

# Attachment G

## Participation Agreement

**AGREEMENT FOR LIMITATION ON APPRAISED VALUE  
OF PROPERTY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAXES**

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by and between

**GREGORY-PORTLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

and

**TPCO AMERICA CORPORATION**  
*(Texas Taxpayer ID # 32037771832)*

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Dated

November 15, 2011

**AGREEMENT FOR LIMITATION ON APPRAISED VALUE OF PROPERTY FOR  
SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAXES**

*STATE OF TEXAS* §

*COUNTY OF SAN PATRICIO* §

THIS AGREEMENT FOR LIMITATION ON APPRAISED VALUE OF PROPERTY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAXES, hereinafter referred to as this "Agreement," is executed and delivered by and between the **GREGORY-PORTLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**, hereinafter referred to as the "District," a lawfully created independent school district within the State of Texas operating under and subject to the Texas Education Code, and **TPCO AMERICA CORPORATION**, Texas Taxpayer Identification Number 32037771832, hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant." The Applicant and the District are each hereinafter sometimes referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties." Certain capitalized and other terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Section 1.3.

**RECITALS**

*WHEREAS*, on April 18, 2011, the Superintendent of Schools of the Gregory-Portland Independent School District, acting as agent of the Board of Trustees of the District (the "Board of Trustees"), received from the Applicant an Application for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property, and acknowledged receipt of the Application and the requisite application fee as established pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 313.025(a)(1) and Local District Policy CCG (Local) pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code; and,

*WHEREAS*, on April 19, 2011, the Board of Trustees authorized the Superintendent to accept, on behalf of the District, the Application from TPCO America Corporation; and,

*WHEREAS*, on May 11, 2011, the Application was delivered to the Texas Comptroller's Office for review pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 313.025(d); and,

*WHEREAS*, by letter dated May 20, 2011, the Comptroller's Office has established May 20, 2011 as the completed Application date; and,

*WHEREAS*, pursuant to 34 Tex. Admin Code §9.1054, the Application was delivered for review to the San Patricio County Appraisal District established in San Patricio County, Texas (the "San Patricio County Appraisal District"), pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 6.01; and,

*WHEREAS*, the Application was reviewed by the Texas Comptroller's Office pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 313.025(d), and on June 6, 2011, the Comptroller's Office, via letter, recommended that the Application be approved; and,

*WHEREAS*, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts conducted an economic impact evaluation pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code which was presented to the Board of Trustees at the November 15, 2011 public hearing held in connection with the Board's consideration of the Application; and,

*WHEREAS*, the Board of Trustees has carefully reviewed the economic impact evaluation pursuant to Tex. Tax Code § 313.026 and has carefully considered such The Comptroller's positive recommendation for the project; and,

*WHEREAS*, Applicant, pursuant to the provisions of Texas Tax Code § 313.025 (b) and 34 Tex. Admin Code § 9.1054(d), has requested an extension of time for the Board of Trustees Approval of the Application and on November 15, 2011 the Board of Trustees granted such extension until December 31, 2011, and caused timely notice of such extension to be sent to the Comptroller's office; and,

*WHEREAS*, on November 15, 2011, the Board of Trustees conducted a public hearing on the Application at which it solicited input into its deliberations on the Application from all interested parties within the District; and,

*WHEREAS*, on November 15, 2011, the Board of Trustees made factual findings pursuant to Tex. Tax Code § 313.025(f), including, but not limited to findings that: (i) the information in the Application is true and correct; (ii) this Agreement is in the best interest of the District and the State of Texas; (iii) the Applicant is eligible for the Limitation on Appraised Value of the Applicant's Qualified Property; and, (iv) each criterion listed in Texas Tax Code § 313.025(e) has been met; and,

*WHEREAS*, on November 15, 2011, the Board of Trustees determined that the Tax Limitation Amount requested by Applicant, and as defined in Sections 1.2 and 1.3, below, is consistent with the minimum values set out by Tax Code, §§ 313.022(b) and 313.052, as such Tax Limitation Amount was computed as of the date of this Agreement; and,

*WHEREAS*, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, the District received written notification, pursuant to 34 Tex. Admin Code § 9.1055(e)(2)(A), that the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts reviewed this Agreement, and reaffirming the recommendation previously made on June 6, 2011 that the Application be approved: and,

*WHEREAS*, on November 15, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved the form of this Agreement for a Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes, and authorized the Board President and Secretary to execute and deliver such Agreement to the Applicant;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, for and in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the Parties agree as follows:

## ARTICLE I

### AUTHORITY, TERM, DEFINITIONS, AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Section 1.1. AUTHORITY

This Agreement is executed by the District as its written agreement with the Applicant pursuant to the provisions and authority granted to the District in Texas Tax Code § 313.027.

#### Section 1.2. TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall commence and first become effective on the Commencement Date, as defined in Section 1.3, below. In the event that Applicant makes a Qualified Investment in the amount defined in Section 2.6 below, between the Commencement Date and the end of the Qualifying Time Period, Applicant will be entitled to the Tax Limitation Amount defined in Section 1.3 below, for the following Tax Years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The limitation on the local ad valorem property values for Maintenance and Operations purposes shall commence with the property valuations made as of January 1, 2014, the appraisal date for the third full Tax Year following the Commencement Date.

The period beginning with the Commencement Date of November 15, 2011 and ending on December 31, 2013 will be referred to herein as the "Qualifying Time Period," as that term is defined in Texas Tax Code § 313.021(4). Applicant shall not be entitled to a tax limitation during the Qualifying Time Period.

Unless sooner terminated as provided herein, the limitation on the local ad valorem property values shall terminate on December 31, 2021. Except as otherwise provided herein, this Agreement will terminate in full on the Final Termination Date, as defined in Section 1.3, below. The termination of this Agreement shall not (i) release any obligations, liabilities, rights and remedies arising out of any breach of, or failure to comply with, this Agreement occurring prior to such termination, or (ii) affect the right of a Party to enforce the payment of any amount to which such Party was entitled before such termination or to which such Party became entitled as a result of an event that occurred before such termination, so long as the right to such payment survives said termination.

Except as otherwise provided herein, the Tax Years for which this Agreement is effective are as set forth below and set forth opposite each such Tax Year are the corresponding year in the term of this Agreement, the date of the Appraised Value determination for such Tax Year, and a summary description of certain provisions of this Agreement corresponding to such Tax Year (it being understood and agreed that such summary descriptions are for reference purposes only, and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement):

<b>Full Tax Year of Agreement</b>	<b>Date of Appraisal</b>	<b>School Year</b>	<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Summary Description of Provisions</b>
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<b>Full Tax Year of Agreement</b>	<b>Date of Appraisal</b>	<b>School Year</b>	<b>Tax Year</b>	<b>Summary Description of Provisions</b>
Partial Year (Commencing November 15, 2011)	January 1, 2011	2011-12	2011	Start of Qualifying Time Period beginning with Commencement Date. No limitation on value. First year for computation of Annual Limit.
1	January 1, 2012	2012-13	2012	Qualifying Time Period. No limitation on value. Possible tax credit in future years.
2	January 1, 2013	2013-14	2013	Qualifying Time Period. No limitation on value. Possible tax credit in future years.
3	January 1, 2014	2014-15	2014	\$ 20 million property value limitation.
4	January 1, 2015	2015-16	2015	\$ 20 million property value limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant.
5	January 1, 2016	2016-17	2016	\$ 20 million property value limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant.
6	January 1, 2017	2017-18	2017	\$ 20 million property value limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant.
7	January 1, 2018	2018-19	2018	\$ 20 million property value limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant.
8	January 1, 2019	2019-20	2019	\$ 20 million property value limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant.
9	January 1, 2020	2020-21	2020	\$ 20 million property value limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant.

Full Tax Year of Agreement	Date of Appraisal	School Year	Tax Year	Summary Description of Provisions
10	January 1, 2021	2021-22	2021	\$ 20 million property value limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant.
11	January 1, 2022	2022-23	2022	No tax limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant. Applicant obligated to Maintain Viable Presence if no early termination.
12	January 1, 2023	2023-24	2023	No tax limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant. Applicant obligated to Maintain Viable Presence if no early termination.
13	January 1, 2024	2024-25	2024	No tax limitation. Possible tax credit due to Applicant. Applicant obligated to Maintain Viable Presence if no early termination.

### Section 1.3. DEFINITIONS

Wherever used herein, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context in which used clearly indicates another meaning, to-wit:

“*Act*” means the Texas Economic Development Act set forth in Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code, as amended.

