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No. 981] (the "Mediation Motion"). In support of this Statement, SOF respectfully represents as follows:

- 1. SOF is an arm's length creditor that has to date remained uninvolved in the resolution of the fundamental issues affecting the "special parties" in these cases —the NHL, the City of Glendale and Mr. Moyes. SOF's primary concern has been and remains to maximize the value of the Debtors' assets in order to permit full satisfaction of its secured claims as expeditiously as possible. SOF has supported the sale process implemented by this Court as the best means to achieve that result. Subject to the Court issuing its order, that process culminated with the two-day auction and sale hearing held on September 10 and 11, 2009 (the "Sale Hearing").
- 2. Simply put, SOF believes that with the NHL's pre-season having already commenced, the Coyotes continuing to incur massive losses, and the pendency of the Court's decision necessarily affecting the Debtor's ticket sales and other critical business issues, time is of the essence. Any further delay will create undue risk to creditors. The "Key Issues" the Debtors identify in the Mediation Motion have been extensively briefed and argued throughout the pendency of these cases—some from the beginning of these cases back in May—and were finally submitted to the Court at the Sale Hearing. SOF is gravely concerned that any imposed mediation will unnecessarily delay the Court's determination regarding the outcome of the auction and related issues, to the detriment of SOF and other creditors.
- 3. Of course, the issues before the Court are complex and the record extensive. As SOF stated at the Sale Hearing, SOF believes that the Court can narrowly decide the fundamental, but straight-forward, question presented—which of the two transactions is higher and better—and issue an order that would permit the selected transaction to close as soon as possible, while preserving for future determination the more complicated legal issues such as claim treatment and the rights and remedies of nondebtors. SOF believes that at this time the best way to preserve the value of the Debtors' assets is for the parties in interest to permit this Court to reach a decision

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based on the record before it, as soon as the Court is ready. By putting the value available to satisfy creditors' claims in jeopardy, and imposing on these estates the risk that is inevitable from further time delay, the Mediation Motion asks the Court for an inappropriate exercise of its general equitable powers that will unjustifiably threaten additional harm to the innocent creditor body, including SOF. Therefore, the Mediation Motion should be denied.

4. SOF fully reserves any and all of its rights with respect to the Mediation Motion and to amend or supplement this Objection between now and the emergency hearing on the Mediation Motion scheduled for September 23, 2009.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this 21st day of September, 2009.

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