reasonableness. Based on accepted damages models the recovery in this Action expressed as a percentage of damages ranges from 49% to 32%, with a 39% recovery based on the average of the damages range. Indeed, that percentage recovery is significantly – even multiples – higher than the median Securities Act class action settlement as a percentage of statutory damages reported nationally. In Class Representatives' view, the Settlement acknowledges the merit of the claims asserted and reasonably weighs their likelihood of success in further proceedings and at trial, as well as the alleged damages flowing from the alleged securities law violations.

While Class Representatives firmly believe in the strength of their claims, success was far from certain. Defendants vigorously disputed the falsity and materiality of the challenged statements, argued that the Offering Documents properly contained "risk factors" concerning alleged misrepresented and omitted material facts, and asserted that alleged revelations of material omitted

facts did not cause the Class's losses. Those issues would have been heavily disputed throughout the remainder of the Action and should Defendants have prevailed on any of those issues at summary judgment or trial, the Class could have recovered less damages than asserted or no damages at all.

In addition, affirmative defenses anticipated to be raised at summary judgment and trial would have required expert testimony on industry-specific issues, negative causation, and damages. Even with the most competent experts in these fields, there could be no guarantee that Class Representatives would prevail on liability and damages. Defendants' experts, who would no doubt be well-credentialed, would likely present opinions designed to establish affirmative defenses such as negative causation, undermine Class Representatives' ability to demonstrate liability, and mitigate or even portend to eliminate damages.

An evaluation of the benefits of the Settlement must also be tempered by the recognition that any compromise involves concessions on the part of the settling parties. Thus, the possibility that the Class *might* achieve a better recovery after trial (and inevitable appeal) does not preclude a finding that the Settlement is within the "range of reasonableness" appropriate for approval. *Zuern v. IDS Prop. Cas. Ins. Co.*, No. C19-6235-MLP, 2021 WL 735751, at *4 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 25, 2021). Here, the cash recovery of \$14.75 million is a favorable result for the Class considering the risk of receiving a much smaller recovery, or no recovery at all, if the Action were to continue.

Class Representatives' Counsel have carefully considered and evaluated the likelihood of prevailing and the risk, expense, and duration of continued litigation, and have concluded that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interest of the Class. *Pickett*, 145 Wn. 2d at 192 (relevant factors include "likelihood of success by plaintiffs; the amount of discovery or evidence; the settlement terms and conditions; recommendation and experience of counsel; future expense and likely duration of litigation; recommendation of neutral parties . . . each of which, in our opinion, weighs heavily in favor of approval of the settlement as 'fair, adequate, and reasonable'") (citation omitted). Counsel's support of the Settlement further evidences its reasonableness. *Id.* at

200; see also Deien, 26 Wn. App. 2d 57 at 68 ("[G]iven class counsel's skill and experience, counsel's support of the settlement was entitled to great weight.").

IV. THE NOTICE PROGRAM SATISFIES WASHINGTON STATE LAW AND DUE PROCESS

Before a court may grant final approval of a class action settlement, CR 23(e) requires that "notice of the proposed dismissal or compromise shall be given to all members of the class in such manner as the court directs." CR 23(e). "The requirements of CR 23(e) are for the most part procedural, requiring notice of a proposed settlement be given to class members and that they be given an opportunity to object to the settlement." *Pickett*, 145 Wn. 2d at 188; *see also Summers*, 29 Wn. App. 2d at 491 ("This is notice reasonably calculated, under all the circumstances, to apprise interested parties of the pendency of the action and afford them an opportunity to present their objections.") (citation omitted).

Here, the Notice of Pendency of Class Action, Proposed Settlement, and Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Expenses (the "Notice") will be mailed or emailed to all Persons who fall within the definition of the Class and whose names and addresses or email addresses can be identified from the shareholder list provided by Funko. In addition, the Claims Administrator will send out letters to entities that commonly hold securities in "street name" as nominees for the benefit of customers who beneficially hold shares. The Parties further propose to supplement the mailed Notice with a "Summary Notice" to be published in *The Wall Street Journal* and over a national newswire service. The Notice and Summary Notice are attached to the Stipulation as Exhibits A-1 and A-3. *See* Jaconette Decl., Ex. 1 (Exs. A-1, A-3). The Claims Administrator will also create a Settlement website and post relevant information and documents and staff a toll-free telephone number that Class members may call to get answers to their questions.

