

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

The Chemical Toxin Working Group Inc. dba Healthy Living Foundation Inc. ("HLF") and Solomon Amon, Inc. dba Pure Food Fish Market products ("Company") enter into this Settlement Agreement ("Agreement"). HLF and Company are referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as "Parties." The Parties agree as follows.

### Introduction.

The "Matter" arises out of the Notice(s) of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq. ("Proposition 65") that HLF served to Solomon Amon, Inc. dba Pure Food Fish Market (collectively, the "Noticed Companies," "Company") on September 6, 2022, California Attorney General's number 2022-02070 (referred to as "Notice" or "NOV"). In the Notice(s), HLF alleges that the following products require Warning for cadmium and lead under Proposition 65: Pacific Blue Local Mussels, Hood Canal Oysters in the Shell, Virginia Oysters in the Shell ("Covered Products").

The Parties enter into this Agreement in order to fully resolve all claims, demands, and allegations regarding the Notice(s) 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 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.

### 1. Definitions

- 1.3. "Effective Date" is the date on which this Agreement is fully executed by the Parties.
- 1.4. "Compliance Date" is the date that is 30 days after the Effective Date.
- 1.5. "Expose," "Exposure" are used in this Agreement as defined in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25102(i) and means to cause to ingest, inhale, contact via body surfaces or otherwise come into contact with a chemical listed in Proposition 65. An individual may come into contact with a listed chemical through water, air, food, consumer products.
- 1.6. "Daily Exposure Level" means micrograms of lead or cadmium per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings of the product per day, using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on the label or in marketing materials of the Company. If the label or marketing materials contain no recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.
- 1.7. "Violative Daily Exposure Level" is an exposure to more than 0.5 micrograms of lead and/or lead compounds per day and/or more than 4.1 mcg of cadmium per day.
- 1.8. "Consumer Information" is used in this Agreement as defined in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25600.1(c) and includes warnings, directions for use, ingredient lists, and nutritional information. Consumer Information does not include the brand name, product name, company name, location of manufacture, or product advertising.
- 1.9. "Warning" is a warning compliant with Section 2.3 of the Agreement.

1.10. "Warning Symbol" is a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a black outline, except that if the sign or label for the Products does not use the color yellow, the symbol may be in black and white.

1.11. "Reformulated Product" is an identical Product in substance and labeling to Covered Product(s), but with a product's component(s) harvested in different location(s) or grown/manufactured with different (from Covered Product(s)) methods that have resulted in reduced or eliminated presence of the violative chemical- cadmium and lead below the level specified in Section 2.2.1 of this Agreement.

1.12. "Distributor" is any entity or individual that sells Covered Products.

1.13. "Reasonably Foreseeable" means that a reasonable inquiry would have revealed to the Company that a Distributor could sell Covered Products to California. Some, but not all examples of such circumstances include: where the Distributor sells products online/over the internet, telephone, telephone applications (apps), or mail-order; maintains or intends to maintain storage, warehouse(s), brick-and-mortar retail establishment(s) located in California.

1.14. "Distribute into the State of California" means to directly or indirectly sell Covered Product in California; ship Covered Product for sale in California, including to sell Covered Product to a Distributor that Company knows, or for which it is Reasonably Foreseeable that such distributor will sell Covered Product in California.

## **2. Company's Duties**

2.1. Beginning as of the Effective Date, the Company shall not Distribute into the State of California Covered Product(s) that expose(s) a person to the Violative Daily Exposure Level, unless Covered Products(s) meet(s) the Warning requirements of this Agreement. Covered Product(s) that Company Distributes into the State of California after the Compliance Date, shall either (1) qualify as a Reformulated Product or (2) comply with the Warning requirements of this Agreement.

### **2.2. Testing.**

2.2.1. The testing requirements of Section 2.2 do not apply to Covered Products for which the Company has provided the Warning.

2.2.2. Testing shall be performed prior to Company's first distribution into California or sale in California of Reformulated Product;

2.2.3. Testing shall continue at least once per year for as long as the Company sells Covered Product(s). Company can discontinue testing of a Reformulated Product if it complies with the Warning requirements of this Agreement or if the Reformulated Product is not distributed or sold in California.

2.2.4. For purposes of determining if the Warning is required, the Company shall randomly select and test three (3) samples of the Covered Products from different lot numbers by Company (or, if fewer than 3 lots are available for testing, from as many lots as are available). The company must consider the highest level in determining if the product can be sold without a warning. HLF reserves the right to test Covered Products and, if the results are violative of Section 2.2., assert any new claims that may arise. Testing shall continue at least once per year thereafter for as long as the Company sells Covered Product(s), subject to the provision in Paragraph 2.2.3.

