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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Determining the Proper Carrier Classification of, and Complaint for Penalties Against

DOCKET TE- 250055

TO THE MOUNTAIN SHUTTLE LLC

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

The regulatory staff (Staff) of the Washington Utilities and Transportation

Commission (Commission) and To The Mountain Shuttle LLC (To the Mountain or

Company), through their authorized representatives, enter into the following settlement

agreement (Settlement) to resolve the issues raised in Docket TE-250055.

This Settlement is a "full multiparty settlement" as that term is defined in WAC 480-07-730(3)(a) because it resolves all issues raised in this docket among Staff and To The Mountain (the Parties). It is subject to review and disposition by the Commission to determine whether it complies with the applicable legal requirements and whether approval of the Settlement is consistent with the public interest.¹

II. BACKGROUND

On February 18, 2025, the Commission entered Order 01, Order Instituting Special Proceeding; Complaint Seeking to Impose Penalties; and Notice of Mandatory Appearance at Hearing (Complaint), pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 81.04.510,

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¹ WAC 480-07-740, -750.

initiating this docket on its own motion. The Complaint alleges that To The Mountain violated RCW 81.70.260 on at least eleven occasions by (1) offering, (2) providing services and (8) advertisements to provide charter party or excursion carrier service. Specifically, between January 8, 2025 and January 24, 2025, Staff discovered a total of eight advertisements on the company website, Facebook, Instagram, and community boards for To The Mountain that offered to provide charter party or excursion carrier service within the state of Washington. On January 24, 2025, Staff witnessed two charter bus operations for To The Mountain providing transportation to the Summit Central Parking at Snoqualmie Pass. On January 27, 2025, Staff contacted the Company using an assumed name and obtained a quote for charter party or excursion carrier service from Capital Hill, Seattle, to Summit Central, Snoqualmie Pass, Washington and return on February 2, 2025, for \$95.72.

III. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

The Parties have reached an agreement on the issues raised in Docket TE-250055 and present this Settlement for the Commission's consideration and approval. The Parties therefore adopt the following Settlement, which they enter into voluntarily, to resolve the matters in dispute between them and to expedite the orderly disposition of this proceeding:

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- Admission To The Mountain admits that it violated RCW 81.70.260 on two
 occasions by (1) offering, (2) providing and (3) advertising to provide charter
 party or excursion carrier service.
- <u>Classification</u> To The Mountain admits that it operated as a charter party or excursion service carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- Penalty To The Mountain will pay a penalty of \$5,000. This amount will be
 due and payable upon the Commission's approval of the Settlement.
- Suspended Penalty To The Mountain will accept the imposition of a \$50,000 suspended penalty. The Commission shall waive the suspended penalty after a

- period of two years from the effective date of this agreement, provided that To

 The Mountain does not operate as a charter party or excursion service carrier

 without authority from the Commission.
- <u>Compliance Review</u> Staff will complete compliance reviews every six months to ensure To The Mountain has no ongoing violations.
 - To The Mountain agrees to notify both Department of Revenue and the Secretary Of State offices they are no longer operating and close their business.
 - ii. The Company agrees to surrender vehicle registration to the
 Department of Licensing for the following vehicle plates: CLM2945,
 D62455E, CFU9988, D62206B, as the company does not have
 current liability insurance required to operate.
 - iii. Close all advertising platforms including the following:
 www.tothemountainshuttle.com, Facebook page, Instagram page, and any other marketing formats currently used to offer services.
- Payment Plan The Parties agree that To The Mountain should be allowed to pay the penalty on a payment plan. The Parties agree that To The Mountain will pay the \$5,000 balance immediately due and owing as a result of the Settlement over ten months with monthly payments of \$500 as follows:

Due Date	Amount
April 1, 2025	\$500
May 1, 2025	\$500
June 2, 2025	\$500
July 1, 2025	\$500
August 1, 2025	\$500
September 1, 2025	\$500
October 1, 2025	\$500
November 3, 2025	\$500
December 1, 2025	\$500
January 1, 2026	\$500

February 2, 2026	\$500

• The Parties agree that if a payment is missed, the entire amount of the penalty, including the suspended portion of \$50,000, will become due and payable the day after the missed penalty was due. The Parties further agree that To The Mountain may make payments in advance of the due date to discharge its payment obligation. Any prepayment of the penalty amount will be credited to the last date an installment is due and will not relieve the Company of its obligation to make its next scheduled payment.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

<u>Public interest</u>: The Parties submit that this Settlement promotes the public interest, and that it is appropriate for the Commission's acceptance without conditions under WAC 480-07-750(2)(a).

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Effective date: This Settlement is effective on the service date of a final Commission order approving this Settlement, or on the date that an initial order approving this Settlement becomes a final order pursuant to WAC 480-07-825(7), whichever occurs first.

Advocacy: The Parties agree to cooperate in submitting this Settlement promptly to the Commission for acceptance. The Parties agree to support adoption of this Settlement in proceedings before the Commission. No party to this Settlement or its agents, employees, consultants, or attorneys will engage in advocacy contrary to the Commission's adoption of this Settlement.

<u>Construction</u>: This Settlement shall not be construed against any party solely because that party was a drafter of the Settlement.

Other proceedings: This Settlement shall have no precedential or preclusive effect in other proceedings except in a proceeding to enforce its terms. In the event this Settlement

does not become effective, this Settlement shall be null and void, with no binding effect on the Parties and with no precedential or preclusive effect on the Parties regarding the continued litigation in Docket TE-250055. In the event that the Commission rejects all or any portion of this Settlement, or accepts the Settlement with conditions not proposed in this Settlement, each party reserves the right to withdraw from this Settlement by written notice to the other party and the Commission. Written notice must be served within 10 business days of service of the order rejecting part or all of this Settlement or imposing conditions not proposed in this Settlement. In such event, no party will be bound or prejudiced by the terms of this Settlement, and the Parties agree to cooperate in developing a procedural schedule.

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<u>Settlement discussions</u>: The Parties have entered into this Settlement to avoid further expense, inconvenience, uncertainty, and delay. As such, conduct, statements, and documents disclosed during negotiations of this Settlement shall not be admissible as evidence in this or any other proceeding, except in any proceeding to enforce the terms of this Settlement or any Commission order fully adopting those terms.

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<u>Final agreement</u>: The Parties have negotiated this Settlement as an integrated document to be effective upon execution. This Settlement supersedes all prior oral and written agreements on issues addressed herein.

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<u>Counterparts</u>: The Parties may execute this Settlement in counterparts and as executed shall constitute one agreement. A signed signature page sent by facsimile or email is as effective as an original document.

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<u>Authorized representatives</u>: Each person signing this Settlement warrants that he or she has authority to bind the party that he or she represents.

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DATED this 28th day of February 2025.

TO THE MOUNTAIN SHUTTLE LLC

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

KATHRYN MCPHERSON Commission Staff

/s/ KATHRYN MCPHERSON

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