IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA WESTERN DIVISION

IN RE: IOWA READY-MIX CONCRETE ANTITRUST LITIGATION No. C10-4038-MWB (CONSOLIDATED CASES)

JOINT MOTION TO STAY LITIGATION AS TO SETTLING DEFENDANTS

Plaintiffs and Defendants GCC Alliance Concrete, Inc., VS Holding Company (f/k/a Alliance Concrete, Inc.), Steven Keith VandeBrake, Great Lakes Concrete, Inc., Kent Robert Stewart, and Siouxland Concrete, Inc. ("Settling Defendants") jointly move the Court as follows:

- 1. Plaintiffs and Settling Defendants ("Settling Parties") have reached settlements in principle and are currently drafting the needed papers.¹ Those papers include formal settlement agreements, a motion for preliminary approval and proposed order, forms of notice to the proposed settlement classes and a proposal final judgment.
- 2. Settling Parties respectfully ask the Court to stay the litigation as to Settling
 Defendants in the interest of settlement and judicial economy. The requested stay would
 promote the policy of encouraging settlements and reduce the costs to the Settling Parties.

 Settling Defendants in particular have agreed in principle to pay certain settlement amounts
 partially in consideration of the saving of substantial litigation expenses. A stay would also save
 expenses of Plaintiffs, resulting in a greater net recovery to Plaintiffs and the settlement classes.

 By staying the case, this Court will save itself and the parties from expending enormous
 resources unnecessarily litigating issues that will have no impact on the resolution of this case.

¹ Counsel for Plaintiffs and counsel for Tri-State Ready Mix, Inc. and Chad Van Zee remain in ongoing settlement negotiations and will promptly report any developments.

On the other hand, if the Court does not enter a stay, the parties would likely have to conduct numerous depositions and present extensive motion practice to the Court, all to no end.

- 3. The scope of the stay as to Settling Defendants would include all current deadlines in the litigation as to the claims against Settling Defendants only.²
- 4. The Settling Parties are working diligently to finalize and file the settlement and approval papers and this request will not occasion undue delay in the resolution of this matter.
- 5. The law supports granted the requested stay. For example, in *Sandpiper Vill*.

 Condo. Ass'n v. Louisiana-Pacific Corp., 428 F.3d 831 (9th Cir. 2005), the Court held that a federal district court properly stayed proceedings in another court in order to safeguard the settlement process in a nationwide class action. As the Ninth Circuit explained, a stay was appropriate to permit the settlement-approval process to proceed undisturbed: "We concluded that a temporary stay pending settlement of the nationwide class action was appropriate A competing state class action covering a portion of the federal class posed a significant danger to the delicate and transitory process of approving a settlement agreement, and thereby threatened the district court's ability to resolve the litigation." *Id.* at 845. Thus, the Ninth Circuit recognized both the sensitivity and the importance of finalizing class-action settlements, and held that those interests warranted even a stay of proceedings in another court. *Id.; see also In re Wireless Tel.*Fed. Cost Recovery Fees Litig., 396 F.3d 922, 927 (8th Cir. 2005) (noting district court's stay of all other class actions pending settlement of the case before it). In this case, of course, the Court

 $^{^{2}}$ Pending deadlines in the near term include without limitation the deadlines:

^{1.} For Settling Defendants to respond to Plaintiffs' Motion to Certify Class;

^{2.} For Settling Defendants to disclose their expert reports on class certification issues;

^{3.} For Plaintiffs to respond to the following motions to dismiss the Second Amended Consolidated Class Action Complaint: [D.E. 239] by Defendant VS Holding Company (Entered 05/10/2011) (Responses Due 05/27/2011); [D.E. 242] by Defendant GCC Alliance Concrete, Inc. (Entered 05/16/2011) (Responses Due 06/02/2011); [D.E. 243] by Defendant Steven Keith VandeBrake (Entered 05/16/2011) (Responses Due 06/02/2011); and [D.E. 245] by Defendants Great Lakes Concrete Inc. and Kent Robert Stewart (Entered 05/16/2011) (Responses Due 06/02/2011); and

^{4.} For Settling Defendants to reply to Plaintiffs' resistances to the foregoing motions to dismiss.

need not impinge upon another court's jurisdiction in order to safeguard "the delicate and transitory process of approving a settlement agreement" Instead, it need only stay its own proceedings pending its own consideration of the proposed settlements. This Court unquestionably has the power, and would exercise it properly, by staying the case under these circumstances.

6. Finally, a stay will not prejudice the nonsettling parties, namely Plaintiffs and Defendants Tri-State Ready Mix, Inc. and Chad Van Zee. The litigation will continue apace as to Plaintiffs' claims against nonsettling defendants. The remaining parties will suffer no prejudice that could weigh against the encouragement of settlements and the conservation of resources that will result from a stay.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs and Settling Defendants respectfully request that the Court enter the proposed Order *infra* granting this motion and staying all proceedings in this action as to the Settling Parties only pending finalization of the settlements among those parties.

Dated: May 19, 2011 Respectfully submitted,

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IN RE: IOWA READY-MIX CONCRETE ANTITRUST LITIGATION No. C10-4038-MWB (CONSOLIDATED CASES)

[PROPOSED] ORDER ON JOINT MOTION TO STAY LITIGATION AS TO $\underline{\textbf{SETTLING DEFENDANTS}}$

THIS CAUSE having come before the Court on the foregoing joint motion, it is hereby ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the motion be and the same is hereby GRANTED and the action is stayed as to Plaintiffs' claims against Settling Defendants only, pending further Order of the Court.

DONE AND ORDERED this day o	f, 2011.
Ma	ark W. Bennett
Ur	ited States District Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 19 2011, a copy of the foregoing document was served on all counsel of record via the ECF system.

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