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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR KING COUNTY

KRIS HARDIE, individually and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BEST PARKING LOT CLEANING INC., a
Washington Corporation,
Defendant.

No. 17-2-27730-4 KNT

PLAINTIFF'S REPLY IN SUPPORT
OF MOTION FOR CLASS
CERTIFICATION

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I. INTRODUCTION

The dispositive issue here is whether the challenged wage and hour policies and practices of Best Parking Lot Cleaning Inc. (“Defendant”), are common to approximately 120 drivers. Defendant opposes class certification claiming: 1) Plaintiff “appear[s] to have identified only five former employees” in the proposed Class; 2) Plaintiff’s claims “are not typical of the proposed class because [he] has already been compensated . . . [and] released Defendant”; and 3) Class certification is inappropriate because of “individualized inquiries” relating to meal and rest breaks. Defendant’s Opposition to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Class Certification (“Opposition”) at 1. Defendant’s arguments do not overcome Plaintiffs’ evidence, especially under Washington’s liberal class certification standard. Indeed, Plaintiff’s claims for unpaid wages related to overtime, travel time, off-the-clock work, and rest and meal breaks are well suited for class-wide resolution.

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II. RELEVANT FACTS ON REPLY

16

A. Undisputed Facts.

17 The Parties do not dispute that:

- 18 • The proposed Class consists of approximately 120 current and former Washington-based drivers of Defendant¹;
 - 19 • Defendant’s drivers perform prevailing wage work²;
 - 20 • Defendant’s employee handbook applies to all drivers³;
- 21

22

23 ¹Dkt. No. 52, ¶ 3.

24 ² Declaration of Rebecca Craig in Opposition to Plaintiff’s Motion for Class Certification (“Craig Decl.”) at 2:1-3.

25 ³ Dkt. No. 52, Ex. 1 at 17:14-15.

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- Defendant’s purported “4/10 Agreements” apply to all drivers⁴;
- Defendant’s overtime, travel time, meal and rest break, and pre-op / post-op work policies and practices apply to all drivers⁵;
- Defendant’s policy and practice regarding meal and rest breaks was to have drivers take breaks at their own initiative⁶;

B. Defendant Has No Policy or Practice to Ensure Drivers Take Rest Breaks.

Defendant admits it “relies on the drivers to self-regulate when they take their rest breaks.” Opposition at 5. Until about February 2018, Defendant took no active measure to ensure that drivers take rest breaks. Dkt. No. 52, Ex. 1 at 59:17-60:12. Since February 2018, Defendants have held monthly mandatory meetings to discuss this lawsuit and rest breaks with current employees. Cairns Decl., Ex. 1 at 62:11-14; 78:15-79:20.

Defendant’s handbook provides as follows:

Rest and Meal Periods

All nonexempt employees receive a 10 minute paid rest break for each four hours of working time. Ideally, a break will occur near the midpoint of each four hour work period, but travel time to, or between jobs constitutes a break for non-drivers. Break periods shall not be used to extend a lunch period, work overtime, or leave early. If you have down time on your paperwork a break will be taken from your time.

Dkt. No. 52, Ex. 5 at 7. By definition, this policy applies to all proposed Class members.

Defendant does not schedule rest breaks. *Id.*, Ex. 1 at 95:2-4. Defendant does not ensure rest breaks are taken and deducts “down time” from hours worked – which would be illegal since rest breaks are “on the employer’s time,” as set forth *infra* at §III.B.

⁴ *Id.* at 127:4-23.

⁵ *Id.* at 47:22-25; 48:3-19; Ex. 4 at 18-19.

⁶ Opposition at 5.

1 Defendant admits “schedules are tied to how long it takes them to complete the work
 2 rather than having a specific quitting time.” Opposition at 6.