“*Affiliate*” means any entity that, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by or is under common control with the Applicant. For purposes of this definition, control of an entity means (i) the ownership, directly or indirectly, of fifty (50) percent or more of the voting rights in a company or other legal entity or (ii) the right to direct the management or operation of such entity whether by ownership (directly or indirectly) of securities, by contract or otherwise.

“*Affiliated Group*” means a group of one or more entities in which a controlling interest is owned by a common owner or owners, either corporate or non-corporate, or by one or more of the member entities.

“*Aggregate Limit*” means, for any year of this Agreement, the cumulative total of the Annual Limit amount for the current year and all previous years of the Agreement, less all amounts paid by the Applicant to or on behalf of the District under Article IV, below.

"Agreement" means this Agreement, as the same may be modified, amended, restated, amended and restated, or supplemented from time to time in accordance with Section 6.3.

"Annual Limit" means the maximum annual benefit which can be paid directly to the District as a Supplemental Payment under the provisions of Tex. Tax Code §313.027(i). For purposes of this Agreement, the amount of the Annual Limit shall be calculated for each year by multiplying the District's Average Daily Attendance for the applicable school year, as calculated pursuant to Tex. Educ. Code § 42.005 times the greater of \$100, or any larger amount allowed by Tex. Tax Code §313.027(i), if such limit amount is increased for any future year of this Agreement. The Annual Limit shall first be computed for tax year 2011, which, by virtue of the Commencement Date is the first year of the Qualifying Time Period under this Agreement.

"Applicant" means TPCO America Corporation. (*Texas Taxpayer ID # 32037771832*), the company listed in the Preamble of this Agreement who, on April 19, 2011, filed the Original Application with the District for an Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property, pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code. The term "Applicant" shall also include the Applicant's assigns and successors-in-interest.

"Applicable School Finance Law" means Chapters 41 and 42 of the Texas Education Code, the Texas Economic Development Act (Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code), Chapter 403, Subchapter M, of the Texas Government Code applicable to the District, and the Constitution and general laws of the State applicable to the independent school districts of the State, including specifically, the applicable rules and regulations of the agencies of the State having jurisdiction over any matters relating to the public school systems and school districts of the State, and judicial decisions construing or interpreting any of the above. The term also includes any amendments or successor statutes that may be adopted in the future that could impact or alter the calculation of the Applicant's ad valorem tax obligation to the District, either with or without the limitation of property values made pursuant to this Agreement.

"Application" means the Original Application for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property (Chapter 313, Subchapter B or C, of the Texas Tax Code) filed with the District by the Applicant on April 19, 2011, which has been certified by the Comptroller's office to constitute a complete final Application as of the date of May 20, 2011. The term includes all forms required by the Comptroller, the schedules attached thereto, and all other documentation submitted by Applicant for the purpose of obtaining an Agreement with the District. The term also includes all amendments and supplements thereto submitted by Applicant.

"Appraised Value" shall have the meaning assigned to such term in Section 1.04(8) of the Texas Tax Code.

"Appraisal District" means the San Patricio County Appraisal District.

"Board of Trustees" means the Board of Trustees of the Gregory-Portland Independent School District.

"Commencement Date" means November 15, 2011, the date upon which this Agreement was approved by the District's Board of Trustees.

"Completed Application Date" means the date upon which the Comptroller determined to be the date of its receipt of a completed Chapter 313 application from Applicant, to wit: May 20, 2011.

"Comptroller" means the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, or the designated representative of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts acting on behalf of the Comptroller.

"Comptroller's Rules" means the applicable rules and regulations of the Comptroller set forth at Chapter 34 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 9, Subchapter D, together with any court or administrative decisions interpreting same.

"County" means San Patricio County, Texas.

"Determination of Breach" shall have the meaning assigned to such term in Section 7.8 of the Agreement

"District" or "School District" means the Gregory-Portland Independent School District, being a duly authorized and operating independent school district in the State, having the power to levy, assess, and collect ad valorem taxes within its boundaries and to which Subchapter C of the Act applies. The term also includes any successor independent school district or other successor governmental authority having the power to levy and collect ad valorem taxes for school purposes on the Applicant's Qualified Property or the Applicant's Qualified Investment.

"Final Termination Date" means December 31, 2024. However, any payment obligations of any Party arising under this Agreement prior to the Final Termination Date will survive until paid by the Party owing same.

"Force Majeure" means a failure caused by (a) provisions of law, or the operation or effect of rules, regulations or orders promulgated by any governmental authority having jurisdiction over the Applicant, the Applicant's Qualified Property or the Applicant's Qualified Investment or any upstream, intermediate or downstream equipment or support facilities as are necessary to the operation of the Applicant's Qualified Property or the Applicant's Qualified Investment; (b) any demand or requisition, arrest, order, request, directive, restraint or requirement of any government or governmental agency whether federal, state, military, local or otherwise; (c) the action, judgment or decree of any court; (d) floods, storms, hurricanes, evacuation due to threats of hurricanes, lightning, earthquakes, washouts, high water, fires, acts of God or public enemies, wars (declared or undeclared), blockades, epidemics, riots or civil disturbances, insurrections, strikes, labor disputes (it being understood that nothing contained in this Agreement shall require the Applicant to settle any such strike or labor dispute), explosions, breakdown or failure of plant, machinery, equipment, lines of pipe or electric power lines (or unplanned or forced outages or shutdowns of the foregoing for inspections, repairs or maintenance), inability to obtain, renew or extend franchises, licenses or permits, loss, interruption, curtailment or failure to obtain electricity, gas, steam, water, wastewater disposal,

waste disposal or other utilities or utility services, inability to obtain or failure of suppliers to deliver equipment, parts or material, or inability of the Applicant to ship or failure of carriers to transport products from the Applicant's facilities; or (e) any other cause (except financial), whether similar or dissimilar, over which the Applicant has no reasonable control and which forbids or prevents performance.

"Land" shall have the meaning assigned to such term in Section 2.2.

"Maintain Viable Presence" means, after the development and construction of the project described in the Application and in the description of Qualified Investment/Qualified property as set forth in Section 2.3, below, (i) the operation over the term of this Agreement of the facility or facilities for which the tax limitation is granted, as the same may from time to time be expanded, upgraded, improved, modified, changed, remodeled, repaired, restored, reconstructed, reconfigured, and/or reengineered; (ii) the retention over the term of this Agreement of the number of New Jobs and Qualifying Jobs set forth in its Application by the Applicant, and the retention of the highest number of New Jobs and Qualifying Jobs set forth in its Application through the Final Termination Date of this Agreement.

"M&O Amount" shall have the meaning assigned to such term in Section 3.2 of the Agreement.

"Maintenance and Operations Revenue" or "M&O Revenue" means (i) those revenues which the District receives from the levy of its annual ad valorem maintenance and operations tax pursuant to Texas Education Code § 45.002 and Article VII § 3 of the Texas Constitution, plus (ii) all State revenues to which the District is or may be entitled under Chapter 42 of the Texas Education Code or any other statutory provision as well as any amendment or successor statute to these provisions, plus (iii) any indemnity payments received by the District under other agreements similar to this Agreement to the extent that such payments are designed to replace District M&O Revenue lost as a result of such similar agreements, less (iv) any amounts necessary to reimburse the State of Texas or another school district for the education of additional students pursuant to Chapter 41 of the Texas Education Code.

"Market Value" shall have the meaning assigned to such term in Section 1.04(7) of the Texas Tax Code.

"Net Tax Benefit" means (i) the amount of maintenance and operations ad valorem taxes which the Applicant would have paid to the District for all Tax Years if this Agreement had not been entered into by the Parties, (ii) adding to the amount determined under clause (i) all Tax Credits received by the Applicant under Chapter 313, Tax Code, and (iii) subtracting from the sum of the amounts determined under clauses (i) and (ii) the sum of (A) all maintenance and operations ad valorem school taxes actually due to the District or any other governmental entity, including the State of Texas, for all Tax Years of this Agreement, plus (B) any payments due to the District under Article III under this Agreement.

"New Jobs" means the total number of "new jobs" defined by 34 Texas Administrative Code §9.1051(14)(C), which the Applicant will create in connection with the project described in

the Application and in the description of the Applicant's Qualified Investment and Qualified Property as set forth in Section 2.3, below. In accordance with the requirements of Texas Tax Code §313.024(d), eighty percent (80%), of all New Jobs on the project, created by the Applicant, shall also be Qualifying Jobs, as defined below.

