

1 Kevin P. Muck (California SBN 120918)
kevin.muck@wilmerhale.com
2 WILMER CUTLER PICKERING
HALE AND DORR LLP
3 One Front Street, Suite 3500,
San Francisco, CA 94111
4 Tel: (628) 235-1000 / Fax: (628) 235-1001

5 William Paine, *pro hac vice*
william.paine@wilmerhale.com
6 Robert Kingsley Smith, *pro hac vice*
robert.smith@wilmerhale.com
7 Sonia Sujanani, *pro hac vice*
Sonia.sujanani@wilmerhale.com
8 WILMER CUTLER PICKERING
HALE AND DORR LLP
9 60 State Street, Boston, MA 02109
Tel: (617) 526-6759 / Fax: (617) 526-5000
10

11 Elaine F. Harwell (California SBN 242551)
elaine.harwell@procopio.com
12 PROCOPIO, CORY, HARGREAVES
& SAVITCH, LLP
13 525 B Street, Suite 2200,
San Diego, CA 92101
14 Tel: (619) 238-1900 / Fax: (619) 235-0398

15 *Attorneys for Defendant TuSimple Holdings Inc.*

16 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
17 **FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

18 AUSTIN DICKER, *et al.*,
19 Individually and on Behalf of All Others
Similarly Situated,

20 *Plaintiffs,*

21 v.

22 TUSIMPLE HOLDINGS INC.,
et al.,

23 *Defendants.*

Case No. 3:22-cv-01300-BEN-MSB

(Consolidated with
Case No. 3:23-cv-00282-BEN-MSB)

**REDACTED DECLARATION
OF CHENG LU IN SUPPORT
OF DEFENDANT TUSIMPLE
HOLDINGS INC.'S
OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS'
EX PARTE MOTION FOR
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER AND LIMITED
EXPEDITED DISCOVERY**

1 I, Cheng Lu, declare as follows:

2 1. I offer this declaration in support of Defendant TuSimple Holdings
3 Inc.’s (“TuSimple”) Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Opposition to
4 Plaintiffs’ *Ex Parte* Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order and Limited
5 Expedited Discovery (“TRO Motion”).

6 2. I graduated from the University of Virginia in 2005 with a Bachelor of
7 Science degree in computer science and economics. I graduated from Harvard
8 Business School in 2010 with a Master of Business Administration. I am a citizen
9 of the United States and only a citizen of the United States.

10 3. I have served as TuSimple’s Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) since
11 November 2022. Previously, I served as TuSimple’s CEO from September 2020
12 until March 2022, and as TuSimple’s Chief Financial Officer from January 2019 to
13 December 2020. I also served as a member of TuSimple’s Board of Directors
14 (“Board”) from June 2020 until March 2022 and from November 2022 to present.

15 4. My responsibilities as CEO include leading TuSimple’s overall go-to-
16 market and commercialization strategy. That requires that I interact directly with
17 the Company’s partners, suppliers, customers, and regulators. I am responsible for
18 negotiating and approving the terms of material contracts into which TuSimple
19 enters with its partners, suppliers, and customers. I am intimately familiar with
20 TuSimple’s technology; familiar with the market in which TuSimple and its
21 subsidiaries, our partners, suppliers, and customers, are working together to
22 commercialize TuSimple’s technology; and familiar with the impediments and risks
23 to the commercialization of TuSimple’s technology. I am also intimately familiar
24 with TuSimple’s business model and finances.

25 5. TuSimple is a company at the development stage, intended to operate
26 at a loss for years as it optimizes and commercializes its proprietary technology.
27 TuSimple has historically operated two standalone businesses. One is focused on
28

1 operations in the United States and is known as “TuSimple U.S.” The other is
2 focused on the Asia-Pacific region (“APAC”) and is known as “TuSimple China.”
3 TuSimple U.S. and TuSimple China are each a collection of subsidiaries of
4 TuSimple (direct or indirect), organized and doing business in each region.
5 TuSimple U.S. and TuSimple China have historically operated with stand-alone
6 engineering teams and software code bases and infrastructure.