3 **C. Plaintiff Has Not Waived or Released Any Present Claims.**

4 Defendant argues Plaintiff released it from all claims. Opposition at 23. Plaintiff signed
 5 only a limited release:

<input type="checkbox"/> Did Not Receive Final Pay Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Travel Time	GROSS WAGE AMOUNT:	\$10,222.83
<input type="checkbox"/> Received NSF (Bad) or Acct. Closed Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Vacation	ITEMIZED LEGAL DEDUCTIONS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Agreed Wage	<input type="checkbox"/> Hours Worked But Not Paid	FWH:	-\$2,552.71
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized Deductions	<input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Overtime	Social Security:	-\$633.82
(X) Prevailing Wage I-405 NE 6th St to I-5 Widening and Express Toll Lane Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Commission	Medicare:	-\$148.23
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Minimum Wage	Other [L&I]:	-\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other [specify]	Other [other]:	-\$200.00
		NET WAGE AMOUNT:	\$6,688.07

Attorney-Client Privilege

This release is not intended to release or waive any other claims I may have against Best Parking Lot Cleaning Inc. I understand I have the right to consult with an attorney before I sign this document.

14 Craig Decl., Ex. A. The limited release states it applies “specifically” to “amount owed due to
 15 the reason(s)” checked. It “is not intended to release or waive any other claims [Hardie] may
 16 have against Best Parking Lot Cleaning Inc.” Further, none of the issues presented in this
 17 action were addressed – let alone resolved – by that investigation by the Department of Labor
 18 and Industries (“LNI”).⁷

20 Thus, Plaintiff only signed a release limited “prevailing wage” claims from January 1,
 21 2014, through September 5, 2015, for the I-405 project and unlawful deductions in the amount
 22 of \$200.00. The check boxes for other claims are conspicuously unchecked, including: “unpaid
 23

25 ⁷ Ms. Craig’s declaration includes hearsay and statements made without any foundation and
 26 Plaintiff moves to strike such inadmissible testimony. See Cairns Decl., Ex.4.

1 travel time,” “hours worked but not paid,” “unpaid overtime,” and “unpaid agreed wage.”

2 These claims were not released.

3 **III. REPLY ARGUMENT**

4 **A. Defendant’s Declarations Do Not Defeat Any Element of Class Certification and**
5 **Should be Discounted.**

6 Defendant has submitted numerous declarations from current at-will employees. They
7 only address two elements under CR 23: (1) Plaintiff’s adequacy as a Class Representative and
8 (2) whether the rest break claim is sufficiently common/predominant for the proposed Class.
9 See Opposition at 24. As such, they do not discount Plaintiff’s evidence that he has met the
10 other elements under CR 23 as to the other claims. Moreover, the declarations should be
11 discounted because they are the product of inherent employer coercion. Finally, as above, the
12 declarations actually evidence Defendant’s policy of relying on drivers to “self-regulate” rest
13 breaks and take no proactive measure to ensure they get and are paid for rest breaks is common
14 and uniform to the proposed Class, which support certification.

15
16 Courts are aware of the unequal balance of power that exists in an employer-employee
17 relationship. This imbalance takes on a great significance in litigation, especially with respect
18 to the undue influence an employer may exert on its employees. “Where the defendant is the
19 current employer of . . . class members who are at-will employees, the risk of coercion is
20 particularly high; indeed, there may in fact be some *inherent coercion* in such a situation.”
21 *Bublitz v. E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co.*, 196 F.R.D. 545, 548 (S.D. Iowa 2000) (emphasis
22 added); see also *Abdallah v. Coca-Cola Co.*, 186 F.R.D. 672, 678 (N.D. Ga. 1999).

