IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:

WELDED CONSTRUCTION, L.P., et al.,¹

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 18-12378 (KG)

Hearing Date: March 13, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. (ET) Objection Deadline: February 14, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)

Re: Docket No. 451

LIMITED OBJECTION OF CATERPILLAR FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION TO DEBTORS' FOURTH OMNIBUS MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 105(a) AND 365(a) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE, AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO REJECT CERTAIN UNEXPIRED LEASES AND EXECUTORY CONTRACTS NUNC PRO <u>TUNC TO THE REJECTION EFFECTIVE DATE</u>

Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation ("CFSC"), by and through its undersigned

counsel, hereby submits this limited objection (the "Limited Objection") to the Debtors' Fourth

Omnibus Motion for Entry of an Order, Pursuant to Sections 105(a) and 365(a) of the Bankruptcy

Code, Authorizing the Debtors to Reject Certain Unexpired Leases and Executory Contracts Nunc

Pro Tunc to the Rejection Effective Date [Docket No. 451] (the "Motion"). In support of this

Limited Objection, CFSC respectfully states as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT²

1. CFSC does not oppose the relief sought by the Debtors in the Motion; provided,

however, that the order granting the Motion clarify the Debtors' obligation to return any Leased

¹The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Welded Construction, L.P. (5008) and Welded Construction Michigan, LLC (9830). The mailing address for each of the Debtors is 26933 Eckel Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

² All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning set forth in the Motion.

Equipment (hereinafter defined) to CFSC that is subject to a Rejected Contract. Further, CFSC has identified several inconsistencies in <u>Schedule 1</u> to the Proposed Order, and requests that these errors be corrected.

BACKGROUND

The Equipment Leases

2. On or about August 31, 2016, Welded Construction and CFSC entered into a Master Finance Lease for the lease of eighty-one (81) pieces of equipment more fully described on numerous schedules to the Master Finance Lease (collectively, the "<u>Master Finance Lease</u>").

3. On or about June 12, 2017, Welded Construction and CFSC entered into a Master Tax Lease for the lease of fifty-four (54) pieces of equipment more fully described on several schedules to the Master Tax Lease (collectively, the "<u>Master Tax Lease</u>").

4. Pursuant to the Master Finance Lease and the Master Tax Lease (collectively, the "<u>Leases</u>"), Welded Construction leases a total of one hundred thirty five (135) pieces of equipment from CFSC (collectively, the "<u>Leased Equipment</u>").

5. Out of an abundance of caution, CFSC filed protective UCC Financing Statements with the Delaware Secretary of State to provide notice to all creditors of its interests in the Leased Equipment.

6. The Leases are true leases and are not disguised secured financing arrangements. The Leased Equipment is property of CFSC.

7. Welded Construction is currently in breach of the Leases.

The Chapter 11 Cases

8. On October 22, 2018 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Debtors filed their Voluntary Petitions. As of the Petition Date, Welded Construction was, and remains, in arrears to CFSC in

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the aggregate amount of \$2,001,973.46.

9. On January 31, 2018, the Debtors filed the Motion, seeking, *inter alia*, authority to reject certain unexpired leases of real or personal property and certain executory contracts. Included on the list of unexpired leases and executory contracts to be rejected as set forth on <u>Schedule 1</u> to the Proposed Order are twenty five (25)³ unexpired leases or executory contracts for Leased Equipment in which CFSC is the lessor.

LIMITED OBJECTION

10. CFSC does not question the Debtors' business judgment to reject any of the Rejected Contracts. CFCS does, however, object to certain aspects of the proposed form of order to the Motion as set forth herein.

11. First, CFSC does not object to the *nunc pro tunc* relief requested in the Motion, provided that the Leased Equipment subject to a Rejected Contract (the "<u>Rejected Equipment</u>") is returned to CFSC prior to the entry of an order granting the Motion. If, however, a piece of Rejected Equipment is not returned prior to the hearing on the Motion, then the effective rejection date for the respective Rejected Contract should be the date that the Debtors return the Rejected Equipment to CFSC or, alternatively, CFSC takes possession of the Rejected Equipment.

