



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Solicitor General Division

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April 16, 2020

Honorable Scott S. Harris
Clerk of the Supreme Court
Supreme Court of the United States
1 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20543

RE: *States of Montana and Wyoming v. State of Washington*, No. 22O152

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am counsel of record for defendant State of Washington in this case. A response to the Motion for Leave to File Bill of Complaint, Bill of Complaint, and Brief in Support currently is due May 8, 2020. That date reflects an extension the Court granted March 10, 2020.

Pursuant to Rule 30.4, the State of Washington requests an additional 31-day extension to file a brief in opposition, to June 8, 2020. Counsel for plaintiffs Montana and Wyoming has informed us that they do not object to the additional extension.

This request for additional time is made in part to accommodate other concurrent deadlines, particularly the oral argument in *Chiafalo v. Washington*, No. 19-465, recently rescheduled for May 13, 2020. The State's small team of attorneys that work on U.S. Supreme Court matters will be extremely busy preparing for that argument. The State will also be filing a brief in opposition in *Njonge v. Gilbert*, No. 19-7426, and *Danielson v. Inslee*, No. 19-1130, both currently due May 15, 2020, and *Living Essentials, LLC v. Washington*, No. 19-988, due May 29, 2020.

The COVID-19 outbreak has placed additional and urgent advice and litigation responsibilities on our office, with a disproportionate percentage falling to our small Solicitor General Division. The challenges have been magnified by the additional logistical difficulties of having to operate under stay-at-home orders since March 16, 2020—and for those with young children, the closure of schools and daycares. In addition, postponed state supreme court arguments now will be heard beginning May 5, 2020; our Solicitor General Division also has responsibilities in those cases.

We anticipate no further request for extension. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

s/ Noah Guzzo Purcell

Noah Guzzo Purcell
Solicitor General
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cc: Dale Schowengerdt, Counsel of Record for Plaintiffs Montana and Wyoming