23
24 For these reasons, courts frequently “discount” declarations obtained by employers of
25 at-will employees. See, e.g., *Morden v. T-Mobile USA, Inc.*, 2006 WL 2620320 (W.D. Wash.
26

1 Sept. 12, 2006) (declining to consider 99 declarations of current employees “because of the risk
2 of bias and coercion inherent in that testimony.”); *Jenson v. Eveleth Taconite Co.*, 139 F.R.D.
3 657, 664 (D. Minn. 1991) (“It is, of course, unlikely that potential class members would be
4 unanimously supportive when most potential class members have an interest in maintaining
5 amicable relationships at work.”); *Rainbow Grp., Ltd. v. Johnson*, 990 S.W.2d 351, 357 n. 5
6 (Tex. App. 1999) (current employees who signed declarations in support of employer likely
7 “feared professional consequences of not signing.”).
8

9 Here, all the drivers who submitted declarations in support of Opposition are at-will.
10 Dkt. No. 52, Ex. 5 at 5. They should be discounted because of the coercion inherent in their
11 production. Defendant employs or has an ongoing business relationship with 46 of 50
12 declarants. Cairns Decl., Ex. 3 (Chart). Many declarants testified that Rebecca Craig, the
13 owner, initiated contact. *Id.* Defendant held monthly “captive audience”⁸ meetings to broadcast
14 its position since February 2018. Cairns Decl., Ex. 1 at 70:4-6, 78:17-24. These meetings have
15 given Defendant a bully pulpit from which to secure its at-will employees’ compliance with
16 Defendant’s objectives. *See id.* at 60:22-61:25. The Washington Supreme Court has warned
17 about this specific form of class action abuse: “The potential abuses of the class action process
18 include . . . exertion of undue influence on class members to opt out, and misrepresentations
19 creating false impressions of the action and the court’s rule.” *Darling v. Champion Home*
20 *Builders Co.*, 96 Wash. 2d 701, 706, 638 P.2d 1249, 1252 (1982). “Defendants and their
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24 ⁸ *See N. L. R. B. v. United Steelworkers of Am., CIO*, 357 U.S. 357, 368, 78 S. Ct. 1268, 1274, 2
25 L. Ed. 2d 1383 (1958) (“ . . . classic captive audience. At the very moment the employees in
26 this case were under the greatest degree of control by their employer, they were forced to listen
to denunciations . . .”).

1 counsel . . . may not give false, misleading, or intimidating information, conceal material
2 information, or attempt to influence the decision about whether to request exclusion from a
3 class certified under Rule 23(b)(3).” ANN. MANUAL COMPLEX LIT., § 21.12 (4th ed.).

4 Other evidence shows the declarations should be discounted. For example, every dated
5 declaration was signed between November 16-20, 2018. Cairns Decl. ¶ 5, Ex. 3. All but three
6 Declarations with signature location were signed in or near Defendant’s shop. Cairns Decl., Ex.
7 3. Other irregularities reek of undue influence. *See generally id.*

9 Even if there were no coercion present, and they are otherwise valid, the declarations
10 are largely immaterial and do not bear on any element of class certification. Only one of the
11 declarations addresses overtime. Cairns Decl., Ex. 3. No declaration addresses travel time. *Id.*
12 Only one references pay for pre-op and post-op time. *Id.* Defendant largely does not address the
13 relevance of the declarations. Only 16 of the 50 declarations are cited for any reason in
14 Defendant’s Opposition. *Id.* In general, they all concern Defendant’s uniform break policy. But
15 breaks are not the only issue in this lawsuit.

17 Finally, Defendant’s declarations are full of conclusory factual statements, *ad hominem*
18 attacks on Plaintiff, and inaccurate legal statements. For example, 40 of declarants state that
19 Defendant does not owe them money. *Id.* However, the declarants misunderstand the claims in
20 this lawsuit and Washington meal and rest break laws. And the statements about Plaintiff are
21 without foundation and inaccurate. *See generally* Declaration of Kris Hardie in Reply to
22 Motion for Class Certification (“Hardie Decl.”).

1 Overall, Defendant’s declarations shed no light on whether this suit should be certified
2 as a class action. To the extent the declarations do address issues related to the number of
3 breaks or damages in this case, the testimony, if admissible, can be presented at trial.