2.2.5. Testing pursuant to this Agreement shall be performed using a laboratory method that complies with the performance and quality control factors appropriate for the method used, including limit of detection, limit of quantification, accuracy, and precision and meets the following criteria: Gas Chromatography Mass Spectroscopy, achieving a limit of

detection of less than or equal to 40 parts per billion, or any other testing method subsequently agreed upon in writing by the Parties.

2.2.6. Testing pursuant to this Agreement shall be performed by an independent third-party laboratory accredited to perform testing for cadmium, lead, and lead compounds using the methodology in Section 2.2.5.

2.3. Warning.

2.3.1. A clear and reasonable exposure Warning must be provided for Covered Product(s) with Violative Daily Exposure Level that Company Distributes into the State of California after the Compliance Date. The Warning shall consist of either the Standard Warning (under 2.3.1. (a)) or the Short-Form Warning (under 2.3.1. (b)).

(a) Standard Warning. The Standard Warning shall be consistent with one of the following statements:

**WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including cadmium, which are known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/foods](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/foods).

**WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including cadmium (oysters, mussels and clams), mercury (tuna or swordfish) and BPA (jar lids on our sauces and oyster jars) 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/foods](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/foods).

(b) Short-Form Warning. The Short-Form Warning shall be consistent with the following statement:

 **WARNING:** Reproductive Harm - [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

The font size of the Short-Form warning must be a minimum of 6 points, and it cannot be smaller than the largest size font used for Consumer Information.

2.3.2. Print Warning. Standard Warning or Short-Form Warning provided pursuant to Section 2.3 in print form must:

- (a) contain the word "WARNING:" in all capital letters, in bold font, followed by a colon;
- (b) for the Short-Form warning, display the Warning Symbol to the left of the word "WARNING:";
- (c) display the Warning Symbol, if used, in a size no smaller than the height of the word "WARNING:";
- (d) be affixed to or printed on the shipping box or any other immediate packaging of a product, or on a placard, shelf tag, sign or displayed on an electronic device;
- (e) be displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use;

- (f) be set off from other surrounding information;
- (g) be enclosed in a box with a black, bold border.

2.3.3. Online/Internet Warning. If Company or a Distributor sell(s) Covered Product via internet websites to customers located in California, the warning requirements of this section shall be satisfied by (1) having a warning printed on or affixed to the shipping box or any other immediate packaging of a product that is visible to the consumer prior to opening the shipping box or any other immediate packing of a product, and (2) the Warning also must be displayed online prior to the purchase, either on one or on all of the below:

- (a) on the same web page on which a Covered Product is displayed and/or described;
- (b) on the same page as the price for the Covered Product is displayed; or
- (c) on one or more web pages displayed to a purchaser prior to completion of purchase during the checkout process.

2.3.4. Online Warning must comply with all requirements of Section 2.3.2 of this Agreement, except 2.3.2.(d).

2.3.5. Online Warning must be visible for an ordinary consumer without scrolling a page past Covered Product's image or price. Warning must be displayed next to the Covered Product's image or price, in a manner that clearly associates it with Covered Product(s) to which the Warning applies.

2.3.5. Online Short-Form Warning, in addition to other requirements, must display a Warning Symbol with the clickable word "WARNING" in bold, black font, in the font size no less than the largest font in the Consumer Information; must link to the text of the Standard Warning; and must link to the website <http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov>.

2.4. For any Covered Product sold by Company to a Distributor, Company shall provide the written Notice to Distributors and Retailers attached hereto as Exhibit A. Confirmation of receipt of the Notice to Distributors and Retailers must be received electronically or in writing from a Distributor.

### **3. Settlement Payments.**

3.1 In satisfaction of all claims for civil penalties and attorneys' fees and costs related to the Notices, Company shall pay a total settlement amount of \$95,000 (the "Settlement Amount") within 10 days of the Effective Date by wire transfer to HLF's counsel escrow account, for which HLF's counsel will give Company the necessary account information no later than two days after the Effective Date.

HLF shall be solely responsible for allocating the Settlement Amount pursuant to Section 3.

Upon request, HLF or its legal counsel shall supply the Company with a completed W-9 form.

The Settlement Amount shall be allocated as follows:

3.2. \$19,000 shall be considered a "civil penalty," of which HLF 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.

3.3. \$76,000 shall be considered reimbursement of HLF's attorneys' fees and costs related to the Matter.