Further, to satisfy due process, notice must be "reasonably calculated, under all the circumstances, to apprise interested parties of the pendency of the action and afford them an opportunity to present their objections." *Summers*, 29 Wn. App. 2d at 491 (quoting *Roes, 1-2 v*.

SFBSC Mgmt., LLC, 944 F.3d 1035, 1045 (9th Cir. 2019)). Here, the Notice describes the nature of the Action; sets forth the definition of the Class and the Class' claims; and discloses the process for Class members to exclude themselves (if applicable) or object. The Notice also describes the Settlement and the reasons the Parties are proposing the Settlement; explains the proposed Plan of Allocation; discloses the date, time, and place of the Settlement Hearing; and states that Class Representatives' Counsel and Class Representatives will seek awards, and notes the maximum amounts for the requested awards. Thus, the form and substance of the Notice satisfies Washington State law and due process and are the type routinely approved in securities settlements. See, e.g., Stipulation of Settlement, In re Zillow Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig., No. 2:17-cv-01387-JCC (W.D. Wash. Mar. 31, 2023), ECFs 173; Order Granting Mot. Prelim. Approval Class Action Settlement, In re Zillow Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig., No. 2:17-cv-01387-JCC, ECF No. 175 (Proposed Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action and subsequent Order Granting Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement); Order Preliminarily Approving Settlement & Providing for Notice, *In re* Micro Focus Int'l plc Sec. Litig., Case No. 18CIV01549 (San Mateo Cty. Super. Ct. Feb. 7, 2023) (including court-approved Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action and Summary Notice). Finally, Class Representatives propose that the Court appoint A.B. Data, Ltd. ("A.B. Data")

Finally, Class Representatives propose that the Court appoint A.B. Data, Ltd. ("A.B. Data") as the Claims Administrator for the Settlement. A.B. Data has satisfactorily served as a settlement claims administrator in hundreds of cases and has the experience and expertise to efficiently and accurately act as the Claims Administrator here. *See* Jaconette Decl., Ex. 2 (A.B. Data Resume).

V. SCHEDULING THE SETTLEMENT HEARING

Should preliminary approval of the Settlement be granted, Class Representatives request the Court establish the following schedule of events leading to the Settlement Hearing:

EVENT	TIMING
Deadline for mailing Notice and Proof of Claim to Class members	Not later than 20 calendar days after execution of the Preliminary Approval Order (the

Pickett, 145 Wn. 2d at 187-88 ("CR 23 is identical to its federal counterpart, Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, and thus, federal cases interpreting the analogous federal provision are highly persuasive.").

MEM. LAW CLASS REPS.' UNOPPOSED MOT. PRELIM. APPROVAL CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT – 10 of 13 4924-9912-4503.v1

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	"Notice Date")	
Deadline for publishing Summary Notice	Not later than 7 calendar days after the Notice Date	
Deadline for filing papers in support of the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, and request for an award of attorneys' fees, expenses, and payment to the Class Representatives	Not later than 35 calendar days before the Settlement Hearing	
Deadline for requesting exclusion from the Class and deadline for filing objections to the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, and request for an award of attorneys' fees, expenses, and payment to the Class Representatives	Not later than 21 calendar days before the Settlement Hearing	
Deadline for submitting completed Proofs of Claim to the Claims Administrator	Not later than 120 calendar days after the Notice Date	
Deadline for filing reply papers in support of the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, request for an award of attorneys' fees, expenses, and payment to the Class Representatives	Not later than 7 calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing	
Settlement Hearing	At the Court's convenience, but no sooner than 100 days following the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order	

VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the Class Representatives believe that the Settlement is a highly favorable resolution and is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Class. Accordingly, Class Representatives respectfully request that the Court preliminarily approve the Settlement and enter the Preliminary Approval Order.

1	DATED: February 7, 2025	Respectfully submitted,
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9	I declare under per	nalty of perjury under the laws of the S	tate of Washington that the	
10	foregoing is true and corre	ect.		
11	DATED this 7thh day of February 2025, at Seattle, Washington.			
12	KELLER ROHRBACK L.L.P.			
13		KELLEK KOTIKDA	CK L.L.I	
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