

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between CalSafe Research Center, Inc. ("CRC"), on the one hand, and Hy-Vee, Inc. ("Hy-Vee") and Grocery Outlet, Inc. on the other hand, with CRC, Hy-Vee, and Grocery Outlet each individually referred to as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties."

1.2 General Allegations

CRC alleges that Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet sell and/or distribute in California certain products, specified in Section 1.3 below, containing lead without a warning as required by Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.5 *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"). Lead is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet deny these allegations.

1.3 Product Descriptions

The product covered by this Settlement Agreement is defined as, and expressly limited to "Hy-Vee, Good Graces Cheese Flavored Crunchy Kale Chips (UPC# 075450401080)" (the "Product") that contains lead and that is manufactured, sold or distributed for sale in California by Hy-Vee and/or Grocery Outlet.

1.4 Notice of Violation

On December 27, 2024, CRC served a 60-Day Notice of Violation ("the Notices") on each of Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet, the California Attorney General and the other requisite public enforcers, alleging that Hy-Vee and others violated Proposition 65 when they failed to warn consumers in California of the alleged exposures to lead from the Product.

To the best of the Parties' knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting an action to enforce the violations alleged in the Notice.

1.5 No Admission

Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet each deny the material, factual and legal allegations in the Notices and maintain that all of the products each sold and/or distributed for sale in California, including the Product, have been, and are, in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Hy-Vee, Grocery Outlet, or any of their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, franchisees, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers 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 Hy-Vee or Grocery Outlet, or any of their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, franchisees, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet, respectively. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect Hy-Vee's or Grocery Outlet's obligations, responsibilities, and duties under this Settlement Agreement. Moreover, the obligations of each of Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet under this agreement are several, and not joint.

1.6 Effective Date

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

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

2.1 Clear and Reasonable Warnings

Beginning on the Effective Date, and subject to Section 2.3 below, Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet shall be permanently enjoined from manufacturing for sale in the State of California, "Distributing into the State of California," or directly selling in the State of California, Products that expose a person to an exposure level of more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per serving with serving size measured by the serving size specified on the label of the Product, unless it meets the warning requirements under Section 2.2.

As used in this Settlement Agreement, the term "Distributing into the State of California" shall mean to directly ship the Product into California for sale in California or to sell the Product to a distributor that Hy-Vee or Grocery Outlet knows or has reason to know will sell the Products in California.

2.2 General Warning Requirements

Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet agree that each warning as may be required under this Agreement shall be prominently placed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices, as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions before purchase or use. Each warning shall be provided in a manner such that the consumer or user understands to which *specific* Product the warning applies, so as to minimize the risk of consumer confusion.

For the purposes of this Settlement Agreement, a clear and reasonable warning for the Product shall consist of a warning affixed to the packaging, label, tag, or directly to each Product sold or distributed in California by Hy-Vee or Grocery Outlet that contains one of the following statements:

- 1) **WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to lead, which is 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/food.

Hy-Vee may, at its option, use the words "**CA WARNING:**" or "**CALIFORNIA WARNING:**" instead of the word "**WARNING:**".

- 2) **WARNING:** Risk of cancer and reproductive harm from exposure to lead. See www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

or

WARNING: Can expose you to lead, a carcinogen and reproductive toxicant. See www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

Hy-Vee may, at its option, use the words "**CA WARNING:**" or "**CALIFORNIA WARNING:**" instead of the word "**WARNING:**".

The warning shall be offset in a box with black outline.

For internet purchases, the warning must also be provided by including either the warning or a clearly marked hyperlink using the word "**WARNING**" or "**CA WARNING**" or "**CALIFORNIA WARNING**" on the Product display page, or by otherwise prominently displaying the warning to the purchaser prior to completing the purchase.

For Product that Hy-Vee of Grocery Outlet provides for a downstream entity to sell on the internet, Hy-Vee or Grocery Outlet, as applicable, shall include an instruction that the entity comply with the warning requirements of this section.

