# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND	§	
EXCHANGE COMMISSION,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
1 tanniy),	§	
V.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 4-21-CV-1310-O
	§	
THE HEARTLAND GROUP	§	
VENTURES, LLC, <i>et al.</i> ,	§	
	Ş	
Defendants,	Ş	
	§	
and	§	
	ş	
DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC, et	§	
al.,	8	
	8	
Relief Defendants.	8	

#### OBJECTION TO RECEIVER'S MOTION FOR AUTHORITY TO CONSUMMATE SALES OF AIRCRAFT OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO <u>APPROVE PROCEDURES AND AUTHORIZE SALE OF AIRCRAFT</u>

Defendant Manjit Singh "Roger" Sahota ("Sahota") objects to the Receiver's Motion for

Authority to Consummate Sales of Aircraft or, in the Alternative, to Approve Procedures and

Authorize Sale of Aircraft ("Motion"), and respectfully states as follows:

# I. <u>ARGUMENT<sup>1</sup></u>

At this stage of the proceeding, the Court should not authorize the sale of Receivership

Estate assets that are, like the plane and helicopter at issue in the Motion, wholly owned by the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sahota incorporates by reference the arguments made in the recently-filed Motion to Terminate or Modify Receivership and Asset Freeze Orders (Dkts. 129 & 130).

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Sahota-related entities.<sup>2</sup> Certain Sahota-related entities sold interests in mineral leases to Heartland. The SEC does not allege that the Sahota-related entities were obligated under some contractual provision—or otherwise—to spend the funds received from Heartland in some particular way. Nor does the SEC allege that Heartland did not receive the interests in mineral leases that it purchased from the Sahota-related entities. Between 2019 and 2021, Heartland paid the Sahota-related entities more than \$22,000,000 for interests in mineral leases. Ex. 1 (Declaration of Sunny Sahota, "Sahota Dec.") at Ex. A. Heartland received what it paid for, and the Sahota-related entities were free to spend those funds as they wished.

In 2019, when the airplane in question was purchased, the Sahota-related entities started the year with a balance of around \$930,000, received almost \$2.3 million in non-Heartland income, and received around \$8 million from Heartland for the purchase of mineral lease interests. Sahota Dec. at Ex. A. The SEC alleges that the plane cost \$1.4 million, and the Receiver says that it cost around \$1.66 million.<sup>3</sup> Either way, there were ample funds available to cover this cost, even excluding all Heartland income.

In 2021, when the helicopter was purchased, the Sahota-related entities started the year with a balance of more than \$3 million, received almost \$1.5 million in non-Heartland income, and received around \$4.7 million from Heartland for the purchase of mineral lease interests. Sahota Dec. at Ex. A. The SEC alleges that the helicopter cost \$1.8 million, and the Receiver says that it cost \$2 million.<sup>4</sup> In either case, the Sahota-related entities had enough funds available.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The "Sahota-related entities" are Defendants Barron Petroleum LLC and Arcooil Corp. and Relief Defendants Barron Energy Corporation, Dallas Resources Inc., Leading Edge Energy, LLC, Sahota Capital LLC, and 1178137 B.C. Ltd.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Complaint at ¶ 122; Receiver's Motion at ¶ 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Complaint at ¶ 122; Receiver's at Motion ¶ 3.

#### II. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

Because there are sufficient jointly-owned assets in the Receivership Estate to satisfy Sahota's potential disgorgement—as shown in the recently-filed Motion to Terminate or Modify Receivership Order and Asset Freeze Order—and because the plane and helicopter were purchased with Sahota-related entities' funds, the use of which was not restricted in any way, the Court should deny the Receiver's Motion and direct the Receiver not to sell any more assets that are wholly owned by the Sahota-related entities.

Respectfully submitted,

#### VEDDER PRICE PC

By: <u>/s/ Jeff J. Ansley</u> Jeffrey J. Ansley (SBN 00790235) 100 Crescent Court, Ste. 350 Dallas, Texas 75201 Telephone: (469) 895-4790 Facsimile: (469) 895-4802 jansley@vedderprice.com

#### **EDMUNDSON SHELTON WEISS PLLC**

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## COUNSEL FOR MANJIT SINGH "ROGER" SAHOTA

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on February 18, 2022, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing instrument was filed electronically through the Court's CM/ECF system, which will give notice of this filing to all parties.

<u>/s/ Jeff J. Ansley</u> Jeffrey J. Ansley

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND	§	
EXCHANGE COMMISSION,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO. 4-21CV-13100
	§	
THE HEARTLAND GROUP	§	
VENTURES, LLC, et al.,	§	
	§	
Defendants,	§	
	§	
and	§	
	§	
DODSON PRAIRIE OIL & GAS LLC, et	§	
al.	§	
	§	
Relief Defendants.	§	
	§	

# **DECLARATION OF SUNNY SAHOTA**

I, Sunny Sahota, declare under penalty of perjury, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the following is true and correct:

1. I am over the age of 18 and competent to testify to the facts stated herein. Between approximately January 2019 to the present, I have worked closely with my father, Roger Sahota, and the various oil and gas businesses he operated, including Dallas Resources Inc, Barron Petroleum LLC, Arcooil Corp. and Leading Edge Energy LLC (the "Sahota-related entities"). During that period, I had access to the books and records of the companies, including bank records, and reviewed daily reports regarding the receipts and expenses of the companies.

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2. After reviewing the bank statements and other accounting records, and based on my personal knowledge, I am providing this declaration and the spreadsheet I created (attached as Exhibit A) to explain the income that the Sahota-related entities received (a) from non-Heartland sources, (b) from Heartland specifically for the purchase of interests in mineral leases, and (c) the bank account balances at the beginning of each of 2018-2021.

3. I submit this declaration in support of an objection filed by Roger Sahota to the Receiver's motion to sell an airplane and helicopter that are owned by a Sahota-related entity.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the

foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 16, 2022

SUNNY SAHOTA

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Exhibit A

Sunny Sahota Declaration February 16, 2022

Accounting for Non-Heartland Deposits, Balance Carry Forwa	ards	
and Mineral Lease Interests Sold		
2018		
Non Heartland Deposits		\$6,727,556.46
Balance Carried Forward from 2018		\$11,661.23
	Total	\$6,727,556.46
2019		
Non Heartland Deposits		\$2,271,431.77
Balance Carried Forward from 2018		\$930,069.29
Heartland Mineral Lease Interest Purchases		\$8,064,000.00
	Total	\$11,265,501.06
2020		
Non Heartland Deposits		\$1,662,422.58
Balance Carried Forward from 2019		\$991,385.86
Heartland Mineral Lease Interest Purchases		\$9,227,140.95
	Total	\$11,880,949.39
2021		
Non Heartland Deposits		\$1,493,110.82
Balance Carried Forward from 2020		\$3,049,304.09
Heartland Mineral Lease Interest Purchases		\$4,718,811.60
	Total	\$9,261,226.51
Total Non Heartland Deposits In Sahota Accounts From 2018-20	21	\$12,154,521.63

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