"Qualified Investment" has the meaning set forth in Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code, as interpreted by the Comptroller's Rules, as these provisions existed on the date of this Agreement, applying any specific requirements for rural school districts imposed by Subchapter C of Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code and by the Comptroller's Rules.

"Qualifying Jobs" means the number of New Jobs Applicant will create in connection with the project which is the subject of its Application, which meet the requirements of Tex. Tax Code 313.021(3).

"Qualified Property" has the meaning set forth in Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code, as interpreted by the Comptroller's Rules and the Texas Attorney General, as these provisions existed on the date of this Agreement, applying any specific requirements for rural school districts imposed by Subchapter C of Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code and by the Comptroller's Rules.

"Qualifying Time Period" means the period that begins on the Commencement Date of November 15, 2011 and ends on December 31, 2013.

"Revenue Protection Amount" means the amount calculated pursuant to Section 3.2 of this Agreement.

"State" means the State of Texas.

"Tax Credit" means the tax credit, either to be paid by the District to Applicant, or to be applied against any taxes that the school district imposes on Qualified Property, as computed under the provisions of Subchapter D of the Act, and rules adopted by the Comptroller and/or the Texas Education Agency, provided that Applicant complies with the requirements under such provisions, including the timely filing of a completed application under Texas Tax Code § 313.103 and the duly adopted administrative rules.

"Tax Limitation Amount" means the maximum amount which may be placed as the Appraised Value on Qualified Property/Qualified Investment for years three (3) through ten (10) of this Agreement pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 313.054. That is, for each of the eight (8) Tax Years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, the Appraised Value of the Applicant's Qualified Investment for the District's maintenance and operations ad valorem tax purposes shall not exceed, and the Tax Limitation Amount shall be, the lesser of:

- (a) the Market Value of the Applicant's Qualified Investment; or
- (b) Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00).

This Tax Limitation Amount is based on the limitation amount for the category that applies to the District on the effective date of this Agreement, as set out by Tax Code, §313.022(b) or §313.052.

"*Tax Year*" shall have the meaning assigned to such term in Section 1.04(13) of the Texas Tax Code (*i.e.*, the calendar year).

"*Taxable Value*" shall have the meaning assigned to such term in Section 1.04(10) of the Texas Tax Code.

"*Texas Education Agency Rules*" means the applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Texas Commissioner of Education in relation to the administration of Chapter 313, Texas Tax Code, which are set forth at Title 19 – Part 2, Texas Administrative Code, together with any court or administrative decisions interpreting same.

## ARTICLE II

### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

#### Section 2.1. LOCATION WITHIN A QUALIFIED REINVESTMENT OR ENTERPRISE ZONE

The Applicant's Qualified Property upon which the Applicant's Qualified Investment will be located is within an area designated as a reinvestment zone under Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code. The legal description of the reinvestment zone in which the Applicant's Qualified Property is located is attached to this Agreement as **EXHIBIT 1** and is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

#### Section 2.2. LOCATION OF QUALIFIED PROPERTY

The location of the Applicant's Qualified Property upon which the Applicant's Qualified Investment will be located is described in the legal description which is attached to this Agreement as **EXHIBIT 2** and is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. The Parties expressly agree that the boundaries of the Land may not be materially changed from its configuration described in **EXHIBIT 2** without the express authorization of each of the Parties.

#### Section 2.3. DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFIED INVESTMENT AND QUALIFIED PROPERTY

The Qualified Investment and/or Qualified Property that is subject to the Tax Limitation Amount is described in **EXHIBIT 3**, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes ("Applicant's Qualified Investment"). Qualified Investment shall be that property, described in **EXHIBIT 3**, which is placed in service under the terms of the Application, during the Qualifying Time Period described in both Section 1.2, above, and the definition of Qualifying Time Period set forth in Section 1.3, above. Qualified Property shall be all property, described in **EXHIBIT 3**, including, but not limited to, Applicant's Qualified Investment, together with the land described in **EXHIBIT 2** which: 1) is owned by Applicant; 2) was first placed in service after February 10, 2011, the completed Application date established by the Comptroller;

and 3) is used in connection with the activities described in the Application. Property which is not specifically described in EXHIBIT 3 shall not be considered by the District or the Appraisal District to be part of the Applicant's Qualified Investment or Qualified Property for purposes of this Agreement, unless pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 313.027(e) and Section 8.3 of this Agreement, the Board of Trustees, by official action, provides that such other property is a part of the Applicant's Qualified Investment for purposes of this Agreement.

Property owned by Applicant which is not described on EXHIBIT 3 may not be considered to be Qualified Property unless the Applicant:

- (a) submits to the school district and the Comptroller a written request to add property to the limitation agreement, which request shall include a specific description of the additional property to which the applicant requests that the limitation apply;
- (b) notifies the District and the Comptroller of any other changes to the information that was provided in the Application approved by the District; and,
- (c) provides any additional information reasonably requested by the District or the Comptroller necessary to re-evaluate the economic impact analysis for the new or changed conditions.

**Section 2.4. APPLICANT'S OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE CURRENT INVENTORY OF QUALIFIED PROPERTY**

At the end of the Qualifying Time Period, or at any other time when there is a material change in the Qualified Property located on the land described in EXHIBIT 2, upon a reasonable request of the District, the Comptroller, or the Appraisal District, Applicant shall provide to the District, the Comptroller, and the Appraisal District a specific and detailed description of the tangible personal property, buildings, or permanent, nonremovable building components (including any affixed to or incorporated into real property) on the Qualified Property to which the value limitation applies including maps or surveys of sufficient detail and description to locate all such described property within the boundaries of the real property which is subject to the agreement.

**Section 2.5. QUALIFYING USE**

The Applicant's Qualified Investment described above in Section 2.3 qualifies for a tax limitation agreement under Texas Tax Code § 313.024(b)(1) as a manufacturing facility.

**Section 2.6. LIMITATION ON APPRAISED VALUE**

So long as Applicant makes a Qualified Investment in the amount Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00), or greater, during the Qualifying Time Period; and unless this Agreement has been terminated as provided herein before such Tax Year, for each of the eight

(8) Tax Years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, the Appraised Value of the Applicant's Qualified Investment for the District's maintenance and operations ad valorem tax purposes shall not exceed the lesser of:

- (a) the Market Value of the Applicant's Qualified Investment; or
- (b) Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00).

This Tax Limitation Amount is based on the limitation amount for the category that applies to the District on the effective date of this Agreement, as set out by Tex. Tax Code § 313.023.

### ARTICLE III

#### PROTECTION AGAINST LOSS OF FUTURE DISTRICT REVENUES

##### Section 3.1. INTENT OF THE PARTIES

Subject to the limitations contained in this Agreement (including Section 5.1), it is the intent of the Parties that the District shall, in accordance with the provisions of Tex. Tax Code §313.027(f)(1), be compensated by the Applicant for any loss that the District incurs in its Maintenance and Operations Revenue as a result of, or on account of, entering into this Agreement, after taking into account any payments to be made under this Agreement. Such payments shall be independent of, and in addition to, all such other payments as are set forth in Article IV. Subject only to the limitations contained in this Agreement (including Section 5.1), it is the intent of the Parties that the risk of any negative financial consequence to the District in making the decision to enter into this Agreement will be borne by the Applicant and not by the District, and paid by Applicant to the District in addition to any and all payments due under Article IV.

##### Section 3.2. CALCULATING THE AMOUNT OF LOSS OF REVENUES BY THE DISTRICT

Subject to the provisions of Sections 5.1 and 5.2, the amount to be paid by the Applicant to compensate the District for loss of Maintenance and Operations Revenue resulting from, or on account of, this Agreement for each year during the term of this Agreement (the "M&O Amount") shall be determined in compliance with the Applicable School Finance Law in effect for such year and according to the following formula:

The M&O Amount owed by the Applicant to District means the Original M&O Revenue *minus* the New M&O Revenue;

Where:

- i. "Original M&O Revenue" means the total State and local Maintenance & Operations Revenue that the District would have received for the school year under the Applicable School Finance Law had this Agreement not been entered into by the Parties and

the Qualified Property and/or Qualified Investment been subject to the ad valorem maintenance & operations tax.

- ii. "New M&O Revenue" means the total State and local Maintenance & Operations Revenue that the District actually received for such school year, after all adjustments have been made to Maintenance and Operations Revenue because of any portion of this agreement.

