

Bob Ferguson ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Complex Litigation Division 800 Fifth Avenue • Suite 2000 • MS TB 14 • Seattle, WA 98104-3188 • (206) 464-7744

January 23, 2024

Ms. Molly C. Dwyer Clerk of Court, Office of the Clerk U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit P.O. Box 193939 San Francisco, CA 94119-3939

RE: Susan Soto Palmer, et al. v. Steven Hobbs, et al., No. 23-35595 Fed. R. App. P. 28(j) Letter

Dear Ms. Dwyer:

Defendant—Appellee State of Washington writes to notify the Court of a recent order issued by the district court in this matter. In its Opposition to Intervenor—Defendants—Appellees' Motion to Hold Briefing in Abeyance, the State objected to Intervenors' Motion "unless and until the district court denies Intervenors' request to add Senator [Nikki] Torres as a Defendant." DktEntry: 51 at 7. On January 22, 2024 the district court denied Senator Torres' request as untimely. *See Soto Palmer v. Hobbs*, No. 3:22-cv-05035-RSL, 2024 WL 230251 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 22, 2024). Accordingly, the State no longer takes any position on Intervenors' pending request for an abeyance (DktEntry: 48).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrew R.W. Hughes
ANDREW R.W. HUGHES, WSBA #49515
Assistant Attorney General
CRISTINA SEPE, WSBA #53609
Deputy Solicitor General
Counsel for Defendant—Appellee State of Washington