7 6. In June 2023, TuSimple announced a strategic review of the U.S.
8 operations having lost its key OEM development partnership with Navistar and the
9 high operating costs of running two separate operations. TuSimple engaged Perella
10 Weinberg LLP, a publicly traded investment bank focused on mergers and
11 acquisitions, to run a sales process for all or part of TuSimple’s U.S. operations.
12 TuSimple was not able to find a buyer for the entire business, but, in May 2024
13 TuSimple signed a non-binding term sheet to sell certain soft-IP assets to a U.S.-
14 based technology company. Separately, TuSimple is winding down the rest of its
15 TuSimple U.S. business. TuSimple China will be the principal operating asset of
16 TuSimple and, for the foreseeable future, the sole means by which TuSimple’s
17 shareholders—including many U.S. investors—may benefit from the
18 commercialization of TuSimple’s autonomous driving technology.

19 7. Despite this shift in TuSimple’s operational focus, TuSimple is a
20 Delaware corporation subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

21 **I. TuSimple’s Cash Controls**

22 8. I understand that Plaintiffs’ counsel in this class action have raised
23 questions relating to TuSimple’s cash controls. As CEO, I am familiar with those
24 cash controls, which I describe briefly here.

25 9. [REDACTED]
26 [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]

5 10. TuSimple’s philosophy on cash management has not changed in the
6 past three years. [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]

14 11. [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]

21 12. TuSimple is consistently and proactively examining ways to provide
22 better corporate governance and to ensure safe cash management process. On March
23 4, 2024, TuSimple’s Board unanimously adopted a resolution (“March Resolution”)
24 enhancing the Company’s controls with respect to certain types of cash transactions.

25 [REDACTED]
26 [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]

6 13. [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]

14 14. On June 6, 2024, TuSimple’s Board further enhanced the Company’s
15 cash controls. [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]

21 15. TuSimple’s current Security Director is Albert Schultz. He is a U.S.
22 citizen and resident, and a former case officer with the Central Intelligence Agency.
23 He has also served in the Army National Guard and Reserve and has served on the
24 Board of several private companies. His appointment as Security Director was
25 approved by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (“CFIUS”)
26 (an inter-agency committee with representatives from the United States Departments
27 of Treasury and Defense), to whom he has reporting obligations under the National
28

1 Security Agreement between TuSimple and CFIUS. The Security Director is a
2 member of the Company’s Audit Committee.

3 16. The other current members of the Company’s Audit Committee are
4 James Lu and Zhen Tao. Mr. Lu and Ms. Tao are outside directors and are not
5 TuSimple officers. They are not alleged to have ties to China or to have engaged in
6 any wrongdoing. Each one is a U.S. citizen and resident and is highly qualified to
7 serve as a director and an Audit Committee member. For example, Mr. Lu is the
8 chairman of a Nasdaq-listed, U.S.-based public company and has served on
9 numerous corporate boards. And Ms. Tao, in addition to being a senior partner at
10 an investment firm, is the elected Treasurer of the city of South Pasadena, CA.

11 **II. TuSimple’s April 29, 2024 Payment to Amazon Web Services**

12 17. [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]

19 18. [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] These AWS payments are
24 ordinary business expenses.

25 19. TuSimple received an invoice from AWS in late March for \$4 million,
26 which was due on May 13, 2024. On April 26, 2024, I approved that invoice for
27
28

1 payment. My expectation at that time was that the payment would be processed on
2 or near the due date of May 13, 2024.

3 20. As of the week ending April 28, 2024, TuSimple's monthly cash
4 outflow for April 2024 was [REDACTED]. Thus, had
5 the [REDACTED] payment to AWS been made in May 2024 as expected, TuSimple's
6 cash outflow for April 2024 would have been [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]
8 21. However, the \$4 million payment to AWS was processed on April 29,
9 2024, increasing TuSimple's cash outflow for April 2024 to [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 22. This was a timing error; had the [REDACTED] AWS payment been
16 processed just two days later (on May 1, 2024), there would have been no issue [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]
18 23. In response to the prematurely processed AWS payment, [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
26 [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]

6 **III. TuSimple’s Past Relationship with Hydron**

7 24. I understand that, in the TRO Motion, Plaintiffs have asserted that
8 TuSimple’s intellectual property has been improperly transferred to Hydron in the
9 past. This is false.

10 25. At the time of its initial public offering, TuSimple disclosed that it did
11 not intend to manufacture trucks. Rather, TuSimple’s plan was to focus on
12 developing autonomous driving software and to use partnerships with third parties
13 who would use their own capital to develop a commercially viable “scalable
14 production semi-truck” capable of being controlled by TuSimple software. Ex. A
15 (Prospectus) at 24, 121. TuSimple explained that this business model allowed it to
16 obtain the “benefits of capital light vertical integration.” *Id.* That is, TuSimple
17 intended to incentivize OEMs and component manufacturers to use their own capital
18 to develop trucks while TuSimple used its capital to develop software, which would
19 allow all key components of a commercial solution to be developed with
20 significantly less investment of capital by TuSimple than if it attempted to pursue
21 these goals alone. *See id.* at 6, 16, 24, 37, 82, 104, 113-117, 124.

