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VIA Email

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Re: Proposed Opioid Settlement

As the largest cities and counties in the country, we write to express our position on what we understand to be a proposed settlement among certain attorneys general and your companies to resolve claims related to your distribution of opioids. This letter has the support of the cities and counties identified in Exhibit A.

For too many years, we have been on the front lines of the opioid epidemic. Every day, our first responders revive individuals who have overdosed on opioids, and our medical examiners handle those whose overdoses, tragically, were fatal. Our law enforcement officers address and seek to prevent the fall-out in increased trafficking of illicit opioids and drug-related crimes. Our social service and public health agencies provide treatment to individuals with opioid addiction and support families dislocated by opioid addiction and mortality. Virtually all our families, neighborhoods, and agencies have been impacted by this epidemic.

Despite this experience, and our significant claims, we were not consulted about this settlement, were not involved in negotiating its terms, and were not apprised of its details. To this day the only details made available about its proposed terms have been those reported in the press. We could overlook those facts if we thought the settlement would provide appropriate and timely funding to do the significant work required to abate this epidemic and hold this industry accountable for its conduct and the harm that it has caused. It does neither.

We are prepared to participate in negotiations with you and state attorneys general in good faith. However, we will not agree to participate in any settlement that requires states to release, potentially involuntarily, our claims.

The current proposed settlement is too little, too late. Eighteen billion dollars paid out \$1 billion per year does not reflect your liability or ability to pay. It does not come quickly enough to make a meaningful contribution to confronting the epidemic we face today. How do we tell a

resident who is addicted to opioids, an infant born withdrawing from opioids, or a patient with Hepatitis C that we can help them—in 17 years? Finally, we understand that even these limited funds may be dramatically reduced if states do not agree to release or otherwise bar our claims.

Your companies are among the largest companies in the United States and have had the privilege of doing business in our communities. While in our view we may never be paid even a fraction of the harms we believe have been inflicted, you can—and must—do better than this.

The signatories to this letter are only the largest cities and counties. We are confident that many, many more cities and counties would stand with us to express their view that this settlement does not have their support. It certainly does not have ours.

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