In making the calculations required by this Section 3.2:

- i. The Taxable Value of property for each school year will be determined under the Applicable School Finance Law.
- ii. For purposes of this calculation, the tax collection rate on the Applicant's Qualified Property and/or the Applicant's Qualified Investment will be presumed to be one hundred percent (100%)
- iii. If, for any year of this Agreement, the difference between the Original M&O Revenue and the New M&O Revenue as calculated under this Section 3.2 results in a negative number, the negative number will be considered to be zero.
- iv. All calculations made for years three (3) through ten (10) of this Agreement under Section 3.2, Subsection *ii* of this Agreement will reflect the Tax Limitation Amount for such year.
- v. All calculations made under this Section 3.2 shall be made by a methodology which isolates the full M & O revenue impact caused by this Agreement. Applicant shall not be responsible to reimburse the District for other revenue losses created by other agreements, on account of any other factors not contained in this Agreement.

### **Section 3.3. COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF OTHER REVENUES**

In addition to the amounts determined pursuant to Section 3.2 above, and to the extent provided in Section 6.3, the Applicant, on an annual basis, shall also indemnify and reimburse the District for the following:

- (a) all non-reimbursed costs incurred by the District in paying or otherwise crediting to the account of Applicant any applicable tax credit to which Applicant may be entitled pursuant to Chapter 313, Subchapter D of the Texas Tax Code, and for which the District does not receive reimbursement from the State pursuant to Texas Educ. Code § 42.2515, or other similar or successor statute.

- (b) all non-reimbursed costs, certified by the District's external auditor to have been incurred by the District for extraordinary education-related expenses related to the project that are not directly funded in state aid formulas, including expenses for the purchase of portable classrooms and the hiring of additional personnel to accommodate a temporary increase in student enrollment attributable to the project. The Applicant may contest the amounts certified by the District's external auditor under the provisions of Section 3.8.
- (c) any other loss of District revenues which are, or may be, attributable to the payment by Applicant to or on behalf any other third party beneficiary.

#### **Section 3.4. CALCULATIONS TO BE MADE BY THIRD PARTY**

All calculations under this Agreement shall be made annually by an independent third party (the "Third Party") jointly approved each year by the District and the Applicant. If the Parties cannot agree on the Third Party, then the Third Party shall be selected by the mediator provided in Section 7.9 of this Agreement.

#### **Section 3.5. DATA USED FOR CALCULATIONS**

The calculations for payments under this Agreement shall be initially based upon the valuations placed upon the Applicant's Qualified Investment and/or the Applicant's Qualified Property by the San Patricio County Appraisal District in its annual certified tax roll submitted to the District pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 26.01 on or about July 25 of each year of this Agreement. Immediately upon receipt of the valuation information by the District, the District shall submit the valuation information to the Third Party selected under Section 3.4. The certified tax roll data shall form the basis of the calculation of any and all amounts due under this Agreement. All other data utilized by the Third Party to make the calculations contemplated by this Agreement shall be based upon the best available current estimates. The data utilized by the Third Party shall be adjusted from time to time by the Third Party to reflect actual amounts, subsequent adjustments by the San Patricio County Appraisal District to the District's certified tax roll or any other changes in student counts, tax collections, or other data.

#### **Section 3.6. DELIVERY OF CALCULATIONS**

On or before November 1 of each year for which this Agreement is effective, the Third Party appointed pursuant to Section 3.4 of this Agreement shall forward to the Parties a certification containing the calculations required under Sections 3.2 and/or 3.3 and Article IV, or under Section 5.1 of this Agreement in sufficient detail to allow the Parties to understand the manner in which the calculations were made. The Third Party shall simultaneously submit his, her or its invoice for fees for services rendered to the Parties, if any fees are being claimed. Upon reasonable prior notice, the employees and agents of the Applicant shall have access, at all reasonable times, to the Third Party's offices, personnel, books, records, and correspondence pertaining to the calculation and fee for the purpose of verification. The Third Party shall maintain supporting data consistent with generally accepted accounting practices, and the employees and agents of the Applicant shall have the right to reproduce and retain for purpose of

audit, any of these documents. The Third Party shall preserve all documents pertaining to the calculation and fee for a period of five (5) years after payment. The Applicant shall not be liable for any of Third Party's costs resulting from an audit of the Third Party's books, records, correspondence, or work papers pertaining to the calculations contemplated by this Agreement or the fee paid by the Applicant to the Third Party pursuant to Section 3.7, if such fee is timely paid.

### **Section 3.7. PAYMENT BY APPLICANT**

The Applicant shall pay any amount determined to be due and owing to the District under this Agreement on or before the January 31 next following the tax levy for each year for which this Agreement is effective. By such date, the Applicant shall also pay any amount billed by the Third Party for all calculations under this Agreement under Section 3.6, above, plus any reasonable and necessary legal expenses paid by the District to its attorneys, auditors, or financial consultants for the preparation and filing of any financial reports, disclosures, or tax credit or other reimbursement applications filed with or sent to the State of Texas which are, or may be, required under the terms or because of the execution of this Agreement. In no year shall the Applicant be responsible for the payment of any total expenses under this Section and Section 3.6, above, in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

### **Section 3.8. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

Pursuant to Sections 3.3(b), 3.4 and 3.6, should the Applicant disagree with the certification containing the calculations, the Applicant may appeal the findings, in writing, to the Third Party within thirty (30) days of receipt of the certification. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Applicant's appeal, the Third Party will issue, in writing, a final determination of the certification containing the calculations. Thereafter, the Applicant may appeal the final determination of certification containing the calculations to the District. Any appeal by the Applicant of the final determination of the Third Party may be made, in writing, to the Independent School District Board of Trustees within thirty (30) days of the final determination of certification containing the calculations.

### **Section 3.9. EFFECT OF PROPERTY VALUE APPEAL OR OTHER ADJUSTMENT**

In the event that, at the time the Third Party selected under Section 3.4 makes its calculations under this Agreement, Applicant has appealed the taxable values placed by the San Patricio County Appraisal District on the Qualified Property, and the appeal of the appraised values are unresolved, the Third Party shall base its calculations upon the values placed upon the Qualified Property by the San Patricio County Appraisal District.

In the event that as the result of an appraisal appeal or for any other reason, the Taxable Value of the Applicant's Qualified Investment and/or the Applicant's Qualified Property is changed, once the determination of a new value becomes final, the Parties shall immediately notify the Third Party who shall immediately issue new calculations for the applicable year or years. In the event the new calculations result in the change of any amount payable by the Applicant under this Agreement, the party from whom the adjustment is payable shall remit such

amounts to the counter-party within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the new calculations from the Third Party.

### **Section 3.10. EFFECT OF STATUTORY CHANGES**

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement, but subject to the limitations contained in Section 5.1, in the event that, by virtue of statutory changes to the Applicable School Finance Law, administrative interpretations by the Comptroller, Commissioner of Education, or the Texas Education Agency, or for any other reason attributable to statutory change, the District will receive less Maintenance and Operations Revenue, or, if applicable, will be required to increase its payment of funds to the State, because of its participation in this Agreement, Applicant shall make payments to the District, up to the revenue protection amount limit set forth in Section 5.1, that are necessary to offset any negative impact on the District as a result of its participation in this Agreement. Such calculation shall take into account any adjustments to the amount calculated for the current fiscal year that should be made in order to reflect the actual impact on the District.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Section 4.1. INTENT OF PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS**

In interpreting the provisions of Article IV, the parties agree as follows:

#### **(a) Amounts Exclusive of Indemnity Amounts**

In addition to undertaking the responsibility for the payment of all of the amounts set forth under Article III, and as further consideration for the execution of this Agreement by the District, the Applicant shall also be responsible for the Supplemental Payments set forth in this Article IV. Applicant shall not be responsible to the District or to any other person or persons in any form for the payment or transfer of money or any other thing of value in recognition of, anticipation of, or consideration for this Agreement for limitation on appraised value made pursuant to Chapter 313, Tex. Tax Code, unless it is explicitly set forth in this Agreement. It is the express intent of the Parties that the obligation for Supplemental Payments under this Article IV are separate and independent of the obligation of the Applicant to pay the amounts described in Article III; provided, however, that all payments under Articles III and IV are subject to the limitations contained in Section 5.1, and that all payments under Article IV are subject to the separate limitations contained in Section 4.2.

#### **(b) Adherence to Statutory Limits on Supplemental Payments**

It is the express intent of the parties that any Supplemental Payments made to or on behalf of the District by Applicant, under this Article IV, shall not exceed the limit imposed by the provisions of Tex. Tax Code 313.027(i) unless that limit is increased by the Legislature at a future date.

