IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

IN RE: PORSCHE CARS NORTH AMERICA, INC. PLASTIC COOLANT TUBES PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

Civil Action No.: 2:11-MD-2233

Judge Gregory L. Frost Magistrate Judge E. A. Preston Deavers

This document relates to:

ALL ACTIONS

JOINT MOTION TO MODIFY THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS

The Representative Class Plaintiffs and Defendant Porsche Cars North America, Inc.,

jointly by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby move the Court to modify the proposed

Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims filed with the Court on July 26, 2013, as described

herein. A supporting memorandum describing the proposed modifications and the reasons

therefor is attached.

/s/ Terrance M. Miller

Terrance M. Miller Bryan R. Faller **Porter Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP** 41 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215-6194

Dated: March 7, 2014

Counsel for Porsche Cars North America, Inc.

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF THE PARTIES' JOINT MOTION TO MODIFY <u>THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS</u>

On May 6, 2013, Defendant Porsche Cars North America, Inc. ("PCNA") and the Representative Class Plaintiffs (individually and as representatives of the proposed Settlement Class),¹ entered into a proposed Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims ("Settlement Agreement") (Doc. 134), which was filed with the Court on July 26, 2013. Notice of the settlement was mailed to Class members on December 12, 2013. *See* Declaration of Jennifer M. Keough (Doc. 162) ¶ 5. The Notice states that "[a]ll claims for a benefit under this Settlement must be made no later than December 12, 2014." *See* Class Notice (Doc. 146), at 1-2. In other words, the Notice tied the claims-submission period exclusively to the mailing, which was the only date certain then available. The proposed Settlement Agreement, however, was inadvertently drafted to provide that the final date for filing claims is "within one year of the Effective Date of Settlement or mailing of the Notice, whichever is later." *See* Settlement

¹ Capitalized terms in this memorandum have the meaning set forth in the proposed Settlement Agreement.

Agreement (Doc. 134) ¶¶ 48, 51. This language created an ambiguity within the Settlement Agreement itself, which, like the Notice, provides for a one-year claims submission period.

The Parties agree that they never intended to tie the deadline for submitting Claims Forms to anything other than the mailing of the Notice, and that their intent has always been to create a one-year claims period commencing when the Notice was mailed. The Notice therefore accurately represents the Parties' intent.

The proposed Settlement Agreement permits the Parties to amend the Agreement upon "the express written consent of Class Counsel and PCNA." *See* Settlement Agreement (Doc. 134) ¶ 70. In order to avoid any ambiguity between the approved Notice and the proposed Settlement Agreement, the Parties agree that Paragraphs 48 and 51 of the proposed Settlement Agreement should be removed and replaced with the following provisions:

- 48. In order to receive the benefits set forth in ¶ 47, Settlement Class members must submit a Claims Form, in accordance with ¶¶ 51-55 (below), within one year of mailing of the Notice. This applies both to those Settlement Class members who seek reimbursement for past expenses, as well as those who will seek full or partial payment for future repairs.
- 51. All claims must be submitted (i.e., transmitted or postmarked) within one year of mailing of the Notice. This applies both to those Settlement Class members who seek reimbursement for past expenses, as well as those who will seek full or partial payment for future repairs. Class members who fail to submit valid claims within the one-year time period cannot obtain reimbursement or payment for repairs, and will be bound by the provisions and releases of this Settlement Agreement and the Final Approval Order and Judgment.

All capitalized terms in these paragraphs will have the meaning identified in the proposed

Settlement Agreement. The sole effect of these changes is to tie the deadline for submitting a

Claims Form to the mailing of the Notice rather than the Effective Date of Settlement. Since this

change conforms the proposed Settlement Agreement to the Notice that Class Members have

Case: 2:11-md-02233-GLF-EPD Doc #: 174 Filed: 03/07/14 Page: 4 of 7 PAGEID #: 4238

already received, no additional notice to the class is necessary. However, the Parties have agreed to send to the class on or about April 10, 2014 a reminder notice that all claims must be submitted on or before December 12, 2014.

This modification will not prejudice the Settlement Class because they have received the Notice of the claims deadline, and a one-year period for submitting claims provides ample opportunity for Settlement Class members to obtain settlement benefits. Indeed, the reminder notice to which the Parties have agreed as a condition of this modification will serve as an extra benefit to Settlement Class members who may have overlooked the original Notice.

Accordingly, the Parties jointly request that the Court enter an order approving modification of the proposed Settlement Agreement in the manner described above.

Respectfully submitted,

Class Counsel for Representative Class Plaintiffs:

/s/ Eric J. Buescher

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Dated: March 7, 2014

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Dated: March 7, 2014

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Dated: March 7, 2014

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Dated: March 7, 2014

Case: 2:11-md-02233-GLF-EPD Doc #: 174 Filed: 03/07/14 Page: 5 of 7 PAGEID #: 4239

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Dated: March 7, 2014

/s/ Terrance M. Miller

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Dated: March 7, 2014

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, on March 7, 2014, I filed the foregoing Joint Motion to Modify the Proposed Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims via the Court's CM/ECF system, and therefore an electronic copy will be delivered to the following counsel of record:

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Case: 2:11-md-02233-GLF-EPD Doc #: 174 Filed: 03/07/14 Page: 7 of 7 PAGEID #: 4241

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