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

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§	No. 4:21-cv-1310
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§	Hon. Reed O'Connor
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PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT ROGER SAHOTA'S MOTION TO LIFT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

In its TRO and Ancillary Relief (ECF No. 12, the "Order"), the Court directed defendant Roger Sahota ("Sahota") to surrender his passport to the Clerk of the Court, and prohibited him from traveling outside the United States, "until this Court finds that he, as well as any and all Defendants and Relief Defendants over which he maintains or maintained or exercised or exercises control, has fully complied with the provisions of this Order." (*Id.*, § VII)

While other parts of that Order have since been superseded by preliminary injunctions, the travel restrictions in the Order remain in effect. As the Order states:

Solely those aspects of this Order that constitute a temporary restraining order pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Sections I through V of this Order, shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on December 16, 2021, unless otherwise ordered by this Court.

(*Id.*, § X(D)) Thus, the travel restrictions – contained in Section VII of the Order – did not expire on December 16, and remain operative.

In his Motion to Lift Travel Restrictions ("Motion"), Sahota argues that the Court should lift the travel restriction because he has "substantially complied with the TRO." (ECF No. 211, \P 3)

On the contrary, Sahota has mostly *ignored* the Court's Order. Consider:

- The Court ordered Sahota to surrender his passport to the Clerk of the Court. (*Id.*, § VII(A)) He never did so.
- The Court ordered Sahota to repatriate his offshore assets, and to provide the Court with a written description of all such assets. (*Id.*, § VI) He never did so.
- The Court ordered Sahota to provide a "sworn, interim accounting, under oath" of his assets and accounts within five days of the Order. (*Id.*, § XIII) He never did so. ¹
- The Court ordered Sahota to immediately identify "with specificity to the SEC all accounts, including bank accounts, brokerage accounts, retirement accounts, and/or trust accounts, in which that Asset Freeze Party has an ownership or beneficial interest." (ECF No. 14, ¶ H) He never did so.

Fortunately, it's not too late for Sahota to help the Receivership in three tangible ways:

2

Sahota claims to have provided the Court with an accounting as part of his motion to terminate or modify the asset freeze. (ECF No. 130) Sahota filed the brief in support of that motion more than *10 weeks after* this Court entered the Order. The Order required him to file his sworn accounting within *five days of its issuance*. (ECF No. 12, § XIII) More importantly, that brief contains almost none of the information required by the Court as part of the accounting. *Compare* ECF No. 12, § XIII (setting forth what Sahota must include in the interim accounting) *with* ECF No. 130 (Sahota's submission that he claims includes the required accounting).

- 1. Sahota should transfer to the Receiver title to the *Bahama properties* that he bought with funds of entities now administered by the Receiver, as discussed in **Section A** below.
- 2. Sahota should transfer title to the Receiver of several *vehicles* that this Court has already authorized the Receiver to sell (**Section B**).
- 3. Sahota should provide the Receiver with the "Bitlocker Recovery Key" or password for *four computers* (Section C).

Once Sahota has done so, the SEC will support lifting the travel restrictions.

A. The Bahama Properties

There are at least two properties in the Bahamas owned or controlled by Sahota, and perhaps an option on a third. ArcoOil Corp. and Barron Petroleum LLC, once controlled by Sahota and now overseen by the Receiver, spent about \$1.9 million to buy the properties, using at least \$640,000 of Heartland's money to do so. (*See* Ex. 1 attached hereto, Declaration of Rebecca Hollenbeck, ¶¶ 9 - 9(d))

The Receiver has requested that Sahota help effectuate transfer of control and title of the Bahamian real estate to the Receiver. Thus far, Sahota has been uncooperative.

B. The Vehicles

Sahota bought several vehicles with the funds of Receivership Parties, including Dallas Resources Inc. (Ex. 1 hereto, Hollenbeck Decl., ¶ 10) The Court has already authorized the sale of at least one of those vehicles. (ECF No. 124) Many of the vehicles are titled to Sahota himself. *See, e.g.*, ECF No. 219, Ex. A (listing vehicles). The Receiver, through her counsel, has asked Sahota to assign title of the vehicles to the Receivership. To date, Sahota has not done so. Until he does, the Receiver cannot sell the vehicles.