4 **B. Washington’s Meal and Rest Break Laws.**

5 Defendant argues “employees need not be given an uninterrupted 10-minute rest period
6 when the nature of the work allows intermittent rest periods equal to ten minutes during each
7 four hours of work,” and that Plaintiff “incorrectly assume[s] that every driver is entitled to be
8 completely relieved of duty for ten-minute blocks of time.” Opposition at 16-17. Defendant
9 does not argue how or why the nature of its employees’ work permits intermittent breaks. In
10 fact, it argues the opposite: “Employee Handbook states that employees are entitled to a *ten-*
11 *minute paid rest break* every four hours.” Opposition at 16 (emphasis added). Defendant admits
12 it does nothing to ensure that its employees take rest breaks. Dkt. No. 52, Ex. 1 at 95:2-4.
13 Defendant argues that it “relies on the drivers to self-regulate when they take their rest breaks.”
14 Opposition at 5.
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16
17 Defendant’s position is impermissible. Indeed, Washington courts have consistently
18 interpreted the plain language of WAC 296-196-092 to impose “a mandatory obligation on the
19 employer.” *Demetrio v. Sakuma Bros. Farms, Inc.*, 183 Wn.2d 649, 658, 355 P.3d 258 (2015)
20 quoting *Pellino v. Brink’s Inc.*, 164 Wn. App. 668, 688, 267 P.3d 383 (2011); *see also Wingert*
21 *v. Yellow Freight Sys., Inc.*, 146 Wn.2d 841, 852, 50 P.3d 256 (2002). “It is not enough for an
22 employer to simply schedule time throughout the day during which an employee can take a
23 break if he or she chooses. Instead, employers must affirmatively promote meaningful break
24 time.” *Demetrio*, 183 Wn.2d at 658 (citations omitted).
25
26

1 An employer who puts employees “in a situation where they could not take their
2 breaks” is in violation of this obligation. *Wash. State. Nurses Ass’n v. Sacred Medical Center*,
3 175 Wn.2d 822, 831, 287 P.3d 516 (2012). When employees are not provided with the
4 mandated rest period, their workday is extended by 10 minutes, and they are entitled to
5 compensation for that time. *Id.* at 829 (citing *Wingert*, 146 Wn.2d at 849).

6 Here, Defendant’s explanation of its rest break policy underscores why class
7 certification of rest break claims is appropriate. For example, drivers appear to believe they are
8 taking a rest break when they appear to be “working.” See, e.g., Dkt. Nos. 75-89, 91-105, 107-
9 126. Here, it does not appear these drivers were relieved of their duties during their “breaks.”
10 Moreover, Defendant is unable to determine if rest breaks are taken, has no policy to report
11 missed rest breaks, and fails to compensate drivers for missed rest breaks. Moreover, “[m]ost of
12 the employees’ schedules are tied to how long it takes them to complete the work rather than
13 having a specific quitting time.” Opposition at 6. By Defendant’s own admission, if an
14 employee gets done with a job early, the shift will end early. This practice encourages drivers
15 to work through their breaks and does not promote meaningful rest break time. These are all
16 uniform violations of Washington’s rest break laws.

17 Defendant argues “Plaintiff’s Motion improperly assumes that all meal breaks must be
18 paid.” Opposition at 16. This is untrue. WAC 296-126-092 mandates pay during meal periods
19 when the employee is required by the employer to remain “on duty” or at a prescribed worksite
20 in the interest of the employer. See *Pellino*, 164 Wn. App. at 668. That is, consistent with
21 Washington law, Plaintiff claims he and the proposed Class are entitled to pay for “meal
22 breaks” when they are also “on duty.”
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1 Here, Defendant’s explanation of its meal break policy underscores why certification of
2 the meal break claim is appropriate. The declarants believe that they are provided meal breaks
3 when they are traveling from job site to job site. See, e.g., Dkt. Nos. 93 ¶ 7, 109 ¶ 6. The nature
4 of these “breaks” is a question to be decided on a class-wide basis. *See infra* at §III.D.2-3.

