

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC (“CCPG”) and MerchSource, LLC (“MERCH”) enter into this Settlement Agreement and Release (this “**Agreement**”). This Agreement is effective on the date on which it is fully executed (“**Effective Date**”). CCPG and MERCH are referred to individually as a “**Party**” and collectively as the “**Parties**.” The Parties agree as follows:

1. The “**Matter**” arises out of the Sixty-Day Notice of Intent to Sue for violations of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified under California Health & Safety Code (“**HSC**”) §25249.5, *et seq.* (referred to as “**Proposition 65**”), that CCPG served on MERCH, Laura Ashley, Inc. and Tuesday Morning, Inc. on March 27, 2020 (filed as AG No. 2020-00813), with respect to a product sold by MERCH (the “**Notice**”). The Notice claims that Proposition 65 warnings are required for alleged Diisononyl Phthalate (“**DINP**”) and Di-(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (“**DEHP**”) exposures to a product tested by CCPG. The following product manufactured, distributed and/or sold by MERCH is referred to as the “**Covered Product**” under this Agreement:

- **Laura Ashley __ Power Cord Tassel**

2. The Parties enter into this Agreement in order to fully resolve all claims, demands, and allegations regarding the Matter and for the purpose of avoiding prolonged litigation. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an admission of the Parties of any fact, issue of law, or violation of law, nor shall compliance with this Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by the Parties of any fact, issue of law, or violation of law including but not limited to Proposition 65. Nothing in this Agreement or any document referred to herein shall be construed as giving rise to any presumption or inference of admission or concession by the Parties as to any fault, wrongdoing or liability. This Section 2 shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities, and duties of the Parties under this Agreement.

3. DINP and DEHP Standards; Warnings.


3.1 On and after the date that is ninety (90) days after the Effective Date, MERCH shall not sell in the State of California any Covered Product which does not qualify as a Reformulated Covered Product under Section 3.3 below, unless such Covered Product complies with the warning requirements of Section 3.2 below.

3.2 On and after ninety (90) days after the Effective Date, MERCH shall provide on any Covered Product sold in California, a warning that complies with the requirements of Sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2, or 3.2.3. The warning shall be displayed on the packaging of such Covered Product with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs so as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual purchasing or using the Covered Product.

Respecting the warnings defined in Sections 3.2.1 or 3.2.2, the warning must be in a type size no smaller than the largest type size used for other consumer information on the products. In no case shall the warning appear in a type size smaller than 6-point type.

3.2.1 Option 1.

For the Covered Product, the warning may state:

 **WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals, including Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) and/or Di (2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (DEHP), which are known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.**

3.2.2 Option 2.

For the Covered Product, the warning may state:

 **WARNING: Cancer and Reproductive Harm – www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.**

The pictogram specified in Section 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 shall be in yellow with a black exclamation mark; *provided however*, the pictogram may be in white instead of yellow if the Covered Product label does not contain the color yellow.

3.2.3 Option 3.

The Covered Product may also be affixed with any warning authorized by and compliant with, any Proposition 65 law or regulation in effect on or after the Effective Date, for the type of product covered by this Agreement.

3.3 MERCH represents that it has discontinued, or will discontinue, manufacture and/or distribution of the Covered Product after the Effective Date of this Agreement. Further, nothing in Section 3 shall prohibit MERCH from destroying any existing inventory rather than continuing future sales with warnings as required therein.

3.4 MERCH and the “Releasees” (as defined in Section 5.1 below) shall have no obligation or liability with respect to the Covered Product that is sold or distributed in California after the date of the Notice, except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement.

4. MERCH shall pay the total settlement amount of \$18,500 (the “**Settlement Amount**”) within ten (10) days of the Effective Date. MERCH shall pay the Settlement Amount payment by wire transfer (via account wire instructions provided by CCPG upon request), or check made payable to “*Khansari Law Corporation – Client Trust Account*” and sent to the mailing address below on behalf of CCPG:

Khansari Law Corporation
11845 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 1000
Los Angeles, CA 90064

CCPG shall be solely responsible for allocating the payment pursuant to Sections 4.1 and 4.2. CCPG shall supply MERCH with a completed W9 form. The Settlement Amount shall be allocated as follows:

4.1. \$500 shall be considered a “civil penalty”, of which CCPG shall remit seventy-five percent (75%) to the “Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund” managed by the State

of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The twenty-five percent (25%) balance shall be remitted to CCPG.

4.2 \$18,000 shall be considered reimbursement of CCPG's attorneys' fees and costs related to the Matter.

4.3 Except as expressly set forth in Section 4, the Parties shall bear their own costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees related to this Matter.

5. Binding Effect; Claims Covered and Released.

5.1. CCPG, on behalf of itself and its respective owners, principals, shareholders, officers, directors, employees, agents, parents, subsidiaries, successors, assigns, and legal representatives (collectively referred to as "**CCPG Releasors**") fully releases and waives any right to participate (directly or indirectly) in any litigation against (a) MERCH, and its respective equity owners, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, sister and related companies, (b) its upstream suppliers and all downstream entities in the stream of commerce including but not limited to distributors, wholesalers, customers, licensors (including but not limited to Laura Ashley, Inc.) and retailers (including but not limited to Tuesday Morning, Inc.), franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees (the entities identified in this subsection (b) are collectively referred to as "**Downstream Releasees**"), and (c) the employees, shareholders, officers, directors, members, managers, equity owners, insurers, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns of any of the entities identified in subsections (a) and (b), above (the entities identified in subsections (a), (b) and (c), above, are collectively referred to as "**Releasees**") from all claims, actions, suits, demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees (including but not limited to attorneys' fees, investigator fees, and expert fees), costs, and expenses (collectively referred to as "**Claims**") that were asserted, or that could have been asserted, for any alleged violations of Proposition 65, or any other alleged violation of statutory or common law, arising from alleged exposures to DINP and/or DEHP in the Covered Product.