22 26. Consistent with its plan, TuSimple does not manufacture trucks (and
23 has no intention of doing so). To commercialize its autonomous driving technology,
24 TuSimple needs semi-truck Original Equipment Manufacturers (“OEM”) capable of
25 assembling purpose-built trucks with components that interface with TuSimple’s
26 autonomous driving software. Specifically, TuSimple needs OEMs who assemble
27 or contract to manufacture trucks, and other OEMs who provide custom-built
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1 components, including suppliers of powertrains, transmissions, steering, and brakes
2 built to meet TuSimple’s requirements (*i.e.*, capable of being controlled by
3 TuSimple’s autonomous driving software). For example, the braking and steering
4 systems necessary to interface with TuSimple’s autonomous driving technology
5 requires higher levels of precision and predictability than what is ordinarily
6 available. The margin of error or confidence interval between actual performance
7 and reported performance needs to be lower than what is acceptable with a human
8 driver so that the response to an autonomous driving command is identical every
9 time. Additional built-in “fail safe” or “redundancy” features are also necessary
10 given that there is no human driver to engage if a component fails. These
11 components are typically referred to as “autonomous-ready” components, meaning
12 that the components can be controlled by autonomous driving software like
13 TuSimple’s. A truck having all necessary components to allow it to be controlled by
14 software like TuSimple’s is an “autonomous-ready” truck, but such a truck does not
15 come equipped with software capable of controlling the truck. The major difference
16 between an autonomous truck and autonomous-ready truck is that the former is
17 equipped with software, such as TuSimple software, capable of controlling the
18 components of a truck that are susceptible to autonomous control.

19 27. TuSimple’s business partnerships, including with OEMs and
20 component manufacturers, are central to its business model and prospects for
21 commercial success. TuSimple in its public offering prospectus stated that it
22 believed that “leveraging these partnerships significantly . . . accelerates [its] pace
23 to commercializing [its] AFN at the requisite scale to adequately serve the freight
24 industry.” Ex. A at 16, 113. TuSimple’s executives are thus authorized to share
25 information with OEMs, subject to an appropriate non-disclosure agreement, in
26 order to assess and enter into essential partnerships. However, TuSimple does not
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1 share with its OEMs any source code or other information that would enable an OEM
2 to copy TuSimple’s software.

3 28. It is important that TuSimple partner with more than one truck
4 manufacturer OEM and component supplier for each region in which we intend to
5 commercialize our technology. Partnering with a single OEM or component
6 supplier in any region subjects TuSimple to what is known as “sole source” risk.
7 “Sole source” risk is the risk to a company like TuSimple if its sole supplier is unable
8 to supply, or does not supply, the trucks or components it is contracted to provide
9 or, for potential OEMs and component suppliers, is considering whether to provide.
10 As TuSimple disclosed in the prospectus for its April 2021 initial public offering,
11 “sole source” risk is a material risk to TuSimple’s business model. Ex. A at 42-43.

12 29. Supply stoppages or delays—whether caused by potential suppliers
13 declining to enter agreements or suppliers terminating agreements, supplier
14 bankruptcy, or the acquisition of a supplier by another company—can significantly
15 set back the commercialization of TuSimple’s autonomous driving technology. *Id.*
16 That was particularly true during the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly
17 impacted global supply chains—including the supply of automotive parts. Relying
18 on a single OEM or component supplier also reduces TuSimple’s bargaining
19 leverage when negotiating the terms of its partnerships. Increasing the number of
20 actual and potential truck manufacturer OEMs and component suppliers reduces
21 “sole source” risk and increases TuSimple’s leverage in negotiations with its
22 suppliers, so that it can try to obtain the most commercially favorable terms.

23 30. The number of potential business partners and OEMs who will partner
24 with a development-stage company like TuSimple is limited. TuSimple is still
25 developing and working to commercialize its technology, and as a result its demand
26 for trucks is substantially smaller than established, non-autonomous freight-hauling
27 competitors. The fleet of trucks that TuSimple owns and operates is small—less
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1 than 70 trucks. For context, an average of 250,000 new Class A trucks are sold every
2 year, and Navistar (the fourth largest seller in this market) sells approximately
3 30,000 trucks each year. It is not profitable for business partners and OEMs to
4 supply custom, purpose-built trucks and components on the small scale that
5 TuSimple now requires. When they partner with us, OEMs are looking toward the
6 future, because they must invest their own capital to work with TuSimple to design,
7 manufacture, or assemble trucks or component parts without expecting a prompt
8 return on investment.