**Section 4.2. STIPULATED SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT AMOUNT - SUBJECT TO AGGREGATE LIMIT**

During the term of this Agreement, the District shall not be entitled to receive Supplemental Payments that exceed the lesser of:

- (a) the "Applicant's Stipulated Supplemental Payment Amount," which is hereby defined as thirty percent (30%) of the Net Tax Benefit; or,
- (b) the Aggregate Limit.

**Section 4.3. ANNUAL CALCULATION OF STIPULATED SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT AMOUNT**

The Parties agree that for each Tax Year during the term of this Agreement, beginning with the third full Tax Year (Tax Year 2014), the Applicant's Stipulated Supplemental Payment Amount described in Section 4.2 will annually be calculated based upon the then most current estimate of tax savings to the Applicant, which will be made, based upon assumptions of student counts, tax collections, and other applicable data, in accordance with the following formula:

Taxable Value of the Applicant's Qualified Property for such Tax Year had this Agreement not been entered into by the Parties (i.e., the Taxable Value of the Applicant's Qualified Property used for the District's interest and sinking fund tax purposes for such Tax Year, or school taxes due to any other governmental entity, including the State of Texas, for such Tax Year);

*Minus,*

The Taxable Value of the Applicant's Qualified Property for such Tax Year after giving effect to this Agreement (i.e., the Taxable Value of the Applicant's Qualified Property used for the District's maintenance and operations tax purposes for such Tax Year, or school taxes due to any other governmental entity, including the State of Texas, for such Tax Year);

*Multiplied by,*

The District's maintenance and operations tax rate for such Tax Year, or the school tax rate of any other governmental entity, including the State of Texas, for such Tax Year;

*Plus,*

Any Tax Credit received by the Applicant with respect to such Tax Year;

*Minus,*

Any amounts previously paid to the District under Article III;

*Multiplied by,*

The number 0.30;

*Minus,*

Any amounts previously paid to the District under Sections 4.2 and 4.3 with respect to such Tax Year.

In the event that there are changes in the data upon which the calculations set forth herein are made, the Third Party described in Section 3.4, above, shall adjust the Applicant's Stipulated Supplemental Payment Amount calculation to reflect such changes in the data.

**Section 4.4. CALCULATION OF ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS TO THE DISTRICT AND APPLICATION OF AGGREGATE LIMIT**

For each Tax Year during the term of this Agreement, beginning with Tax Year three (Tax Year 2014) and continuing thereafter through Tax Year thirteen (Tax Year 2024), the District, or its successor beneficiary should one be designated under Section 4.6, below, shall not be entitled to receive Supplemental Payments, computed under Sections 4.2 and 4.3, above, that exceed the Aggregate Limit.

If, for any Tax Year during the term of this Agreement, the amount of the Applicant's Stipulated Supplemental Payment Amount, calculated under sections 4.2 and 4.3, above, for such Tax Year, exceeds the Aggregate Limit for such Tax Year, the difference between the Applicant's Stipulated Supplemental Payment Amount so calculated and the Aggregate Limit for such Tax Year, shall be carried forward from year-to-year into subsequent Tax Years during the term of this Agreement, and to the extent not limited by the Aggregate Limit in any subsequent Tax Year during the term of this Agreement, shall be paid to the District.

Any of the Applicant's Stipulated Supplemental Payment Amounts which cannot be paid to the District prior to the end of year thirteen (Tax Year 2024) because such payment would exceed the Aggregate Limit will be deemed to have been cancelled by operation of law, and the Applicant shall have no further obligation with respect thereto.

**Section 4.5. DISTRICT'S OPTION TO DESIGNATE SUCCESSOR BENEFICIARY**

At any time during this Agreement, the District's Board of Trustees may, in its sole discretion, so long as such decision does not result in additional costs to Applicant under this Agreement, direct that Applicant's payment obligations under this Article IV be made to its educational foundation, or to a similar entity. The alternative entity may only use such funds

received under this Article to support the educational mission of the District and its students. Any designation of an alternative entity must be made by recorded vote of the District's Board of Trustees at a properly posted public Board meeting. Any such designation will become effective after public vote and the delivery of notice of said vote to Applicant in conformance with the provisions of Section 6.1, below. Such designation may be rescinded by the District's Board of Trustees, by Board action, at any time.

Any designation of a successor beneficiary under this Section shall not alter the amount of the Supplemental Payments described in Section 4.2, above.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **ANNUAL LIMITATION OF PAYMENTS BY APPLICANT**

#### **SECTION 5.1. ANNUAL LIMITATION AFTER FIRST THREE YEARS**

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, and with respect to each Tax Year during the term of this Agreement after the 2016 Tax Year, in no event shall (i) the sum of the maintenance and operations ad valorem taxes paid by the Applicant to the District for such Tax Year, plus the sum of all payments otherwise due from the Applicant to the District under Articles III and IV with respect to such Tax Year, exceed (ii) the amount of the maintenance and operations ad valorem taxes that the Applicant would have paid to the District for such Tax Year (determined by using the District's actual maintenance and operations tax rate for such Tax Year) if the Parties had not entered into this Agreement. The calculation and comparison of the amounts described in clauses (i) and (ii) of the preceding sentence shall be included in all calculations made pursuant to Section 3.4, and in the event the sum of the amounts described in said clause (i) exceeds the amount described in said clause (ii), then the payments otherwise due from the Applicant to the District under Articles III and IV shall be reduced until such excess is eliminated.

#### **Section 5.2. OPTION TO CANCEL AGREEMENT**

In the event that any payment otherwise due from the Applicant to the District under Article III and/or Section 4.2 with respect to a Tax Year is subject to reduction in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.1 above, then the Applicant shall have the option to terminate this Agreement. The Applicant may exercise such option to cancel this Agreement by notifying the District of its election in writing not later than the July 31 of the year next following the Tax Year with respect to which a reduction under Section 5.1 is applicable. Any cancellation of this Agreement under the foregoing provisions of this Section 5.2 shall be effective immediately prior to the second Tax Year next following the Tax Year in which the reduction giving rise to the option occurred. Upon such termination this Agreement shall terminate and be of no further force or effect; provided, however, that the Parties' respective rights and obligations under this Agreement with respect to the Tax Year or Tax Years (as the case may be) through and including the Tax Year during which such notification is delivered to the District shall not be impaired or

modified as a result of such termination and shall survive such termination unless and until satisfied and discharged.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **TAX CREDITS**

#### **Section 6.1. APPLICANT'S ENTITLEMENT TO TAX CREDITS**

The Applicant shall be entitled to tax credits from the District under and in accordance with the provisions of Subchapter D of the Act and Comptroller Rules, provided that the Applicant complies with the requirements under such provisions, including the filing of a completed Application under Section 313.103 of the Texas Tax Code and Comptroller Rules.

#### **Section 6.2. DISTRICT'S OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO TAX CREDITS**

The District shall timely comply and shall cause the District's collector of taxes to timely comply with their obligations under Subchapter D of the Act and Comptroller Rules, including, but not limited to, such obligations set forth in Section 313.104 of the Texas Tax Code, and either Comptroller and/or Texas Education Agency Rules.

#### **Section 6.3. COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF TAX CREDIT PROTECTION REVENUES**

If after the Applicant has actually received the benefit of a tax credit under Section 6.1, the District does not receive aid from the State pursuant to Texas Education Code § 42.2515 or other similar or successor statute with respect to all or any portion of such tax credit for reasons other than the District's failure to comply with the requirements for obtaining such aid, then the District shall notify the Applicant in writing thereof and the circumstances surrounding the State's failure to provide such aid to the District. The Applicant shall pay to the District the amount of such tax credit for which the District did not receive such aid within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of such notice, and such payment, thirty (30) days past due from the date of the reimbursement claim, shall be subject to the same provisions for late payment as are set forth in Section 7.4 and 7.5. If the District receives aid from the State for all or any portion of a tax credit with respect to which the Applicant has made a payment to the District under this Section 6.3, then the District shall pay to the Applicant the amount of such aid within thirty (30) calendar days after the District's receipt thereof.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS OF APPLICANT**

#### **Section 7.1. DATA REQUESTS**

During the term of this Agreement, and upon the written request of one Party or by the Comptroller (the "Requesting Party"), the other Party shall provide the Requesting Party with all information reasonably necessary for the Requesting Party to determine whether the other Party

is in compliance with its obligations, including any employment obligations which may arise under this Agreement. The Applicant shall allow authorized employees of the District, the Comptroller, and/or the San Patricio County Appraisal District to have access to the Applicant's Qualified Property and/or business records, in accordance with Texas Tax Code § 22.07, during the term of this Agreement, in order to inspect the project to determine compliance with the terms hereof. All inspections will be made at a mutually agreeable time after the giving of not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior written notice, and will be conducted in such a manner so as not to unreasonably interfere with either the construction or operation of the Applicant's Qualified Property. All inspections may be accompanied by one or more representatives of the Applicant, and shall be conducted in accordance with the Applicant's safety, security, and operational standards. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing contained in this Agreement shall require the Applicant to provide the District, the Comptroller, or the San Patricio County Appraisal District with any technical or business information that is private personnel data, proprietary, a trade secret or confidential in nature or is subject to a confidentiality agreement with any third party.

