

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Audrey Kallander (“Kallander”) and Big Lots Stores, LLC (“Big Lots”), with Kallander and Big Lots each individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.” Kallander is an individual residing in the State of California who seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances used in consumer products. Kallander alleges that Big Lots is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

1.2 General Allegations

Kallander alleges that Big Lots manufactures, sells, and/or distributes for sale in California ceramic pots with exterior decorations containing lead. Lead is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. Kallander alleges that Big Lots failed to provide the health hazard warning required by Proposition 65 for exposures to lead.

1.3 Product Description

The products covered by this Settlement Agreement are specifically defined as, and limited to the “*Big Lots Striped Ceramic Pot;*” UPC: 4 81058 71610 3, that are manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale in California by Big Lots (hereinafter referred to as “Products”).

1.4 Notice of Violation

On June 15, 2023, Kallander served Big Lots and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation, alleging that the notice recipients violated

Proposition 65 by failing to warn customers and consumers in California of the health hazards associated with exposures to lead from the Products.

No public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5 No Admission

Big Lots denies the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notice and maintains that all of the products that it has sold and distributed in California, including the Products, have been, and are, in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Big Lots of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by Big Lots of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Big Lots. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect Big Lots' obligations, responsibilities, and duties under this Settlement Agreement.

1.6 Effective Date

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term "Effective Date" shall mean the date this Agreement is last executed by the Parties.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

2.1 Reformulation/Warning Commitment

As of the Effective Date, Big Lots shall not manufacture, import, distribute, sell, or offer the Products for sale in the State of California unless: (i) the Products are Reformulated Products pursuant to Section 2.2; or (ii) Big Lots provides a clear and reasonable warning pursuant to Section 2.3. The Parties agree and intend that Big Lots' compliance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement shall constitute compliance by Big Lots with Proposition 65 with respect to exposures to Lead from the Products.

2.2 Reformulated Products.

“Reformulated Products” are defined as those Products that: (a) contain no more than 90 parts per million (“ppm”) lead in any decoration, colored artwork, designs and/or marking on the surface of the Products when analyzed pursuant to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3050B or equivalent methodologies utilized by federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining lead content in a solid substance; and (b) yield no more than 1.0 microgram of lead on any surface sampled and analyzed pursuant to the NIOSH 9100 testing protocol or equivalent methodologies used by state and federal agencies to determine lead content on a solid substance.

If the decoration is tested after it is affixed to the Product, the percentage of the lead by weight must relate only to the decorating materials and must not include any quantity attributable to non-decorating material (e.g., ceramic substrate).


2.3 Warnings.

To the extent that Products manufactured, imported, or otherwise acquired by Big Lots after the Effective Date do not meet the standard for Reformulated Products, a clear and reasonable warning shall be provided, as set forth herein.

2.3.1 Warning Content. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the parties agree that a clear and reasonable warning shall consist of either of the following warning statements:

 **WARNING:** Reproductive Harm- www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

OR

 **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including lead, which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

The above warning statements must print the word “**WARNING:**” in all capital letters and in bold font, followed by a colon. The warning symbol to the left of the word “**WARNING:**” must be 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. The symbol must be in a size no smaller than the height of the word “**WARNING:**”

2.3.2 Method of Transmission

Product Labeling. Big Lots shall affix one of the foregoing warning statements to the packaging, labeling or directly to a specific Product. The warning statement shall be affixed to the Product, Products’ packaging or labeling and placed 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. Where the short-form warning statement is provided on the label, the entire warning must be in a type size no smaller than the largest type size used for other consumer information on the product label. In no case shall the short-form warning statement appear in a type size smaller than six-point type.

Internet. In addition to the product labeling, where Big Lots offers Products to California customers via their own proprietary internet website or any third-party website over which they have control, they shall provide a clear and reasonable internet, web page warning to customers located in California. The warning statement shall appear either: (i) on the same web page on which a Product is displayed and/or described; (ii) on the same page as the price for the Product; or (iii) on one or more web pages displayed to a California purchaser prior to completion of the checkout process, including the “product details” section of the Product page. Alternatively, the warning statement shall be provided using a clearly marked hyperlink using the word “**WARNING**” on the product display page, or by otherwise prominently displaying the warning to the purchaser prior to completing the purchase. If the product label warning is provided using the short-form warning statement, the warning provided on the website may use the same content. Alternatively, a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow or white equilateral triangle may appear adjacent to or immediately

following the display, description, price, or checkout listing of the Product, if the warning statement appears elsewhere on the same web page in a manner that clearly associates it with the product(s) to which the warning applies.

