



HENDY JOHNSON
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CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION

Direct e-mail: rjohnson@justicestartshere.com
August 15, 2023

Via Email: kcartwright@feptc.com

Keith Cartwright

FRYMIRE, EVANS, PEYTON, TEAGUE & CARTWRIGHT, PLLC

One South Main Street, Third Floor

Post Office Box 695

Madisonville, KY, 42431

Re: *Settlement Offer for Government Entity Claims Against Altria*

Dear Mr. Cartwright:

We are pleased to inform you that pursuant to the global “Government Entity Settlement Agreement” with Altria Group, Inc., Philip Morris USA, Inc., Altria Client Services LLC, Altria Enterprises LLC, and Altria Group Distribution Company (collectively “Altria”), Hopkins County School District is eligible to receive a gross offer of \$36,086.00 to resolve its Government Entity claims against Altria. From that amount, attorneys’ fees, case costs, and the court-ordered Common Benefit Expense assessment will be deducted. In addition, any liens that may exist on the Settlement Funds must be satisfied and discharged before any Settlement Funds are released to Hopkins County School District.

This gross settlement offer amount was determined by an allocation method and group of objective factors approved by the court-appointed Mediator. The accompanying “Altria School District Allocation Approach” document describes in detail those factors and the allocation methodology. The accompanying “Final Allocation: School Districts” document provides further information regarding the objective factors used in the allocation.

This settlement was the result of several years of litigation, many months of negotiations, and a trial in federal court. We strongly recommend that you accept it. We believe that this is a fair and reasonable settlement offer for your claims against Altria given (a) the Altria-related harm the Entity has suffered; and (b) the burdens, risks, uncertainties, time, and expense of continued litigation (expense that the Entity would ultimately bear). In our opinion, this Settlement is the best opportunity to receive fair and reasonable compensation for your Government Entity claims against Altria in the foreseeable future. Based upon the knowledge and experience we have gained through our years of involvement in the litigation against Altria, we believe that settling now and receiving payment for your Government Entity claims is clearly in your best interest.

If you reject this settlement offer, your Government Entity claims against Altria will continue in the court system. This will involve substantial additional delay and expense to you, and you also run the risk of ultimately receiving nothing for your claims against this defendant.



If you choose to follow our recommendation and accept your Government Entity settlement offer, please **carefully review all of the accompanying documents**, and then do **ALL of the following**:

1. An individual authorized by law to enter into settlement agreements on behalf of the Government Entity should sign the accompanying “Government Entity Release of All Claims” (“Release”).
2. That same authorized individual should sign this letter where indicated below.

Please return BOTH signed documents as soon as possible. **You must return ALL PAGES of BOTH documents** so that the processing of your claim will not be delayed.

We must have the fully executed Agreement and Release by no later than November 15, 2023, so please put this on the agenda for your next board meeting to approve, just as you did for the JUUL settlement.

A. Effect of Signing the Release

Please keep in mind that by its authorized representative signing the Release, the Government Entity is agreeing to accept the settlement money offered by Altria through the Settlement Program and, in exchange, is giving up its right to a trial against Altria and the other Released Parties.¹ Of course, trial is risky because the Government Entity could win or lose its case. If the Entity goes to trial, the jury could award it more, less, or no money against Altria. In addition, even if the Entity is successful at trial, Altria always has the right to appeal any jury award. The appeal process may take anywhere from two to three years to complete and would result in additional costs and expenses in the Entity’s case. Any money awarded by the jury would not be paid to the Entity until the appeal process is complete and only if a finding has been made in the Entity’s favor. Further, an appeal could also result in a judgment in the Entity’s favor being set aside entirely, or a new trial could be ordered, meaning that the entire time-consuming, risky, and expensive litigation process would start over again.

Please note that the Release is a full and final release of ALL claims the Government Entity currently has, or may have in the future, against Altria and the other Released Parties “concerning and/or connected with JUUL Products and/or with any injury [the Government Entity] has ever claimed, or may at any time in the future claim, the Released Parties [including Altria] caused in whole or in part concerning and/or connected with JUUL Products.” Please also note that, pursuant to the terms of the Release and the Settlement Agreement, the executed Release becomes effective concurrent with Altria’s payment into the Government Entity Qualified Settlement Account of the total gross Settlement Amount described in the accompanying “Description of Settlement Agreement.”

B. The Government Entity’s Net Settlement Offer Amount

¹ Page 3 of the enclosed Release (definition 10) sets out all of the Released Parties.



As indicated at the outset of this letter, the *net* settlement amount the Government Entity will receive will be the gross settlement amount after deductions for attorneys' fees, case costs, and the court-ordered Common Benefit Expense assessment.

The Government Entity's *gross* settlement offer amount was determined by an allocation method and group of objective factors approved by the court-appointed Mediator. The accompanying "Altria School District Allocation Approach" document and the "Final Allocation: School Districts" document describe in detail those factors and the allocation methodology. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about how the settlement offer value for your Government Entity was determined.

C. When the Government Entity Should Expect to Receive Its Settlement Payment

As explained in the accompanying "Description of Settlement Agreement," Altria's Settlement Payment into the Government Entity Qualified Settlement Account will be paid within 60 days of the federal MDL Court's Final Approval of the proposed class action settlement against Altria involving economic loss claims by consumers who said they overpaid for JUUL's vaping products. We do not yet know what the Court's timetable will be for considering preliminary, then final, approval of the proposed class action settlement, but expect payments to be made in the first half of 2024.

The best way to ensure that your Government Entity receives its settlement payment as quickly as possible is to promptly review, sign, and return the Release and this letter, after you carefully review all of the accompanying documents. We will keep you apprised of any developments that may affect the timing of Judge Orrick's grant of final approval of the class action settlement and, thus, the anticipated date of Altria's Settlement Payment into the Government Entity Qualified Settlement Account.

* * * * *

Again, if you choose to follow our strong recommendation and accept your Government Entity settlement offer, please have an authorized official sign BOTH the Release and this letter where indicated and return all pages of BOTH executed documents to us as soon as possible.

If you have questions about any aspects of this aggregate Government Entity Settlement, this letter, the Release, or any of the accompanying documents, feel free to contact me at 502-649-5226.

Sincerely,

Ron Johnson

RONALD E. JOHNSON, JR.

REJ/am



READ AND AGREED:

I am an official of the Government Entity on whose behalf I am acting and affirm that I am authorized by law to enter into settlement agreements on behalf of the Government Entity. I affirm that any and all processes required by law for me to enter into a settlement agreement on behalf of the Government Entity have been followed. I affirm that I have read and understand this letter, the Release, and the accompanying disclosure documents, and I am consenting on behalf of the Government Entity to the terms of the aggregate settlement and the settlement offer described in this letter, the Release, and the accompanying documents.

Printed Name

Date

Title within Government Entity

Signature