9 31. Historically, TuSimple sought to partner with established truck
10 manufacturer OEMs and component suppliers. At the time of its initial public
11 offering, TuSimple had partnerships with both TRATON and Navistar, two of the
12 world’s largest commercial truck OEMs. *See* Ex. A at 16-17. In my role as CEO, I
13 was responsible for negotiating TuSimple’s Joint Development Agreement with
14 Navistar. I was also a member of the Project Steering Committee, which was
15 responsible for overseeing the overall partnership between TuSimple and Navistar.
16 As a member of the Project Steering Committee, I saw firsthand how TuSimple
17 worked with Navistar and component suppliers to develop trucks that were capable
18 of interfacing with TuSimple’s autonomous driving technology. I also saw firsthand
19 what information of TuSimple was shared with Navistar and component suppliers
20 to facilitate their development of trucks and components that were capable of
21 interfacing with TuSimple’s autonomous driving technology.

22 32. In July 2021, TRATON and Navistar merged. *See* Ex. B (Feb. 24, 2022
23 Form 10-K) at 5. That merger meant that TuSimple went from two OEMs capable
24 of manufacturing trucks (including assembling component parts from other
25 suppliers) for use in the United States, to just one—subjecting TuSimple to the “sole
26 source” risk described above (*supra* ¶ 28) in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.
27 This “sole source” risk was one of the greatest risks to the Company at the time, and
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1 the risk and need to identify a second OEM for truck manufacture and assembly for
2 that region was actively discussed with the Board of Directors throughout the second
3 half of 2021 and into 2022.

4 33. To address its “sole source” risk, TuSimple engaged in a deliberate
5 process to identify additional potential OEMs for truck manufacture and assembly
6 with which to partner. TuSimple’s senior management presented to the board of
7 directors about this risk and met monthly to assess potential OEMs as business
8 partners. As part of that process, TuSimple proactively reached out to ten such
9 potential partners. TuSimple also engaged in feasibility studies with some of them
10 to assess the suitability of a partnership. Those feasibility studies required sharing
11 proprietary information of TuSimple with the potential partners. That information
12 included proprietary information about the components that TuSimple’s potential
13 partners would manufacture to interface with TuSimple’s autonomous driving
14 software. Specifically, that information included, among other things, product,
15 design, and performance requirements for interfacing with TuSimple’s autonomous
16 driving software and monitoring and testing data.

17 34. Hydron, Inc. (“Hydron”) was one of the potential OEM partners
18 considered by TuSimple. Hydron (originally known as Turing Auto) was founded
19 by one of TuSimple’s co-founders, Mo Chen, to be a source of trucks. In 2021,
20 TuSimple employees, who were not engineers or software developers, performed
21 work for Hydron. These employees, who had business, accounting, legal, marketing
22 and business development responsibilities, worked on marketing or business
23 development projects such as research into the market for electric delivery vans
24 (similar to the size of a UPS truck), branding, logo and the look of a prototype
25 electric delivery van that Hydron might have paid to have manufactured by Foton, a
26 Chinese truck manufacturer that is one of the world’s largest, for display at a trade
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1 show (the 2022 Computer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas. TuSimple later
2 estimated that the value of the work that they performed was less than \$300,000.

3 35. In late 2021, I was told that Hydron had decided it would not be in the
4 business of providing smaller delivery vans and had shifted its focus to semi-trucks
5 powered by hydrogen fuel cells. I was also informed at this time that Hydron did not
6 have its own autonomous driving software—and as far as I know, that is still true,
7 since I have never been informed otherwise.

8 36. In 2022, TuSimple began evaluating Hydron as a potential OEM
9 partner. Hydron proposed to work with TuSimple as an OEM supplying TuSimple
10 with “autonomous-ready” trucks capable of being driven with TuSimple software.
11 An “autonomous-ready” truck is a truck with hardware capable of being controlled
12 by autonomous driving software. As with any autonomous-ready truck developed
13 by a truck manufacturing OEM, Hydron’s trucks are necessarily equipped with
14 sensors, computing units, and redundant hardware (like brakes and steering
15 columns) capable of interacting with autonomous-driving software like that
16 developed by TuSimple. During the process of evaluating this potential business
17 relationship, TuSimple shared information with Hydron, including a small number
18 of documents describing hardware required to be installed in an autonomous-ready
19 truck capable of using TuSimple Software. This information sharing was for a
20 reasonable business purpose, and the information shared is protected by a non-
21 disclosure agreement that was signed a few months after the sharing began and
22 expressly covered information shared both before and after it was signed.