5 **C. Class Certification Standard.**

6 Defendant’s analysis relies heavily on inapposite federal cases interpreting federal rule
7 23 while ignoring controlling Washington authority. In opposing Plaintiff’s Motion, Defendant
8 fails to distinguish or even address the controlling authority for class certification of meal and
9 rest break claims. These cases were decided after *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes*, 564 U.S. 338,
10 131 S. Ct. 2541 (2011), a case Defendant erroneously relies upon to argue that the proposed
11 Class lacks commonality. *See* Opposition at 19-21.

12 But just as the Washington Supreme Court pronounced this year: “Washington courts
13 liberally interpret CR 23” and “should err in favor of certifying a class because the class is
14 always subject to the trial court’s later modification or decertification.” *Chavez v. Our Lady of*
15 *Lourdes Hosp. at Pasco*, 190 Wn.2d 507, 515, 415 P.3d 224 (2018).

16 While the Court may look to federal decisions for guidance in interpreting CR 23, it is
17 “by no means bound” by those federal decision. *Darling v. Champion Home Builders Co.*, 96
18 Wash. 2d 701, 706, 638 P.2d 1249, 1251 (1982). Like *Dukes*, much of Defendant’s federal
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1 authority is inapplicable under *Chavez*. Some of the cases Defendant cites support Plaintiff’s
2 arguments.⁹ Other cases cited by Defendant are contrary to Washington law.¹⁰

3 **D. Plaintiff Satisfies the Four Certification Prerequisites under CR 23(a).**

4 In its Opposition, Defendant does not dispute Plaintiff’s motion for class certification as
5 it relates to the CR 23(a) requirements for Plaintiff’s claims of: 1) unpaid mobilization time; 2)
6 unpaid overtime; 3) wages owed at termination; and 4) willfulness. Defendant focuses on meal
7 and rest break claims to the exclusion of these other class-wide issues. Because Defendant
8 ignores and fails to distinguish controlling authority on meal and rest break claims, Defendant
9 has not met even that limited objective.

11 **1. Plaintiff Satisfies the Numerosity Requirement.**

12 Defendant argues that numerosity is not met because: 1) Plaintiff has only provided
13 declarations from five potential class members; and 2) there are 40 people that signed
14 declarations indicating they would opt out. Neither argument defeats numerosity.

15 First, Defendant’s position that only five people are part of the class is unsupported by
16 the law. “The default rule in class actions is that a class member is included in the class unless
17 she excludes herself; a court cannot, therefore, adopt the reverse rule—that only class members
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22 ⁹ See *e.g. Tyson Foods, Inc. v. Bouaphakeo*, 136 S. Ct. 1036, 194 L. Ed. 2d 124 (2016), cited
23 approvingly in *Chavez*, holding that differences among employees in the time spent doing
specific tasks “do not make a class action unmanageable because those issues can be resolved
effectively using traditional class management tools.” *Chavez*, 190 Wash. 2d at 522.

24 ¹⁰ Compare *Amgen Inc. v. Connecticut Ret. Plans & Tr. Funds*, 568 U.S. 455, 133 S. Ct. 1184
25 (2013) with *Washington Educ. Ass’n v. Shelton Sch. Dist. No. 309*, 93 Wash. 2d 783, 790, 613
26 P.2d 769, 773 (1980)(finding that “the certification of a class is to be undertaken with no
consideration of the merits of the plaintiffs’ claims”)

1 who include themselves are part of the class. Put simply, Rule 23 is an opt-out, not an opt-in,
2 mechanism.” 3 NEWBERG ON CLASS ACTIONS § 9:48 (5th ed.).

3 As such, Class actions are certified based on the number of individuals who meet the
4 class definition. It is not based on the number of declarations provided by the Plaintiff. Here,
5 Defendant and Plaintiff do not dispute that over 127 individuals meet the class definition.

6 Second, even if we credit Defendant’s argument that over 50 class members will seek to
7 opt out, numerosity will still be satisfied. *See Gortat v. Capala Bros.*, No. 07 CIV. 3629 ILG
8 SMG, 2012 WL 1116495, at *3 (E.D.N.Y. Apr. 3, 2012) (holding even where a high
9 percentage of class members opt-out, decertification is nevertheless unwarranted if the
10 remaining class members still meet the numerosity requirement.).

