

Brian J. Mankin, Esq. [CSB No. 216228]
brian@lmlfirm.com
Peter J. Carlson, Esq. [CSB No. 295611]
peter@lmlfirm.com
LAUBY, MANKIN & LAUBY LLP
5198 Arlington Avenue, PMB 513
Riverside, CA 92504
Tel: (951) 320-1444 | Fax: (951) 320-1445

Attorneys for Plaintiff, on a representative basis and on behalf of all others similarly situated

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

STEVEN PORTER, ANDRE STOKES,
TODD GASSER, CURTIS BALDWIN,
ROBB LEWIS, ANTONIO REYES, and
BERNARDO ROMERO, individually, on
a representative basis, and on behalf of all
others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN CHRISTNER TRUCKING, LLC,
an Oklahoma Limited Liability Company;
HIRSCHBACH, INC., an Indiana
Corporation; HIRSCHBACH MOTOR
LINES, INC., an Iowa Corporation; and
DOES 1 through 20, inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.: CVRI2406864
*[Assigned to Hon. Harold Hopp, Dept 1, for all
purposes]*

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF STEVEN
PORTER IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

1 I, Steven Porter, state and declare:

2 1. I am one of the Plaintiffs in the above captioned action. I have personal
3 knowledge of all matters stated herein and could competently testify thereto. I make this
4 declaration in support of the motion for final approval of the class action settlement. I believe the
5 settlement is fair and reasonable and is a fair resolution of the claims alleged.

6 2. When I was driving for Defendants, there were several issues with how I was
7 treated and paid. Because of these issues, I started researching California law and contacted
8 attorneys regarding how I was treated. I then contacted my attorneys and understood that I had
9 two options: (1) I could bring a class action to help all of the employees, but I would have to put
10 their interests ahead of my own, or (2) I could bring my individual case and claims and attempt
11 to maximize my individual recovery. This decision was very difficult because I wanted to
12 maximize my individual recovery, but I also wanted to help everyone else that was wronged by
13 the company. And, if I brought a class action, I was worried that I might get labeled as a
14 whistleblower, which might make it hard to find a job in the future. In the end, I decided that –
15 despite the risks – it was important to bring these claims as a class action to hold the company
16 accountable for how they treated their truck drivers.

17 3. I respectfully request that the Court approve the agreed-upon service award for
18 the following reasons.

19 4. *First*, in agreeing to bring this class action to benefit other drivers, I agreed to set
20 aside my personal interests and to put the interests of the class ahead of my own. In doing so, and
21 by successfully bringing this case as a class action, I helped to obtain a highly beneficial
22 settlement for the class members.

23 5. *Second*, I have spent substantial time working on this case – at least 50 hours
24 engaged in activities to benefit the class over the years since we filed the class action. I have
25 been an active participant in this litigation and have assisted my attorneys in numerous ways,
26 including helping to explain and discuss the company's practices and their general practices and
27 procedures, locating and analyzing company documents, and communicating with other class
28 members. These efforts occurred through numerous telephone conferences, letters, emails, and

1 text communications. I also assisted in preparation for mediation and helped obtain a positive
2 result for the class. My work also continued after mediation, as I reviewed settlement agreements
3 and other settlement documents, and continued communication with Class Counsel and other
4 class members during the settlement approval processes.

5 6. *Third*, as part of agreeing to put the interests of the Class first, I also had to agree
6 – as part of the settlement – to waive all of my claims against the company, which other drivers
7 were not required to do.

8 7. *Fourth*, by bringing this class action, I undertook significant risks and stresses at a
9 high emotional cost without any guarantee of success. For example, filing this lawsuit and being
10 a whistle blower was stressful on a day-to-day basis as I have constantly worried about the risk
11 that this case could impact my ability to find future jobs. And this stress/risk lasted for the entire
12 case, and I’m still worried it may make it hard to find a job in the future.

13 8. *Fifth*, bringing this case also came with a major financial risk because, if I lost the
14 case, I would be required to pay the company’s costs, which could be over \$10,000, and there
15 was a chance they could try to make me pay their attorneys’ fees as well.

16 9. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Court award the full requested service
17 award since that amount is justified based on the facts above. As requested by the Court, I hereby
18 state that I expect to receive an Individual Class Payment \$4,067.72 and an Individual PAGA
19 Payment of \$42.16.

20 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
21 foregoing is true and correct. Executed on Jun 29, 2026, at Porterville, California.

22 By: 
23 Steven Alexander porter (Jun 29, 2026 13:19:06 PDT)
24 Steven Porter
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