#### **Section 7.2. REPORTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES**

Applicant shall timely make any and all reports that are or may be required under the provisions of law or administrative regulation, including but not limited to the annual report or certifications that may be required to be submitted by the Applicant to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts under the provisions of Texas Tax Code § 313.032. Applicant shall forward a copy of all such required reports or certifications to the District contemporaneously with the filing thereof. The obligation to make all such required filings shall be a material obligation under this Agreement.

#### **Section 7.3. APPLICANT'S OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN VIABLE PRESENCE**

By entering into this Agreement, the Applicant warrants that:

- (a) it will abide by all of the terms of the Agreement;
- (b) it will Maintain Viable Presence in the District through the Final Termination Date of this Agreement. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, the Applicant shall not be in breach of this Agreement, and shall not be subject to any liability for failure to Maintain Viable Presence to the extent such failure is caused by Force Majeure (as hereinafter defined), provided the Applicant makes commercially reasonable efforts to remedy the cause of such Force Majeure; and,
- (c) it will meet minimum eligibility requirements under Tax Code, Chapter 313 throughout the value limitation and tax-credit settle-up periods.

**Section 7.4. CONSEQUENCES OF EARLY TERMINATION OR OTHER BREACH BY APPLICANT**

(a) In the event that the Applicant terminates this Agreement without the consent of the District, except as provided in Section 5.2, or in the event that the Applicant or its successor-in-interest fails to comply in any material respect with the terms of this Agreement or to meet any material obligation under this Agreement, after the notice and cure period provided by Section 7.8, then the District shall be entitled to the recapture of all ad valorem tax revenue lost as a result of this Agreement together with the payment of penalty and interest, as calculated in accordance with Section 7.5, on that recaptured ad valorem tax revenue. For purposes of this recapture calculation, the Applicant shall be entitled to a credit for all payments made to the District pursuant to Article III. Applicant shall also be entitled to a credit for any amounts paid to the District pursuant to Article IV.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 7.4(a), in the event that the District determines that the Applicant has failed to Maintain Viable Presence and provides written notice of termination of the Agreement, then the Applicant shall pay to the District liquidated damages for such failure within thirty (30) days after receipt of such termination notice. The sum of liquidated damages due and payable shall be the sum total of the District ad valorem taxes for all of the Tax Years for which a Tax Limitation was granted pursuant to this Agreement prior to the year in which the default occurs that otherwise would have been due and payable by the Applicant to the District without the benefit of this Agreement, including penalty and interest, as calculated in accordance with Section 7.5. For purposes of this liquidated damages calculation, the Applicant shall be entitled to a credit for all payments made to the District pursuant to Article III. The Applicant shall also be entitled to a credit for any amounts paid to the District pursuant to Article IV. Upon payment of such liquidated damages, Applicant's obligations under this Agreement shall be deemed fully satisfied, and such payment shall constitute the District's sole remedy.

**Section 7.5. CALCULATION OF PENALTY AND INTEREST**

In determining the amount of penalty or interest, or both, due in the event of a breach of this Agreement, the District shall first determine the base amount of recaptured taxes owed less all credits under Section 7.4 for each Tax Year during the term of this Agreement since the Commencement Date. Penalty and interest under this Agreement shall begin to accrue thirty (30) days after the Board of Trustees determination of a material breach under Section 7.8, below. The District shall calculate penalty or interest at the rates set forth in Chapter 33 of the Texas Tax Code, or its successor statute.

**Section 7.6 MATERIAL BREACH OF AGREEMENT**

Applicant shall be in Material Breach of this Agreement if it commits one or more of the following acts or omissions:

- (a) Applicant is determined to have failed to meet its obligations to have made accurate representations of fact in submission of its Application as is required by Section 8.13, below.

- (b) Applicant fails to Maintain Viable Presence in the District, as required by Section 7.3 of this Agreement, through the Final Termination Date of this Agreement.
- (c) Applicant fails to make any payment required under Articles III or IV of this Agreement on or before its due date.
- (d) Applicant fails to create and maintain at least the number of New Jobs it committed to create and maintain set forth on Schedule C, Column C of its Application.
- (e) Applicant fails to create and maintain at least the number of New Jobs it committed to create and maintain set forth on Schedule C, Column E of its Application.
- (f) Applicant fails to create and maintain at least Eighty Percent (80%) of all New Jobs, created by Applicant, on the project as Qualifying Jobs.
- (g) Applicant makes any payments to the District or to any other person or persons in any form for the payment or transfer of money or any other thing of value in recognition of, anticipation of, or consideration for this Agreement for limitation on appraised value made pursuant to Chapter 313, Tex. Tax Code, in excess of the amounts set forth in Articles III and IV, above. Voluntary donations made by Applicant to the District after the date of execution of this Agreement, and not mandated by this Agreement or made in recognition of consideration for this Agreement for limitation on appraised value made pursuant to Chapter 313 are not barred by this provision.
- (h) Applicant fails to comply with any other term of this Agreement, or Applicant fails to meet its obligations under the applicable Comptroller's Rules, and under the Texas Economic Development Act.

#### **Section 7.7 LIMITED STATUTORY CURE OF MATERIAL BREACH**

In accordance with the provisions of Tex. Tax Code § 313.0275, for any full tax year which commences after the project has become operational, Applicant may cure the Material Breaches of this Agreement, defined in Sections 7.6(d) and 7.6(e) or 7.6(f), above, without the termination of the remaining term of this Agreement. In order to cure its non-compliance with Sections 7.6(d) and 7.6(e) or 7.6(f) for the particular Tax Year of non-compliance only, Applicant may make the liquidated damages payment required by Tex. Tax Code § 313.0275(b), in accordance with the provisions of Tex. Tax Code § 313.0275(c).

**Section 7.8. DETERMINATION OF MATERIAL BREACH AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

Prior to making a determination that the Applicant has committed a material breach of this Agreement, such as making a misrepresentation in the Application, failing to Maintain Viable Presence in the District as required by Section 7.3 of this Agreement, or failing to make any payment required under this Agreement when due, or has otherwise committed a material breach of this Agreement, the District shall provide the Applicant with a written notice of the facts which it believes have caused the material breach of this Agreement, and if cure is possible, the cure proposed by the District. After receipt of the notice, Applicant shall be given ninety (90) days to present any facts or arguments to the Board of Trustees showing that it is not in material breach of its obligations under the Agreement, or that it has cured or undertaken to cure any such material breach.

If the Board of Trustees is not satisfied with such response and/or that such breach has been cured, then the Board of Trustees shall, after reasonable notice to the Applicant, conduct a hearing called and held for the purpose of determining whether such breach has occurred and, if so, whether such breach has been cured. At any such hearing, the Applicant shall have the opportunity, together with their counsel, to be heard before the Board of Trustees. At the hearing, the Board of Trustees shall make findings as to whether or not a material breach of this Agreement has occurred, the date such breach occurred, if any, and whether or not any such breach has been cured. In the event that the Board of Trustees determines that such a breach has occurred and has not been cured, it shall also terminate the Agreement and determine the amount of recaptured taxes under Section 7.4 (net of all credits under Section 7.4), and the amount of any penalty and/or interest under Section 7.5 that are owed to the District.

After making its determination regarding any alleged breach, the Board of Trustees shall cause the Applicant to be notified in writing of its determination (a "Determination of Breach and Notice of Contract Termination").