5.2. It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts alleged in the Notice and relating to the Covered Product will develop or be discovered. CCPG on behalf of itself and the CCPG Releasors, acknowledges that this Agreement is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims, including all rights of action therefore, and further acknowledges that the Claims released in this Section 5 may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waives California Civil Code section 1542 as to any such unknown claims. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

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.

CCPG acknowledges and understands the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code Section 1542.

5.3. The Parties agree that compliance with the terms of this Agreement shall constitute compliance by any Releasee with Proposition 65 regarding alleged exposures to DINP and/or DEHP in the Covered Product.

5.4 It is the Parties' position that the commitments agreed to herein, and actions to be taken by MERCH under this Agreement, confer a significant benefit to the general public, as set forth in California Civil Procedure Code section 1021.5 and Cal. Admin. Code tit. 11, section 3201. As such, to the extent any other private party initiates an action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to MERCH or any Releasee's failure to provide a warning concerning exposures to DINP and DEHP with respect to the Covered Product they have respectively manufactured distributed, sold, or offered for sale in California, or will manufacture, distribute, sell, or offer for sale in California; such private party action would not confer a significant benefit on the general public as to the Covered Product addressed in this Agreement, provided that MERCH is in compliance with this Agreement. This Section does not constitute a release by CCPG under this Agreement.

6. Resolution of Disputes.

6.1 If CCPG alleges that MERCH has failed to comply with this Agreement, prior to filing an action or motion relating to enforcement, CCPG shall first provide MERCH thirty (30) days' advance written notice of the alleged violation(s). CCPG shall provide testing results, lot numbers, photographs of the Covered Product packaging, and purchase receipts for the Covered Product at issue in the alleged violation, as applicable. The Parties shall meet and confer in good faith during such thirty (30) day period in an effort to reach agreement on an appropriate cure for the alleged violation without the need for litigation.

6.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3, CCPG may not issue any notice under Section 6.1 if the packaging of the Covered Product is marked or labeled with the statement "Not for Sale in California" or substantially similar language, such statement is prominently placed upon such Covered Product's label or other labeling as compared with other words or statements on the label or labeling as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use. If MERCH marks or labels a Covered Product with such a statement, MERCH shall additionally notify its customers/distributors/retailers by letter that the Covered Product shall not be sold in California.

6.3 In the event any litigation, arbitration, mediation, or other proceeding is initiated by CCPG to enforce this Agreement, if CCPG prevails in such proceeding, it shall be entitled to recover from MERCH all costs, expenses, reasonable attorneys' fees, and expert witness fees, relating to or arising out of (i) such proceeding, and (ii) any post-judgment or post-award proceeding including without limitation to enforce any judgment or award resulting from any such proceeding.

7. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with regard to settlement of this Matter, and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements or understandings, written or oral, with regard to the matters set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement may be amended or modified in whole or in part at any time only by an agreement in writing executed by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, MERCH shall be entitled, at its option, to modify any warning that it provides under Section 3.2 to conform with any change in the Proposition 65 warning regulations currently set forth in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations that may be adopted after the Effective Date. CCPG shall cause this Agreement to be reported to the State of California Attorney

General as required and applicable under Proposition 65 statutes, including specifically HSC § 25249.7.

8. This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective owners, principals, shareholders, members, managers, officers, directors, employees, agents, successors, and assigns.

9. No inference, assumption or presumption shall be drawn, and no provision of this Agreement shall be construed against any of the Parties, based upon the fact that one of the Parties and/or one of the Parties' attorneys prepared and/or drafted all or any portion of this Agreement. It is conclusively presumed that the Parties participated equally in the preparation and drafting of this Agreement.

10. This Agreement shall be deemed to have been entered into in the State of California and governed and interpreted by the laws of the State of California, regardless of the place of incorporation, place of business, domicile of any of the Parties or physical locations of the individuals executing this Agreement at the time of execution.

11. The Parties acknowledge that they have a right to consult an attorney and they have consulted their attorneys with respect to the terms and conditions of this Agreement or by signing this Agreement hereby acknowledge they have made the decision not to consult with an attorney in this Matter. The Parties further acknowledge that they fully understand this Agreement and the effect of signing and executing this Agreement.

12. Any legal action to enforce this Agreement or related to this Matter shall be brought in the County of Los Angeles, of the State of California.

13. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, and each counterpart, as well as any facsimile, e-mail (.pdf), copy of this Agreement, or any other counterpart, shall be deemed to be an original.

14. All notices required to be given to either Party under this Agreement shall be in writing and sent to the following recipients by (a) first-class mail or (b) overnight delivery, with a courtesy copy via email or fax.

For CCPG:

CA Citizen Protection Group, LLC
c/o Khansari Law Corporation
11845 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 1000
Los Angeles, California 90064
Fax: (424) 248-6689
Email: andre@khansarilaw.com

For MERCH:

General Counsel
MerchSource
7755 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100

Irvine, CA 92618
legal@merchsource.com

With a copy to:

Elizabeth V. McNulty, Esq.
Partner
Evans, Fears & Schuttert, LLP
4440 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 250
Newport Beach, CA 92660

15. Each of the individuals who executes this Agreement represents and warrants he/she has the authority to execute this document and bind the respective Parties to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and has read, understood, and agreed to all the terms and conditions in this Agreement.

DATED: December 21, 2020

CA CITIZEN PROTECTION GROUP, LLC

By: Tal Ohana

Name: Tal Ohana

Title: Manager

DATED: December 21, 2020

MERCHSOURCE, LLC

By: 

Name: Adam Gromfin

Title: CLO