3.4. Except as expressly set forth in this Section 3 and 12 below, the Parties shall bear their own costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees related to this Matter.

#### **4. Binding Effect; Claims Covered and Released.**

4.1. This Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution between HLF and the Company of any violation of Proposition 65 related to NOV that were or could have been asserted by HLF. HLF, on behalf of itself, and its respective principals, officers, directors, employees, parents, subsidiaries, executors, administrators, attorneys, successors, and assigns (collectively, the "Releasers"), releases and discharges the Company and its successors in interest, and each of their respective direct and indirect corporate parents, subsidiaries, as well as the past, present and future owners, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, insurers, representatives, franchisees, members, licensees, successors and assigns of all such persons or entities, and also each entity who directly or indirectly buys, distributes, markets or sells the Covered Product(s), including but not limited to, upstream manufacturers, downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, and marketplaces (collectively, "Released Parties"), from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees, costs and expenses, related to NOV, that Releasers have, had or may have against the Released Parties from one year prior to NOV to the date of this Agreement, whether known or unknown, for failure to provide warnings for alleged exposures to cadmium, lead, and lead compounds from use of the Covered Products, all claims for violations of Proposition 65 through the Effective Date based on exposure to cadmium, lead, and lead compounds from manufacture, sale, marketing, distribution, use or consumption of the Covered Products, or all claims otherwise arising out of or relating to the Notices().

4.2. HLF, on its own behalf only, and Company, on its own behalf only, further waive and release any and all claims they may have against each other for all actions or statements made or undertaken in the course of seeking or opposing enforcement of Proposition 65 in connection with the Notice(s).

4.3. It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties, arising out of the facts alleged in the Notices, and relating to the Covered Products, will develop or be discovered. HLF on behalf of itself only, and Company on behalf of itself only, acknowledge that this Agreement is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through and including the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore. HLF and Company acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 above may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section 1542 and any federal or state law of similar effect 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 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.

HLF on behalf of itself only, and Company on behalf of itself only, acknowledge and understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code section 1542.

4.5. If HLF alleges that Company has failed to comply with this Agreement, prior to filing an action or a notice of violation as to any Released Party, HLF shall first provide Company thirty (30) days' advance written notice of the alleged violation(s). HLF shall provide testing results, lot numbers, photographs of the Covered Product packaging for the Covered Product at issue.

The Parties shall meet and confer during such thirty (30) day period in an effort to resolve the matter informally without the need for litigation. If the matter is not resolved within 30 days, HLF can file litigation and recover all applicable costs and attorney fees.

4.6. This release shall not apply to any Distributor or Retail Seller who fails to provide an internet warning as required pursuant to Section 2.3.

#### **7. Modification**

7.1. 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.

7.2. Except as provided in this Section 7, this Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement of the Parties.

7.3. If, in the future, there is a Proposition 65 regulation that specifies a naturally occurring allowance for cadmium, lead, and lead compounds in the Covered Products, or there is any other change in the law that Company believes warrants a modification to this Agreement, Company may notify HLF of its intent to modify the Agreement and the Parties shall meet and confer to discuss any appropriate modification.

7.4. If a dispute should arise concerning a modification of this Agreement, then the Parties shall meet and confer in good faith to attempt to resolve the dispute, but if it cannot be resolved in that manner, either Party may present the dispute to the court for resolution.

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, 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 physical locations of the individuals executing this Agreement.

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 may be brought in any California State court. In any legal action brought to enforce this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

13. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, and each counterpart, as well as any e-mail copy or electronically stored on a cloud software copy of this Agreement, or any other counterpart, shall be deemed to be 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 (1) (a) first-class mail or (b) overnight delivery, and (2) by email.

For HLF:

Poulsen Law P.C.  
282 11th Avenue, Suite 2612  
New York, New York, 10001  
Tel: +1 (646) 776 5999  
Tel: + 1(650) 296 1014 Direct  
ap@poulsenlaw.org

For Company:

George Salmas  
The Food Lawyers®  
1880 Century Park East  
Suite 611  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
George.Salmas@TheFoodLawyers.com  
Julia.Thrower@TheFoodLawyers.com

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: August 11, 2023

THE CHEMICAL TOXIN WORKING GROUP  
DBA HEALTH LIVING FOUNDATION INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*David Steinman*

DATED: *August 11, 2023*

SOLOMON AMON  
DBA PURE FOOD FISH

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Carlee Hollenbeck*

Carlee Hollenbeck  
Owner