Where a consumer product sign, label or shelf tag used to provide a warning includes consumer information in language(s) other than English, the warning must also be provided in the other language(s) in addition to English.

(i) Changes in Warning Regulations or Statutes

In the event that the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment promulgates one or more regulations requiring or permitting warning text and/or methods of transmission different than those set forth above, Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet shall be entitled to use, at its discretion, such other warning text and/or method of transmission without being deemed in breach of this Settlement Agreement. If regulations or legislation are enacted or issued providing that a Proposition 65 warning for the Products is no longer required, a lack of warning will not thereafter be a breach of this Settlement Agreement.

2.3 Grace Period for Existing Inventory of Products

The injunctive requirements of Section 2 shall not apply to Product that is already in the stream of commerce as of the Effective Date, which Product is expressly subject to the releases provided in Section 4.1.

3. MONETARY SETTLEMENT TERMS

3.1 Total Settlement Payment

In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs, Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet shall collectively make a total settlement payment of Twenty-One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000.00) ("Total Settlement Amount"). The Total Settlement Amount shall be apportioned into a Civil Penalty and Attorney's Fees and Costs as set forth in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 below. Full payment of the Total Settlement Amount shall be made within thirty (30) business days after the Effective Date, and shall be sent, via wire, as follows:

Wire Instructions:

Account Name: The Law Offices of Joseph R. Manning

Bank Name: J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Bank Address: 2967 Michelson Dr, Ste A, Irvine, CA 92612

Wire Routing / ABA Number: 021000021

Swift Code: CHASUS33

Account Number: 579068902

For further benefit of: Civil Penalty Payment File No. P65-1095

Allocation of, and payment of, the Total Settlement Amount shall be made pursuant to separate agreement between Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet. Payments by each in accordance with the above shall in sum total the Total Settlement Agreement.

3.2 Civil Penalty Payment

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code§ 25249.7(b)(2), and in settlement of all claims alleged in the Notice or referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet agree that Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$2,100.00) of the Total Settlement Amount shall be allocated as civil penalties. The civil penalty payment allocated will be further allocated in accordance with California Health and Safety Code§§ 25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the penalty amount paid to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") and the remaining 25% of the penalty amount retained by CRC. Within ten (10) days after receiving the Total Settlement Payment pursuant to Section 3.1 above, CRC counsel shall issue a check to OEHHA in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy-Five Dollars (\$1,575.00) and shall pay to CRC the amount of Five Hundred and Twenty-Five Dollars (\$525.00) of.

3.3 Attorney Fees and Costs

The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to CRC and its counsel under the private attorney general doctrine and principles of contract law. Under these legal principles, Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$18,900.00) of the Total Settlement Payment shall be allocated to CRC and its counsel for all fees and costs incurred in investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet, and negotiating a settlement.

3.4 Tax Documentation

Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet each agree that Manning Law will be provided with a completed IRS 1099 form for their respective payments under this Agreement, and CRC and Manning Law agree to provide IRS W-9 forms for Manning Law. The Parties acknowledge that neither Hy-Vee nor Grocery Outlet can issue any settlement payment pursuant to Section 3 above until after Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet, respectively, receive the requisite W-9 forms from CRC's counsel. Moreover, payment by Grocery Outlet is contingent on Manning Law's submittal to Grocery Outlet a Grocery Outlet Supplier Form, which form shall be provided to Manning Law upon final execution of this Agreement.

4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 CRC's Release of Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet

CRC, acting on its own behalf and not on behalf of the public, fully releases and discharges Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet, and their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, franchisees, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors (the "Releasees") and all entities to which Releasees directly or indirectly distribute or sell the Product, and any other distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, licensors, and licensees, (collectively, the "Released Parties" and individually, a "Released Party"). CRC, on behalf of itself and

its officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries and divisions hereby fully releases and discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees, costs, and expenses asserted, or that could have been asserted based on or related to the handling, use, sale, distribution or consumption of the Product in California, as to any alleged violation of Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations in relation to the Product, including without limitation any failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings on the Products with respect to exposures to lead.