**Section 7.9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

After receipt of notice of the Board of Trustee's Determination of Breach and Notice of Contract Termination under Section 7.8, the Applicant shall have ninety (90) days in which either to tender payment or evidence of its efforts to cure, or to initiate mediation of the dispute by written notice to the District, in which case the District and the Applicant shall be required to make a good faith effort to resolve, without resort to litigation and within ninety (90) days after the Applicant's written notice to the District initiating mediation of the dispute, such dispute through mediation with a mutually agreeable mediator and at a mutually convenient time and place for the mediation. If the Parties are unable to agree on a mediator, a mediator shall be selected by the senior state district court judge then residing in San Patricio County, Texas. The Parties agree to sign a document that designates the mediator and the mediation will be governed by the provisions of Chapter 154 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code and such other rules as the mediator shall prescribe. With respect to such mediation, (i) the District shall bear one-half of such mediator's fees and expenses and the Applicant shall bear one-half of such

mediator's fees and expenses, and (ii) otherwise each Party shall bear all of its costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in connection with such mediation.

In the event that any mediation is not successful in resolving the dispute or that payment is not received before the expiration of such ninety (90) days, the District shall have the remedies for the collection of the amounts determined under Section 7.8 as are set forth in Texas Tax Code Chapter 33, Subchapters B and C, for the collection of delinquent taxes. In the event that the District successfully prosecutes legal proceedings under this section, the Applicant shall also be responsible for the payment of attorney's fees and a tax lien on the Applicant's Qualified Property and the Applicant's Qualified Investment pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 33.07 to the attorneys representing the District pursuant to Texas Tax Code § 6.30.

In any event where a dispute between the District and the Applicant under this Agreement cannot be resolved by the Parties, after completing the procedures required above in this Section, either the District or the Applicant may seek a judicial declaration of their respective rights and duties under this Agreement or otherwise, in any judicial proceeding, assert any rights or defenses, or seek any remedy in law or in equity, against the other Party with respect to any claim relating to any breach, default, or nonperformance of any covenant, agreement or undertaking made by a Party pursuant to this Agreement.

#### **Section 7.10. LIMITATION OF OTHER DAMAGES**

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, in the event of default or breach of this Agreement by the Applicant, the District's damages for such a default shall under no circumstances exceed the greater of either any amounts calculated under Sections 7.4 and 7.5 above, or the monetary sum of the difference between the payments and credits due and owing to the Applicant at the time of such default and the District taxes that would have been lawfully payable to the District had this Agreement not been executed. In addition, the District's sole right of equitable relief under this Agreement shall be its right to terminate this Agreement.

The Parties further agree that the limitation of damages and remedies set forth in this Section 7.10 shall be the sole and exclusive remedies available to the District, whether at law or under principles of equity.

#### **Section 7.11. BINDING ON SUCCESSORS**

In the event of a merger or consolidation of the District with another school district or other governmental authority, this Agreement shall be binding on the successor school district or other governmental authority.

## ARTICLE VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### Section 8.1. INFORMATION AND NOTICES

Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, all notices required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and deemed sufficiently given for all purposes hereof if (i) delivered in person, by courier (e.g., by Federal Express) or by registered or certified United States Mail to the Party to be notified, with receipt obtained, or (ii) sent by facsimile transmission, with “answer back” or other “advice of receipt” obtained, in each case to the appropriate address or number as set forth below. Each notice shall be deemed effective on receipt by the addressee as aforesaid; provided that, notice received by facsimile transmission after 5:00 p.m. at the location of the addressee of such notice shall be deemed received on the first business day following the date of such electronic receipt.

Notices to the District shall be addressed to the District’s Authorized Representative as follows:

Dr. Paul Clore, Superintendent  
**GREGORY-PORTLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
608 College Street  
Gregory-Portland, Texas 78374  
Fax: (361) 777-1093  
E-mail: [pclore@g-pisd.org](mailto:pclore@g-pisd.org)

or at such other address or to such other facsimile transmission number and to the attention of such other person as the District may designate by written notice to the Applicant.

Notices to the Applicant shall be addressed to:

C. C. Lam, Director  
**TPCO AMERICA CORPORATION**  
10700 Richmond Avenue, Suite 302  
Houston, Texas 77042 Fax: (713) 266-2697  
E-mail: [cclam@tianjinpipe.com](mailto:cclam@tianjinpipe.com)

or at such other address or to such other facsimile transmission number and to the attention of such other person as the Applicant may designate by written notice to the District.

#### Section 8.2. EFFECTIVE DATE, TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

- (a) This Agreement shall be and become effective on the date of final approval of this Agreement by the District’s Board of Trustees,

- (b) The obligation to Maintain Viable Presence under this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect through the termination in full date established in Section 1.2 of this Agreement.
- (c) In the event that Applicant fails to make a Qualified Investment in the amount of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00), or greater, during the Qualifying Time Period, this Agreement shall become null and void on December 31, 2013.

### **Section 8.3. AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENT; WAIVERS**

This Agreement may not be modified or amended except by an instrument or instruments in writing signed by all of the Parties. Waiver of any term, condition or provision of this Agreement by any Party shall only be effective if in writing and shall not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of, or failure to comply with, the same term, condition or provision, or a waiver of any other term, condition or provision of this Agreement. By official action of the Board of Trustees, this Agreement may be amended to include, in the Applicant's Qualified Investment, additional or replacement Qualified Property not specified in EXHIBIT 3, provided that the Applicant reports to the District, the Comptroller, and the Appraisal District, in the same format, style, and presentation as the Application, all relevant investment, value, and employment information that is related to the additional property. Any amendment of the Agreement adding additional or replacement Qualified Property pursuant to this Section 8.3 shall (1) require that all property added by amendment be eligible property as defined by Tax Code, §313.024; (2) clearly identify the property, investment, and employment information added by amendment from the property, investment, and employment information in the original Agreement; and (3) define minimum eligibility requirements for the Applicant. This Agreement may not be amended to extend the value limitation time period beyond its eight year statutory term.

### **Section 8.4. ASSIGNMENT**

The Applicant may assign this Agreement, or a portion of this Agreement, to an Affiliate or a new owner or lessee of all or a portion of the Applicant's Qualified Property and/or the Applicant's Qualified Investment, provided that the Applicant shall provide written notice of such assignment to the District. Upon such assignment, Applicant's assignee will be liable to the District for outstanding taxes or other obligations arising under this Agreement. A recipient of limited value under Tax Code, Chapter 313 shall notify immediately the District, the Comptroller, and the Appraisal District in writing of any change in address or other contract information for the owner of the property subject to the limitation agreement for the purposes of Tax Code §313.032. The assignee's or its reporting entity's Texas Taxpayer Identification Number shall be included in the notification.

### **Section 8.5. MERGER**

This Agreement contains all of the terms and conditions of the understanding of the Parties relating to the subject matter hereof. All prior negotiations, discussions, correspondence,

and preliminary understandings between the Parties and others relating hereto are superseded by this Agreement.

**Section 8.6. MAINTENANCE OF COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT RECORDS**

When appraising the Applicant's Qualified Property and the Applicant's Qualified Investment subject to a limitation on Appraised Value under this Agreement, the Chief Appraiser of the San Patricio County Appraisal District shall determine the Market Value thereof and include both such Market Value and the appropriate value thereof under this Agreement in its appraisal records.

**Section 8.7. GOVERNING LAW**

This Agreement and the transactions contemplated hereby shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas without giving effect to principles thereof relating to conflicts of law or rules that would direct the application of the laws of another jurisdiction. Venue in any legal proceeding shall be in San Patricio County, Texas.

**Section 8.8. AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT**

Each of the Parties represents and warrants that its undersigned representative has been expressly authorized to execute this Agreement for and on behalf of such Party.

**Section 8.9. SEVERABILITY**

If any term, provision or condition of this Agreement, or any application thereof, is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect under any Law (as hereinafter defined), this Agreement shall be reformed to the extent necessary to conform, in each case consistent with the intention of the Parties, to such Law, and to the extent such term, provision or condition cannot be so reformed, then such term, provision or condition (or such invalid, illegal or unenforceable application thereof) shall be deemed deleted from (or prohibited under) this Agreement, as the case may be, and the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining terms, provisions and conditions contained herein (and any other application of such term, provision or condition) shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby. Upon such determination that any term or other provision is invalid, illegal or incapable of being enforced, the Parties hereto shall negotiate in good faith to modify this Agreement in an acceptable manner so as to effect the original intent of the Parties as closely as possible to the end that the transactions contemplated hereby are fulfilled to the extent possible. As used in this Section 8.9, the term "Law" shall mean any applicable statute, law (including common law), ordinance, regulation, rule, ruling, order, writ, injunction, decree or other official act of or by any federal, state or local government, governmental department, commission, board, bureau, agency, regulatory authority, instrumentality, or judicial or administrative body having jurisdiction over the matter or matters in question.

