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FOOTHILL PACKING REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH CRLA ON MANDATED TRAVEL PAY LAWSUIT

SALINAS, Calif. (December 6, 2018) – Foothill Packing, one of the largest labor providers to the agricultural industry in the western United States, announced today that it has settled a lawsuit brought on by the CRLA challenging the voluntary nature of employer-provided transportation. Foothill Packing provided free optional transportation from workers housing or designated pick-up points on buses and vans to worksites. Under the settlement, Foothill Packing will not be required to pay for the transportation time of employees to and from work.

“I am pleased we were able to settle this case and not be forced to pay for travel time which would have put extraordinary financial pressure not just on us but on all ag employers in California,” said Bob Erickson of Foothill Packing. He added, “While we have settled this lawsuit rather than fight it due to the high cost of litigation, all employers in California must understand the gravity of what the CRLA is trying to accomplish. Unless there is a legislative fix to this issue, all California employers must assume CRLA and its allies will continue to file lawsuits to ultimately force mandated travel pay for employees.”

This marks the second settlement in the past month of lawsuits seeking to require mandated travel pay for workers. In November, Fresh Harvest, a Salinas-based labor provider, announced it had settled a lawsuit also brought on by the CRLA to prevent the company from providing voluntary transportation options on company provided-buses and vans. As with the Foothill Packing settlement, the Fresh Harvest settlement did not include any precedent-setting actions that paid employee transportation as a valid claim.

Both Foothill Packing and Fresh Harvest were represented by the Saqui Law Group.

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