C. The Laptops

The Receivership is in possession of four tablets or laptops, belonging to

Receivership Parties, which are inaccessible because the Receiver lacks the password

or "Bitlocker Recovery Key" to unlock them. These include three Microsoft Surface

tablets that the Receiver found at the Eldorado ranch, and an Apple MacBook Pro

laptop that the Receiver found at Sahota's San Angelo residence. Receivership Party

Dallas Resources owned both properties. Sahota apparently used at least two of the

tablets. He has represented that his son, Relief Defendant Monrose Sahota, owned

the laptop, while his other son, Relief Defendant Sunny Sahota, owned the third

tablet.

The SEC proposes that the Court order Sahota to provide such assistance by a

date certain, after which the Receiver will submit a status report. If the Receiver

reports that Sahota has provided the assistance sought above, the SEC is prepared to

agree to the relief sought in the Motion. Unless he does so, however, the SEC

opposes the Motion for the reasons set forth herein, and asks that Sahota be directed

to fully adhere to the operative portions of the Order.

Dated: June 23, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES SECURITIES

AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

By: /s/ Jonathan S. Polish

Jonathan S. Polish

4

Jonathan S. Polish (IL Bar No. 6237890) Stephanie L. Reinhart (IL Bar No. 6287179)

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

175 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1450 Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353-6884 (Polish) PolishJ@SEC.gov (312) 886-9899 (Reinhart) ReinhartS@SEC.gov

Keefe Bernstein (Texas Bar No. 24006839)

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

801 Cherry Street, Suite 1900 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 (817) 900-2607 BernsteinK@sec.gov

EXHIBIT 1

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

UNITED STATES SECURITIES	§	
AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,	§	
Plaintiff,	§ §	
v.	§ §	No. 4:21-cv-1310
THE HEARTLAND GROUP VENTURES, LLC, et al.,	§ § §	Hon. Reed O'Connor
Defendants,	§ § §	
	§	

DECLARATION OF REBECCA HOLLENBECK

- I, Rebecca Hollenbeck, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the following is true and correct:
- 1. I am a Senior Accountant with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") in its Chicago Regional Office, located at 175 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1450, Chicago, Illinois 60604. I have been employed as an accountant by the SEC since April 2003. My official duties with the SEC include participating in fact-finding inquiries and investigations to determine whether the federal securities laws have been, are presently being, or are about to be violated and assisting in the SEC's litigation of enforcement actions.
- 2. I received a Bachelor of Arts in Public Accounting from Illinois Wesleyan University in May 2002. I am a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the State of Illinois.
- 3. As part of my duties, I was assigned to participate in the SEC's investigation involving Heartland Production and Recovery LLC and related entities ("Heartland"). In

connection with this assignment, I have reviewed the SEC's files concerning the offer and sale of Heartland securities by certain of the defendants in this matter, including Heartland Production and Recovery LLC, Heartland Production and Recovery Fund LLC, Heartland Production and Recovery Fund II LLC, The Heartland Group Ventures, LLC, Heartland Drilling Fund I, LP, The Heartland Group Fund III, LLC, and Carson Oil Field Development Fund II, LP (whom I collectively refer to herein as "Heartland Defendants"), and their use of investor funds. I have also reviewed documents concerning the use of investor funds by other defendants in this matter, including defendant Manjit Singh ("Roger") Sahota, related Defendants in this matter ArcoOil Corp. ("ArcoOil") and Barron Petroleum LLC ("Barron Petroleum"), and documents concerning the use of investor funds by related Relief Defendants in this matter Barron Energy Corp., Dallas Resources Inc. ("Dallas Resources"), Leading Edge Energy LLC, Sahota Capital LLC, and 1178137 B.C. Ltd. (collectively the "Sahota Relief Defendants"). The files I have reviewed include, among other things, records from various banks obtained during the investigation and pending litigation, including bank records pertaining to the Heartland Defendants, Sahota-related Defendants ArcoOil Corp. and Barron Petroleum LLC, and the Sahota Relief Defendants; documents produced by the court-appointed Receiver in this matter, various defendants in this matter, and third parties; and additional documents obtained by the SEC during the course of its investigation and pending litigation in this matter.