4.2 Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet Release of CRC

Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet, respectively and on behalf of their past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and assignees hereby waives any and all claims against CRC and its attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken, or statements made by CRC and its attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter, or with respect to the Products.

4.3 California Civil Code Section 1542

It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties, arising out of the Notice or relating to the Products, will develop or be discovered. CRC on behalf of itself only, and Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet each on behalf of itself only, acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through and including the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore. CRC, Hy-Vee, and Grocery Outlet 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 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.

5. PUBLIC BENEFIT

It is both Hy-Vee's and Grocery Outlet's understanding that the commitments they have each agreed to herein, and respective actions to be taken by Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet under this Settlement Agreement, would confer a significant benefit to the general public, as set forth in Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Cal. Admin. Code tit. 11, § 3201. As such, it is the intent of Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet that to the extent any other private party initiates an action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to Hy-Vee or Grocery Outlet's failure to provide a warning concerning exposure to lead prior to use of the Products it has 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 those Products addressed in this Settlement Agreement, provided that Hy-Vee and Grocery Outlet, respectively, are in material compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

6. SEVERABILITY

In the event that any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the validity of the remaining enforceable provisions shall not be adversely affected.

7. **GOVERNING LAW**

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California, without regard to its conflicts of law principals.

8. **NOTICE**

When any Party is entitled to receive any notice under this Settlement Agreement, the notice shall be sent by first class mail or electronic mail to the address set forth in this paragraph. Any Party may modify the person and address to whom the notice is to be sent by sending the other Party notice by certified mail, return receipt requested. Said change shall take effect on the date the return receipt is signed by the Party receiving the change.

Notices shall be sent to:

For CRC

Joseph R. Manning, Jr.
Manning Law, APC
26100 Towne Center Drive
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610
Tel: Office (949) 200-8757 Fax: (866) 843-8309
p65@manninglawoffice.com

For Hy-Vee

August T. Horvath
Foley Hoag LLP
1301 Avenue of the Americas, 25th floor
New York, NY 10019
(212) 812-0344
ahorvath@foleyhoag.com

For Grocery Outlet

Joshua Bloom
Bay Law Group LLP
PO Box 8554
Berkeley, CA 94707
(510) 495-0418

9. **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. Signatures by scanned and emailed image or facsimile transmission shall have the same force and effect as original signature and as an electronic record adopted

and executed by a Party with the intent to sign the electronic record pursuant to Civil Code §§ 1633.1 *et seq.*

10. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE §25249.7(f)

CRC and its attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health and Safety Code §25249.7(f).

11. MODIFICATION

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

12. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties and any and all prior negotiations and understandings related hereto shall be deemed to have been merged within it. No representations or terms of agreement other than those contained herein exist or have been made by any Party with respect to the other Party or the subject matter hereof. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Settlement Agreement have been made by, or relied on, any Party.

13. INTERPRETATION

No inference, assumption or presumption shall be drawn, and no provision of this Settlement Agreement shall be construed against any Party, based upon the fact that one of the Parties and/or their counsel prepared or drafted any portion of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties waive the provisions of Civil Code § 1654. It is conclusively presumed that the Parties participated equally in the drafting of this Settlement Agreement.

14. AUTHORIZATION

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

AGREED TO:

Date: 4/28/2025

By:  4D7E7F1FE86247B...

CalSafe Research Center, Inc.

AGREED TO:

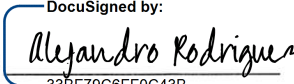
Date: 4/22/25

By: 

Hy-Vee, Inc.

AGREED TO:

Date: 4/28/2025 | 09:53:51 PDT

By:  33BF79C6FF0C43B...

Grocery Outlet, Inc.