**Section 8.10. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES**

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, or as covered by the application fee, each of the Parties shall pay its own costs and expenses relating to this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its costs and expenses of the negotiations leading up to this Agreement, and of its performance and compliance with this Agreement.

#### **Section 8.11. INTERPRETATION**

When a reference is made in this Agreement to a Section, Article or Exhibit, such reference shall be to a Section or Article of, or Exhibit to, this Agreement unless otherwise indicated. The headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. The words "include," "includes" and "including" when used in this Agreement shall be deemed in such case to be followed by the phrase "but not limited to." Words used in this Agreement, regardless of the number or gender specifically used, shall be deemed and construed to include any other number, singular or plural, and any other gender, masculine, feminine or neuter, as the context shall require. This Agreement is the joint product of the Parties and each provision of this Agreement has been subject to the mutual consultation, negotiation and agreement of each Party and shall not be construed for or against any Party.

#### **Section 8.12. EXECUTION OF COUNTERPARTS**

This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, taken together, shall constitute but one and the same instrument, which may be sufficiently evidenced by one counterpart.

#### **Section 8.13. ACCURACY OF REPRESENTATIONS CONTAINED IN APPLICATION**

The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement has been negotiated, and is being executed, in reliance upon the information contained in the Application. Applicant warrants that all information, facts, and representations contained therein are true and correct. The parties further agree that the Application and all the attachments thereto are included by reference into this Agreement as if set forth herein in full.

In the event that the Board of Trustees, after completing the procedures required by Sections 7.8 and 7.9 of this Agreement, makes a written determination that the Application was either incomplete or inaccurate as to any material representation, information, or fact, the Agreement shall be invalid and void except for the enforcement of the provisions required by 34. Tex. Admin. Code § 9.1053(f)(2)(K).

#### **Section 8.14. PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS**

The Parties acknowledge that the District is required to publish the Application and its required schedules, or any amendment thereto; all economic analyses of the proposed project submitted to the District; the approved and executed copy of this Agreement or any amendment thereto; and each application requesting tax credits under Tex. Tax Code § 313.103, as follows:

- a. Within seven days of such document, the school district shall submit a copy to the Comptroller for Publication on the Comptroller's Internet website.
- b. District shall provide on its website a link to the location of those documents posted on the Comptroller's website.
- c. This Section does not require the Publication of information that is confidential under Tex. Tax Code § 313.028.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed by the Parties in multiple originals on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2011.

TPCO AMERICA CORPORATION

GREGORY-PORTLAND INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: EDWARD

By: Rey Rojas  
REY ROJAS, President  
Board of Trustees

Name: BAI RENZHAO

Title: DIRECTOR

ATTEST:

Becky Macha  
BECKY MACHA  
Secretary  
Board of Trustees

## EXHIBIT 1

### DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFIED REINVESTMENT ZONE

The TPCO Reinvestment Zone was originally created on May 26, 2009 by action of the San Patricio County Commissioner's Court. A map of the TPCO Reinvestment Zone is attached as the last page following this EXHIBIT 1.

As a result of the action of the San Patricio County Commissioner's Court, the TPCO Reinvestment Zone includes real property within San Patricio County, Texas, more specifically the real property tracts:

#### Parcel No.1

115.38 acres of land more or less in San Patricio County, Texas, being a part of the G. Valdez Original Grant Patented to John McMullen, assignee by Patent No. 552, Volume 15, Abstract No. 269, more particularly known as Fractional Farm Lot No. 6 in Block No. "B" of the Coleman Fulton Pasture Companies Subdivision near Gregory, Texas.

#### Parcel No.2

137.20 acres of land, more or less, out of the most Westerly part of the lot or Tract No. 5 in Block 'B' of the Gregory Farm Blocks (Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company) Subdivision of Farm Lots near and East of the City of Gregory in San Patricio County, Texas and being the same property described in deed from W. N. Purcell and wife, Mattie Lee Purcell, to Willie F. Mauch, dated November 3, 1947, and recorded in Volume 154 at pages 40-42 of the Deed Records of San Patricio County, Texas.

## EXHIBIT 2

### LOCATION OF QUALIFIED INVESTMENT/QUALIFIED PROPERTY

All Qualified Property owned by Applicant and located within the boundaries of both the Gregory-Portland Independent School District and the TPCO Reinvestment Zone will be included in and subject to this Agreement. Specifically, all Qualified Property of Applicant located in the following sections of land and described on the map attached to the foregoing **EXHIBIT I**.

#### Parcel No.1

115.38 acres of land more or less in San Patricio County, Texas, being a part of the G. Valdez Original Grant Patented to John McMullen, assignee by Patent No. 552, Volume 15, Abstract No. 269, more particularly known as Fractional Farm Lot No. 6 in Block No. "B" of the Coleman Fulton Pasture Companies Subdivision near Gregory, Texas.

#### Parcel No.2

137.20 acres of land, more or less, out of the most Westerly part of the lot or Tract No. 5 in Block 'B' of the Gregory Farm Blocks (Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company) Subdivision of Farm Lots near and East of the City of Gregory in San Patricio County, Texas and being the same property described in deed from W. N. Purcell and wife, Mattie Lee Purcell, to Willie F. Mauch, dated November 3, 1947, and recorded in Volume 154 at pages 40-42 of the Deed Records of San Patricio County, Texas.

**EXHIBIT 3**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICANT'S QUALIFIED INVESTMENT/QUALIFIED PROPERTY**

TPCO America Corporation plans to build and operate a 750,000 ton per year seamless steel pipe manufacturing mill. The project plans to install all necessary and ancillary property and equipment needed to manufacture pipe including, but not limited to, the following:

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Improvements</b>	<b>Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>
Alloy warehouse	Scrap yard	Electric arc furnace and baghouse	Direct evacuation (DEC) system	Non-contact steam drying machine	Sedimentation tanks
Alloy warehouse baghouse	Billet storage yard	Air cooling system	Dust absorbing unit and baghouse	Non-destructive testing machine	Sinter plate filter
Chemical feeding room	Bulk storage bin	Billet cold centering machine	Dust collector system & silo	Oil skimmers	Sizing mill
Alloy storage building	Canopy hood	Caster	Extracting mill and conveyor	Outdoor and indoor hot water wells	Sludge scrapers
Filtering building	Concrete-lined slag pits	Billet cutting saw	Fabric filter baghouse vents	Overhead cranes	Straightening machine
Hot pipe rolling building	Paved parking areas	Billet straightening machines	Furnace electrodes	Paint collection system	Tempering furnaces and stacks
Mandrel bar building	Rail spurs	Chain stripper	Graphite wastewater treatment system	Pipe layer saw	Spare parts
Office building	Slag yard	Condenser	Hot sizing mill	Pipe threading machine	UV coating devices
Slag building	Scrap charging bay	Borax spray and collection system	Ingoing skids	Plate and frame filter presses	Vacuum degassing unit
Sludge dewatering building	Underground bulk storage area	Chain conveyor system	High pressure water descaling system	Pressurized air system	Vacuum system

Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value  
 Between Gregory-Portland Independent School District and TPCO America Corporation.  
 November 15, 2011

Steel making building		Charging buckets (scrap baskets)	Hydrostatic testing machine	Quench furnace and stack	Vacuum tank and lid
Welding/repair shop building		Cooling water recirculation system	Jet printing machine	Radical sedimentation tank	Waste emulsion tank
		Cone type piercing mill	Ladle dryers and pre-heaters	Refractory lined ladle	Waste water treatment system
		Continuous casting machine	Ladle metallurgy furnace & baghouse	Refractory lined tundish	Water descaling system
		Continuous conveyor	Ladle metallurgy station	Reheat furnaces	Water quenching system
		Conveyor belts	Lime storage silos	Retained mandrel pipe mill	Water spray system
		Cooling beds	Mandrel preheat furnace	Rotary arm system	Water treatment system
		Coupling screw-on machine	Molds	Rotary hearth furnaces	Argon blowing system
		Cold centering machine	Natural gas fired heaters	Screw thread testing machine	Water cooling towers
		Delivery tables	Natural gas oxygen torch system	Sealed slag crusher	Heat treating line
		Coating devices		Steam boiler	

The proposed TPCO Texas Mill will function as a “mini” steel mill. In a minimill, steel products are manufactured from scrap steel. Iron ore will not be processed at the minimill. Minimills do not utilize coke ovens or blast furnaces, which have historically been used to manufacture steel at conventional steel mills, but instead use electric arc furnaces (EAFs) to melt scrap. The proposed TPCO Texas Mill is expected to produce up to 750,000 metric tons of pipes per year.