

JUN 17 2022

AUSTIN KNUDSEN Montana Attorney General DAVID M.S. DEWHIRST Solicitor General TIMOTHY LONGFIELD Assistant Attorney General P.O. Box 201401 Helena, MT 59620-1401 Phone: 406-444-2026 david.dewhirst@mt.gov timothy.longfield@mt.gov

EMILY JONES Special Assistant Attorney General Jones Law Firm, PLLC 115 N. Broadway, Suite 410 Billings, MT 59101 Phone: 406-384-7990 emily@joneslawmt.com

Attorneys for Defendants

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

RIKKI HELD, ET AL.,

PLAINTIFFS.

v.

STATE OF MONTANA, ET AL.,

DEFENDANTS.

Cause CDV-2020-307 Hon. Kathy Seeley

STATE'S RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR MONT. R. CIV. P. 26(f) DISCOVERY CONFERENCE

On the evening of June 10, 2022, Plaintiffs moved this Court for a discovery conference pursuant to Mont. R. Civ. P. 26(f). (Doc. 140.) Plaintiffs asked for the Court's assistance with certain discovery and scheduling issues and for a 45-day extension of the discovery deadline. *Id.* Plaintiffs' Motion appears to be moot in light of the Court's June 15, 2022, Order amending the case schedule.¹ The State anticipates that the parties will now have enough time to meet and confer to resolve any scheduling or discovery issues.

¹ And, in any event, the State disagrees that Plaintiffs have met their obligation to meet and confer with the State on the Motion—especially in light of the new case schedule.

DATED this 15th day of June, 2022.

AUSTIN KNUDSEN Montana Attorney General

DAVID M.S. DEWHIRST Solicitor General

TIMOTHY LONGFIELD Assistant Attorney General P.O. Box 201401 Helena, MT 59620-1401 timothy.longfield@mt.gov

EMILY JONES Special Assistant Attorney General Jones Law Firm, PLLC 115 N. Broadway, Suite 410 Billings, MT 59101 emily@joneslawmt.com

Attorneys for Defendants

STATE'S RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR RULE 26(F) CONFERENCE 2

I certify a true and correct copy of the foregoing was delivered by email to the

following:

Roger M. Sullivan Dustin A. Leftridge rsullivan@mcgarveylaw.com dleftridge@mcgarveylaw.com

×_/

Melissa A. Hornbein Barbara Chillcott hornbein@westernlaw.org chillcott@westernlaw.org

Nathan Bellinger nate@ourchildrenstrust.org

Date: June 15, 2022

Dia C. Lang

STATE'S RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR RULE 26(F) CONFERENCE 3