Point of Sale. The warning requirements of Section 2.3 shall also be satisfied if Big Lots provides warnings to Customers at the point-of-sale. Customers purchasing Products directly from California retail stores may receive the Proposition 65 warning via register display and on customers' printed receipts.

2.3.3 Safe Harbor Warnings. The parties acknowledge that the warnings required by this section are not the exclusive methods of providing Proposition 65 warnings and agree that Big Lots may utilize "safe harbor" warning language and methods promulgated by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and contained in 27 CCR §§ 25602-25603, applicable to lead and the Products, in effect on or after the Effective Date, without being deemed in breach of this Settlement Agreement.

3. MONETARY SETTLEMENT TERMS

3.1 Civil Penalty Payment

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(2), and as consideration for the releases contained in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 below, Big Lots agrees to pay \$1,000 in civil penalties within fifteen (15) days of the Effective Date. The penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the penalty amount remitted to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") and the remaining 25% of the penalty amount paid to Kallander. Big Lots shall make its payment in two checks, delivered to the address in section 3.3, as follows: (1) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$750; and (2) "Audrey Kallander" in the amount of \$250.

3.2 Attorneys' Fees and Costs

The Parties acknowledge that Kallander and her counsel offered to resolve this dispute without reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed to her

counsel, thereby leaving the issue to be resolved after the material terms of the agreement had been settled. Shortly after the other settlement terms had been reached, Big Lots expressed a desire to resolve Kallander's fees and costs. The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to Kallander's counsel under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine codified at Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 for all work performed in this matter. Under these legal principles, within fifteen (15) days of the Effective Date, Big Lots agrees to pay \$10,000, in the form of a check made payable to "Voorhees & Bailey, LLP," for all fees and costs incurred investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of Big Lots' management, and negotiating a settlement.

3.3 Payment Address

All payments under this Settlement Agreement shall be delivered to the following address:

Voorhees & Bailey, LLP
839 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Kallander shall provide IRS W-9 forms for: (i) "Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment"; (ii) Audrey Kallander; and (iii) Voorhees & Bailey, LLP. Big Lots shall issue complete IRS 1099 forms to each payee for their respective payment amount.

4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 Kallander's Release of Proposition 65 Claims

Kallander acting on her own behalf, and not on behalf of the public, releases Big Lots, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, agents employees, attorneys, and each entity to whom Big Lots directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Products, including, but not limited, to downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members,

importers, and licensees (collectively, “Releasees”), from all claims for violations of Proposition 65 through the Effective Date based on unwarned exposures to lead in the Products. The Parties understand and agree that this Section 4.1 release shall not extend upstream to any entities that manufactured the Products or any component parts thereof, or any distributors or suppliers who sold the Products or any component parts thereof to Big Lots.

4.2 Kallander’s Individual Release of Claims

Kallander, in her individual capacity only and not in her representative capacity, provides a release herein which shall be effective as a full and final accord and satisfaction, as a bar to all actions, causes of action, obligations, costs, expenses, attorneys’ fees, damages, losses, claims, liabilities, and demands of Kallander of any nature, character, or kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, including but not limited to all failure to warn claims, arising out of alleged or actual exposures to lead in the Products manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold by Big Lots prior to the Effective Date. The Parties understand and agree that this Section 4.2 release shall not extend upstream to any entities that manufactured the Products, or any component parts thereof, or any distributors or suppliers who sold the Products, or any component parts thereof to Big Lots. Nothing in this Section affects Kallander’s right to commence or prosecute an action under Proposition 65 against a Releasee that does not involve Big Lots’ Products.

4.3 Big Lots’ Release of Kallander

Big Lots, on its own behalf, and on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against Kallander and her attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made by Kallander and her attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter, or with respect to the Products.

5. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any provision of this Settlement Agreement is deemed by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be adversely affected.

6. GOVERNING LAW

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Products, then Big Lots may provide written notice to Kallander of any asserted change in the law and shall have no further injunctive obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, the Products are so affected.

7. NOTICE

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notice required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and sent by: (a) personal delivery; (b) first-class, registered, or certified mail, return receipt requested; or (c) a recognized overnight courier on any Party by the other at the following addresses:

For Big Lots:

Carol R. Brophy, Esq.
One Market Plaza
Steuart Tower, Suite 1070
San Francisco, CA 94105

For Kallander:

Audrey Kallander
c/o Voorhees & Bailey, LLP
Proposition 65 Coordinator
839 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Any Party may, from time to time, specify in writing to the other a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

8. COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

9. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)

Kallander and her attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(f).

10. MODIFICATION

This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by written agreement of the Parties.

11. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understand, and agreed to all of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: Feb 15, 2024

Date: 2/15/2024

By: Audrey Kallander
AUDREY KALLANDER

By:  Steve Rogers
BIG LOTS STORES, LLC