11
12 **2. Plaintiff Satisfies the Commonality Requirement.**

13 Fatally relying on *Dukes*, Defendant claims that “[w]hether each driver was deprived of
14 compensation for meal periods or rest breaks is a question that can only be answered by
15 addressing each driver individually.” Opposition at 17. Washington Courts have rejected this
16 argument. Class treatment is appropriate when there is common course of conduct by opposing
17 party in relationship to all potential class members, or claims of such potential members
18 involve common nucleus of operative facts. *Brown v. Brown*, 6 Wash. App. 249, 255, 492 P.2d
19 581 (1971). “Claims by workers that their employers have unlawfully denied them wages to
20 which they were legally entitled have repeatedly been held to meet the prerequisites for class
21 certification, including commonality.” *Mendis v. Schneider Nat’l Carriers, Inc.*, C15-0144-
22 JCC, 2017 WL 497600, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 7, 2017).
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1 *Pellino* rejected an employer’s argument that “because the decision of when to take
2 breaks ‘varied from employee to employee,’ breaks were ‘characterized by a lack of
3 uniformity’ and do not establish commonality under CR 23.” 164 Wash. App. at 683. Indeed,
4 “[t]he principal factual and legal issues are whether class members are entitled to compensation
5 for . . . missed rest and meal breaks under Washington law.” *Id.*; *See also Chavez*, 190 Wash.
6 2d at 519, (“it is not necessary to prove each plaintiff’s damages on an individual basis; it is
7 possible to assess damages on a class-wide basis using representative testimony . . .”).
8

9 Here, Defendant’s declarations underscore the common issues: all the claims arise from
10 its common policies and practice. Plaintiff presents substantial evidence that Defendant’s meal
11 and rest break policy does not conform with Washington law. Whether Defendant was, in fact,
12 providing proper rest breaks is a merits question that is not appropriate at this stage.

13 Here, commonality for the Breaks claim is met because the principal factual and legal
14 issues are whether class members are entitled to compensation for Defendant’s wage violations.
15 Defendant’s do not make argument regarding the other claims.
16

17 **3. Plaintiff Satisfies the Typicality Requirement.**

18 Defendant only makes two arguments against typicality. The first argument is that
19 Plaintiff is not typical of the class because he signed away his rights. We have addressed this
20 argument, *supra* at §II.C. Second, Defendant argues that there are individual issues of fact.

21 To satisfy typicality, “[t]he claims of the class representative must be typical of the
22 class, but they need not be identical to those of the absent class members . . . the typicality
23 inquiry focuses on the nature of the class representative’s claim or defense and not on the
24 specific facts from which that claim or defense arose.” 7 NEWBERG ON CLASS ACTIONS § 23:23
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1 (5th ed.). In Washington “[a] representative plaintiff’s claim is typical if the same legal theory
2 underlies all class members’ claims.” *Weston v. Emerald City Pizza LLC*, 137 Wash. App. 164,
3 170, 151 P.3d 1090 (2007).

4 Here, as in *Pellino*, the court should reject the employer’s argument that “because []
5 breaks varied from those of the class” there is no typicality. 164 Wash. App. at 684. *Pellino*
6 endorses an approach that Plaintiff can show typicality and “establish liability by using
7 representative evidence to prove a pattern or practice of violations by the defendant with
8 respect to the class.” *Id.*

9
10 Plaintiffs’ claims are typical of the claims of other proposed Class members because
11 they arise from the same undisputed policy and practice of the Defendant.

12 **4. Plaintiff Satisfies the Adequacy Requirement.**

13 Defendant claims Plaintiff is an inadequate representative because: 1) he has allegedly
14 released some wage claims; 2) he has alleged credibility issues; and 3) “[d]eclarations of
15 current and former employees also make it clear they do not want Hardie acting on their
16 behalf.” Opposition at 24.