4. Based upon my review of the information described in paragraph 3, I am informed and believe, and therefore state, the information set forth below.

A. BANK ACCOUNTS

5. Since October 1, 2018, the Sahota Defendants have opened and/or used at least five bank accounts, including the following:

- a. ArcoOil Corp. bank account x5581 at JP Morgan Chase Bank, opened August 2017; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over ArcoOil Corp., Mandeep Kaur Sahota, Harprit Sahota, and Monrose Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
- b. ArcoOil Corp. bank account x4116 at Bank of Jackson Hole, opened June 2021; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over ArcoOil Corp., Manjit Singh Sahota, Monrose Sahota, and Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
- c. Barron Petroleum LLC bank account x6891 at Wells Fargo Bank, opened February 2019; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Barron Petroleum LLC, Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
- d. Barron Petroleum LLC bank account x0550 at First State Bank; opened August 2020; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Barron Petroleum LLC, Manjit Singh Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
- e. Barron Petroleum LLC bank account x4132 at Bank of Jackson Hole, opened June 2021; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Barron Petroleum LLC, Manjit Singh Sahota, Monrose Sahota, and Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
- 6. Since October 1, 2018, the Sahota Relief Defendants have opened and used at least ten bank accounts, including the following:
 - a. Barron Energy Corp. bank account x4815 at Wells Fargo Bank, opened June 2021; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Barron Energy Corp., Sunny Sahota, Manjit Sahota, and Monrose Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
 - b. Barron Energy Corp. bank account x4108 at Bank of Jackson Hole, opened June 2021; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Barron Energy Corp., Manjit Singh Sahota, Monrose Sahota, and Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
 - c. Dallas Resources Inc. bank account x3910 at Wells Fargo Bank, opened September 2018; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Dallas Resources Inc., Harprit Sahota and Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
 - d. Dallas Resources Inc. bank account x8283 at Wells Fargo Bank, opened September 2018; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Dallas Resources Inc., Harprit Sahota and Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.

- e. Dallas Resources Inc. bank account x4140 at Bank of Jackson Hole, opened June 2021; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Dallas Resources Inc., Manjit Singh Sahota, Monrose Sahota, and Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
- f. Leading Edge Energy LLC bank account x8608 at JP Morgan Chase Bank, opened April 2017; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Leading Edge Energy LLC, Mandeep Kaur Sahota and an individual with the initials B.L. had signatory authority over the account.
- g. Sahota Capital Corp. bank account x4124 at Bank of Jackson Hole, opened June 2021; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Sahota Capital Corp., Manjit Singh Sahota, Monrose Sahota, and Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
- h. Sahota Capital Corp. bank account x2033 at First Financial Bank, opened June 2021; prior to the Court's appointment of a Receiver over Sahota Capital Corp., Manjit Sahota and Sunny Sahota had signatory authority over the account.
- i. 1178137 B.C. LTD bank account x9049 at Toronto Dominion Bank, opened September 2018 and closed July 2021. Monraaj Sahota and an individual with the initials G.S. had signatory authority over the account.
- j. 1178137 B.C. LTD bank account x1119 at Toronto Dominion Bank, opened September 2018 and closed August 2020. Monraaj Sahota and an individual with the initials G.S. had signatory authority over the account.

B. HEARTLAND DEFENDANTS' PAYMENTS TO SAHOTA-RELATED DEFENDANTS ARCOOIL CORP. AND BARRON PETROLEUM LLC AND RELIEF DEFENDANT DALLAS RESOURCES INC.

- 7. From February 2019 to September 2021, the Heartland Defendants made approximately \$54.4 million in payments to bank accounts held by Sahota-related Defendants ArcoOil Corp. and Barron Petroleum LLC and to Sahota Relief Defendant Dallas Resources Inc., all of which are Receivership entities (see Order Appointing Receiver at ECF 17). Those payments are as follows:
 - a. From July 2019 to September 2021, the Heartland Defendants made approximately \$43.8 million in payments to the Barron Petroleum LLC bank account x6891 at Wells Fargo Bank.
 - b. From February 2019 to June 2019, the Heartland Defendants made approximately **\$10.6 million** in payments to the **Dallas Resources Inc.**

- bank account x3910 at Wells Fargo Bank, or to Dallas Resources through payments to a law firm that held the funds in escrow before transferring them to Dallas Resources.
- c. From October 2019 to February 2020, the Heartland Defendants made approximately \$37,000 in payments to the **ArcoOil Corp.** bank account x5581 at JP Morgan Chase Bank.