12. Additionally, to the extent that any Rejected Equipment has not been returned to CFSC as of the date of the hearing on the Motion, CFSC requests that the following language be added to the Proposed Order:

To the extent all personal property, including equipment leased by the Debtors pursuant to a Rejected Contract (the "<u>Rejected Property</u>") is not returned to the non-Debtor party to a Rejected Contract on the Rejection Date, the Debtors shall secure the respective Rejected Property until it is returned to the non-Debtor party to such Rejected Contract; provided,

³ Schedule 1 to the Proposed Order identifies CFSC as the lessor of thirty one (31) pieces of equipment. As explained in paragraph 14 hereof, CFSC is not the lessor of six (6) pieces of equipment identified on Schedule 1 to the Proposed Order.

however, that the Debtors shall return the Rejected Property to the non-Debtor party to such Rejected Contract or, alternatively, make the Rejected Property available for such non-Debtor party to take possession of the respective Rejected Property, within five (5) days of the Court's entry of this Order.

13. Second, the serial numbers of four (4) pieces of equipment leased to the Debtors by CFSC are listed incorrectly on <u>Schedule 1</u> to the Proposed Order. <u>Schedule 1</u> identifies four (4) Caterpillar D8T Dozers with serial numbers FMC1116, FMC1118, FMC1128 and FMC1113. The Serial Numbers for these pieces of equipment are missing a digit. The serial numbers should be listed on <u>Schedule 1</u> to the Proposed Order as FMC01116, FMC01118, FMC01128 and FMC01128 and FMC01113. CFSC made the Debtors aware of this error and the Debtors advised CFSC that the four (4) serial numbers would be revised on the list of Rejected Contracts prior to the entry of an Order granting the Motion. To that end, at this juncture, CFSC reserves it rights to raise its objection to the Motion on this ground at or prior to the hearing to the extent that the serial numbers are not corrected on Schedule 1 to the Order.

14. Third, <u>Schedule 1</u> to the Proposed Order incorrectly identifies CFSC as the lessor for six (6) unexpired leases and/or executory contracts (Caterpillar D6T Dozers – Serial Nos. KSB00452, KSB01364, KSB01426 KSB01300, KSB01425, KSB01360). CFSC is not the owner and lessor of these six (6) pieces of equipment. These six (6) leases expired on February 28, 2018 – well before the Petition Date. As such, CFSC is no longer the owner or lessor of these six (6) pieces of equipment and all six (6) of these Leases should be removed from the list of Rejected Contracts. CFSC advised the Debtors that the lessor was incorrectly identified and that CFSC sold these six (6) pieces of equipment prior to the Petition Date. To that end, CFSC reserves it rights to raise its objection to the Motion on this ground at or prior to the hearing to the extent that the six (6) leases identified above are included on <u>Schedule 1</u> to the Order.

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RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

15. CFSC reserves its right to supplement this Limited Objection (whether before or at the hearing on the Motion) to address additional issues raised in the Motion. CFSC further reserves all of its rights, claims, defenses, and remedies, including, without limitation, the right to amend, modify, or supplement this Limited Objection, to seek discovery, and to raise additional objections during the hearing on the Motion.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, CFSC objects to entry of the current form of proposed order to the Motion and respectfully requests (A) that the Court grant the Motion only if it grants the relief requested in this Limited Objection and (B) that the Court grant such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: February 11, 2019 Wilmington, Delaware Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen B. Gerald Stephen B. Gerald (No. 5857) WHITEFORD, TAYLOR & PRESTON LLC The Renaissance Centre 405 North King Street, Suite 500 Wilmington, Delaware 19801 Telephone: (302) 353-4144 Facsimile: (410) 223-4178 Email: sgerald@wtplaw.com

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Counsel for Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Stephen B. Gerald, do hereby certify that on February 11, 2019, I caused a copy of the foregoing Limited Objection of Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation to Debtors' Fourth Omnibus Motion for Entry of an Order, Pursuant to Sections 105(a) and 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, Authorizing the Debtors to Reject Certain Unexpired Leases and Executory Contracts *Nunc Pro Tunc* to the Rejection Effective Date to be served on the parties listed on the attached in the manner indicated.

> /s/ Stephen B. Gerald Stephen B. Gerald (No. 5857)

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