17
18 Defendant’s argument fails on all three counts. First, Plaintiff has not released his
19 claims. *See supra* at §II.C.

20 Second, there is no evidence that Plaintiff lacks credibility to act as a Class
21 representative. For Defendant’s argument to succeed, it must present “admissible evidence so
22 severely undermining plaintiff’s credibility that a fact finder might reasonably focus on
23 plaintiff’s credibility, to the detriment of the absent class members’ claims.” *CE Design Ltd. v.*
24 *King Architectural Metals, Inc.*, 637 F.3d 721, 728 (7th Cir. 2011). “[M]inor conflicts’ or
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1 conflicts that are ‘merely speculative or *hypothetical*’ will not render a representative so
2 inadequate” 3 NEWBERG ON CLASS ACTIONS § 7:31 (5th ed.) (emphasis added). There is no
3 such evidence here that Plaintiff’s credibility is a detriment to the Class.

4 Third, to the extent employees want to opt-out, they will have that opportunity. This
5 does not affect adequacy.

6 **E. Plaintiff Meets the Requirements of Rule 23(b)(3).**

7 Defendant challenges predominance only to meal and rest breaks, not other claims.

8 Both Plaintiff’s and Defendant’s declaration prove a common policy, that is drivers must self-
9 regulate breaks, thus establishing predominance. Defendant’s policy resulted in unpaid missed
10 rest breaks.

11 Under Washington law, “[a] single common issue may be the overriding one in the
12 litigation, despite the fact that the suit also entails numerous remaining individual questions.”
13 *Chavez*, 190 Wash.2nd at 519. That is, the predominate question here is whether Defendant’s
14 challenged policies and practices applied uniformly to all drivers. Plaintiff does not dispute that
15 he sometimes took a rest break; however, that is a damages issue that is irrelevant to class
16 certification.

17 As *Chavez* recently held, “a class action is superior to other methods of adjudication for
18 the resolution . . .” of wage and hour disputes involving many employees. 190 Wash. 2d at
19 522–23. “Where individual damages are small, the class vehicle is usually deemed to be
20 superior.” *Id.*, at 523.

21 Because of the nature of the claims in this lawsuit, a class action is a superior method of
22 adjudication. Defendant has neither argued nor presented evidence of any superior alternative.
23

1 Defendant has neither argued nor presented evidence of management difficulties or
2 providing notice.

3 **F. Plaintiff has Consistently Denied he Received All Breaks**

4 Due to a serious head injury suffered by the lead attorney in the matter, Plaintiff failed
5 to timely respond to the request for admissions. Plaintiff submitted supplemental answers on
6 July 11, 2018, shortly after the requests were due and well before discovery cutoff and prior to
7 Plaintiff's deposition. Cairns Decl. ¶ 7, Ex. 5. Under CR 36(b) the court applies a two-part test
8 when considering an amendment or withdrawal of an admission. First, whether permitting the
9 extension subserves the presentation of the merits of the case; and second, whether the
10 extension will prejudice the opposing party. *Santos v. Dean*, 96 Wash.App. 849, 859, 982 P.2d
11 632 (1999).
12

13 Permitting Plaintiff's responses subserves the presentation of the merits of the case
14 because Defendant's request was improper under CR 36 in the first place as it sought a legal
15 conclusion binding on absent class members. Furthermore, Defendant is not prejudiced by
16 Plaintiff's responses and has not plead as much.
17

18 **G. Plaintiff's Motion is Timely.**

19 Plaintiff filed for class certification in accordance with this Court's Order. *See* Dkt. No.
20 46. Plaintiff's motion is timely.

21 **IV. CONCLUSION**

22 For the foregoing reason, Plaintiffs request the Court grant Plaintiff's motion for class
23 certification.
24
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26

Signed on December 10, 2018 at Seattle, WA.

REKHI & WOLK, P.S.

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I certify this memorandum contains less than 4,200 words, which complies with the Order Setting Case Schedule and Order Granting Motion to File Overlength Brief.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs