

PROPOSITION 65 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Parties

This Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between Keep America Safe and Beautiful (“KASB”) on the one hand, and John Bead USA Corp. (“John Bead”), on the other hand, with KASB and John Bead each individually referred to as a “Party” and, collectively, the “Parties.” KASB is a California-based non-profit organization proceeding in the public interest pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) to ensure that chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm are disclosed in or eliminated from consumer products sold in California. John Bead is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(b).

1.2 Consumer Product Description

KASB alleges that John Bead manufactures, imports, sells, and distributes for sale in California vinyl storage/packaging tubes containing di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”) including, but not limited to, as *CZECH SEED BEEDS JB Square Vial 32/0 Apx 19g Opaque Dark Red Luster Mfg No: 63220000-0010 UPC: 6 65772 13896 4*, without providing the health hazard warning that KASB alleges is required by California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”). Vinyl storage/packaging tubes are referred to hereinafter as the “Products.” DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

1.3 Notice of Violation

On September 11, 2025, KASB served John Bead, the California Attorney General, and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation (“**Notice**”), alleging John Bead violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn its customers and consumers in

California that its Products can expose users to DEHP. No public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting an action to enforce the allegations in the Notice.

1.4 No Admission

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

1.5 Effective Date

For purposes of this Agreement, "**Effective Date**" shall mean the date this Agreement is fully executed by all Parties.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION

2.1 Reformulation Commitment

Commencing on the Effective Date and continuing thereafter, all Products John Bead manufactures, imports, sells, ships, or distributes for sale in or into California, directly or through one or more third party retailers or e-commerce marketplaces, shall meet the Reformulation Standard for Reformulated Products, as defined by Section 2.2.

2.2 Reformulation Standard

For purposes of this Agreement, "Reformulated Products" are defined as Products which, if they contain DEHP, di-n-butyl phthalate ("DBP"), diisononyl phthalate ("DINP"), butyl benzyl phthalate ("BBP"), di-isodecyl phthalate ("DIDP") or di-n-hexyl phthalate ("DnHP"), contain any or all such chemicals each in a maximum concentration of less than 0.1 percent (1,000 parts per million) when analyzed by a laboratory certified or accredited by the State of California, the United States Food and Drug Administration/Environmental Protection Agency, the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, or a member

accreditation body of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation ("ILAC"). For purposes of compliance with this reformulation standard, testing samples shall be prepared and extracted using Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") methodology CPSC-CH-C1001.09.3 and analyzed using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency methodology 8270D, or other methodologies utilized by federal or state government agencies to determine phthalate content in a solid substance.

2.3 Certification to Compliance with Reformulation Standard

On or before the Effective Date an officer of John Bead shall provide Seven Hills LLP with a written attested declaration stating, as of the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, any and all Products manufactured or imported by John Bead for sale to (a) consumers in California directly including through its own website, affiliated websites or a third party website, to consumers located in California, and (b) customers with nationwide distribution and e-commerce websites, are Reformulated Products as defined by Section 2.2. Along with its attested declaration, John Bead shall provide a recent test result performed after the date of the Notice, showing the Products were tested and analyzed according to the parameters set forth in the preceding Section 2.2 and are Reformulated Products. Failure to comply with this section shall render this agreement null and void.

3. MONETARY SETTLEMENT TERMS

3.1 Civil Penalty

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b), John Bead agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$2,000 within five (5) business days of the Effective Date. John Bead's civil penalty payment will be allocated according to Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.12(c)(1) and (d), with seventy-five percent (75%) of the penalty paid to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"), and the remaining twenty-five percent (25%) retained by KASB. John Bead shall issue its payment in two checks made payable to: (a) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$1,500; and (b) "Seven Hills LLP in Trust for Keep America Safe and Beautiful" in

the amount of \$500.00. KASB's counsel shall deliver to OEHHA and KASB their respective portion of the penalty payment.

3.2 Reimbursement of Attorneys' Fees and Costs; Installment Payments;

Timing

KASB and its counsel offered to resolve the allegations in the Notice without reaching terms on the amount of reimbursement of attorneys' fees and costs. Shortly after the Parties finalized the other material settlement terms, they negotiated and reached an accord on the amount of reimbursement to be paid to KASB's counsel, under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine, codified at California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, for all work performed through the mutual execution and reporting of this Agreement to the Office of the California Attorney General. Within five (5) business days of the Effective Date, John Bead agrees to issue two, equal separate checks, totalling \$18,000 and made payable to "Seven Hills LLP" for all fees and costs incurred investigating, bringing this matter to John Bead's attention, negotiating a settlement in the public interest, and reporting its terms to Office of the California Attorney General pursuant to Section 9.

Pursuant to this Section 3.2, The initial payment of \$9,000 shall be deposited upon receipt. Thereafter, the remaining check for \$9,000 shall be deposited thirty (30) days after the original, initial payment. Under the terms of this Agreement, counsel for KASB shall provide Federal Form W9s for all payees under this Section, after. Agreement is fully executed by the parties, as follows: OEHHA, KASB and Seven Hills.

3.3 Payments

All payments payable and due under this Agreement shall be delivered to KASB's counsel at following address:

Seven Hills LLP
Attn: Kimberly Gates Johnson
1 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94111

4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 KASB's Release of John Bead

This Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between KASB, as an individual and *not* on behalf of the public, and John Bead, of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by KASB on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, against John Bead and each entity to whom John Bead directly or indirectly distributes or sells Products, including, but not limited to, downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees (collectively, “**Releasees**”), based on their failure to warn under Proposition 65 about alleged exposures to DEHP contained in the Products that were sold or offered for sale by John Bead in California before the Effective Date, as alleged in the Notice.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, KASB as an individual and *not* on behalf of the public, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives all of KASB's rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims that KASB may have, including, without limitation, all actions, and causes of action, in law or in equity, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses, or expenses including, but not exclusively, investigation fees, expert fees, and attorneys' fees arising under Proposition 65 with respect to DEHP in the Products sold or offered for sale by John Bead, before the Effective Date (collectively, “**Claims**”), against John Bead and Releasees.

The Parties further understand and agree that this Section 4.1 release shall not extend upstream to any entities who manufactured the Products or any component parts thereof, or any distributors or suppliers who sold the Products or any component parts thereof to John Bead. ., Nothing in this Section affects KASB's right to commence or prosecute an action under Proposition 65 against a Releasee that does not involve John Bead's Products.

4.2 John Bead's Release of KASB

John Bead, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys,

successors, and assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against KASB and its attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by KASB and its attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter with respect to the Products.

5. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Agreement, any provision of this 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 Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within California. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to relieve John Bead from its obligation to comply with any pertinent state or federal law or regulation.

7. NOTICE

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

For John Bead:

Mike Maxwell
Hodgson Russ LLP
140 Pearl Street, Suite 100
Buffalo, NY 14202

For KASB:

Kimberly Gates Johnson, Partner
Seven Hills LLP
1 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94111

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

8. COUNTERPARTS, FACSIMILE AND PDF SIGNATURES

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by 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 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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

10. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are hereby merged herein and therein. There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between the Parties except as expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Agreement have been made by any Party hereto. No other agreements not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto.

11. MODIFICATION

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

12. AUTHORIZATION

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

AGREED TO:

Date: August 6, 2026

By: 
Lance Nguyen, CEO
Keep America Safe and Beautiful

AGREED TO:

Date: August 5, 2026

By: 
Daniel John, President
John Bead USA Corp.