C. USE OF FUNDS BY THE SAHOTA-RELATED DEFENDANTS ARCOOIL CORP. AND BARRON PETROLEUM INC. AND RELIEF DEFENDANT DALLAS RESOURCES INC.

8. Between February 2019 and September 2021, the bank accounts of Sahota-related Defendants ArcoOil Corp. and Barron Petroleum LLC and Relief Defendant Dallas Resources Inc., all of which are now Receivership entities (see Order Appointing Receiver at ECF 17), received approximately \$54.4 million from the Heartland Defendants, representing approximately 80% of all funds received by those Sahota-related accounts between February 2019 and September 2021.

Bahamas-related expenditures

- 9. Based on my review of bank records of the Sahota-related Defendants ArcoOil
 Corp. and Barron Petroleum LLC, those entities used funds transferred from the Heartland
 Defendants for, among other things, expenditures related to real estate in the Bahamas that they
 would have been unable to make without Heartland funds according to my analysis of the bank
 record activity. Those transfers include:
 - a. On May 19, 2020, ArcoOil Corp. account x5881 at JP Morgan Chase Bank wired \$267,750.25 to third party Alexiou Knowles and Co. in Nassau, Bahamas. The wire details of that transaction state "CAT ISLAND BUTLER TRACT DOWN PAYMENT."
 - b. On December 23, 2020, ArcoOil Corp. account x5881 at JP Morgan Chase Bank wired \$87,011.25 to third party Alexiou Knowles and Co. in Nassau, Bahamas. The wire details of that transaction state "CAT ISLAND SALTY BLUE HOUSE .4 ACRE DEPOSIT."

- c. On January 8, 2021, ArcoOil Corp. account x5881 at JP Morgan Chase Bank wired \$99,710.75 to third party Alexiou Knowles and Co. in Nassau, Bahamas. The wire details of that transaction state "9 ACRE DEPOSIT/RETAINER AND WAYPOINT EIA INVOICE 247 REAL ESTATE PURCHASE."
- d. On March 18, 2021 and March 23, 2021, Barron Petroleum LLC account x0550 at First State Bank wired \$778,512 and \$640,123.40, respectively, to third party Alexiou Knowles and Co. in Nassau, Bahamas. The wire details of those transactions state "Purchase of Salty Blue House (Buying a home)" and "Dallas Purchase of 9 Acre House," respectively. Of the total approximately \$1.4 million of these two wires, approximately \$641,000 was funded with Heartland monies received from Dallas Resources Inc. bank account x3910 at Wells Fargo Bank on March 12, 2021 and March 19, 2021.

Automobile-related expenditures

Resources Inc., that entity used funds for, among other things, automobile-related expenditures. These include the following: on March 15, 2019, Dallas Resources Inc. account x3910 at Wells Fargo Bank wired approximately \$77,360 to IronPlanet Inc. The wire details state "Memo 2039362 1972911 2039363 2039339 2079665 1968560 2079666" (bolding added to original). Based on my review of documents provided by the court-appointed Receiver in the pending litigation, Item 2039362 appears to be a 2014 Ford F-250 Super Duty 4x4 Extended Cab Pickup with VIN number 1FT7X2B69EEA98009.

- I, Rebecca Hollenbeck, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury, in accordance with 28 U.S.C.
- § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on the 23rd day of June 2022.

Rebecca Hollenbeck

Reteur C. Hollenbell

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On June 23, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the clerk of court for this U.S. District Court using the electronic case filing system of the court. The electronic case filing system sent a "Notice of Electronic Filing" to all attorneys of record who have consented in writing to accept this Notice as service of this document by electronic means. I have further emailed this filing to *pro se* defendants James Ikey at James.ikeyrcg@gmail.com and Roger Sahota at RogerSahota207@gmail.com.

/s/ Jonathan S. Polish