23 37. I was not involved in the details of TuSimple’s efforts to evaluate
24 Hydron, but as CEO and a director of TuSimple I understood the opportunity that a
25 relationship with Hydron presented to TuSimple. As explained to me, Hydron as a
26 start-up zero emissions OEM did not have a dedicated manufacturing facility.
27 Rather, Hydron had access to capital (over \$80 million USD in venture capital
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1 funding), and vehicle design, hydrogen fuel cell vehicle engineering, and
2 procurement capabilities. Hydron planned to pay [REDACTED], a Chinese truck
3 manufacturer OEM that TuSimple was already partnering with in China, to be a
4 contract manufacturer for vehicles capable of being used in the U.S. The base
5 vehicle would be based on an existing [REDACTED] vehicle platform. This is common
6 practice in commercial and passenger vehicle manufacturing. As an example, in the
7 United States, start-up OEM company Hylion uses an existing Paccar platform.
8 Another example is Nikola, a US-based hydrogen fuel cell OEM start-up that utilizes
9 an Iveco S-way platform. Furthermore, Iveco was the initial contract manufacturing
10 for Nikola trucks to assemble the base platform with new hydrogen fuel cell
11 components. While [REDACTED] has manufacturing capabilities, it did not possess
12 hydrogen fuel cell vehicle development experience. By working with Hydron, [REDACTED]
13 would not have to invest its own capital to develop this product and could obtain
14 payment from Hydron for use of its excess manufacturing capacity. By reducing the
15 capital investment of OEMs involved in the project, or even offering them an
16 opportunity to profit from the small-scale production that Hydron and TuSimple
17 needed at that time, Hydron could make it more likely that TuSimple would have
18 another qualified OEM to assemble trucks for use in the United States. Accordingly,
19 although it lacked manufacturing capability of its own, Hydron could become an
20 OEM supplier to TuSimple of trucks it paid others to assemble—*e.g.*, [REDACTED], and
21 other component OEMs, including [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] that was also an OEM partner of
23 TuSimple China. The information shared with Hydron is consistent with
24 information shared with other potential OEMs, and only a small subset of the
25 information shared with OEMs with whom TuSimple entered into a formal
26 cooperation agreement.

27
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1 38. By offering key business partners the opportunity to decrease the
2 financial risk that they otherwise would have accepted when they undertook
3 development and small scale manufacturing and assembly activities for TuSimple, I
4 understood that Hydron could make an important contribution to TuSimple’s
5 success. A partnership between TuSimple and Hydron, in short, had the potential not
6 only to address TuSimple’s “sole source” risk in the United States, but also to reduce
7 the risk to TuSimple’s existing OEMs—which in turn was intended to motivate the
8 OEMs to continue working with TuSimple.

9 39. As I understood the opportunity, Hydron would not compete with
10 TuSimple any more than TuSimple’s established OEM truck manufacturer partners
11 like Navistar. It is important to understand that because TuSimple did not have the
12 capital to develop or manufacture trucks, and had decided to partner with those who
13 did, our OEM partners do not compete with us. These OEMs have complementary
14 business models because they are necessary for our business, and without them we
15 cannot succeed. If information supplied by TuSimple to Hydron and its partners had
16 facilitated a more rapid development of another autonomous-ready truck for use in
17 America, that would have assisted TuSimple and would not have harmed TuSimple
18 at all. Rather, TuSimple was not successful in finding a second OEM partner after
19 the Navistar merger with TRATON. That meant that, when Navistar terminated its
20 OEM agreement with us on November 16, 2022, we had no OEM partner capable
21 of manufacturing such a truck for use here. This played a significant role in the
22 decision of TuSimple’s Board to attempt to sell and ultimately wind down
23 TuSimple’s business in the United States.

24 40. I did not participate in the feasibility study in which TuSimple
25 evaluated Hydron as an OEM partner beginning in early 2022, in part because I
26 stopped working for TuSimple in March 2022. However, working directly with a
27 contract manufacturer and component suppliers is commonplace in vehicle
28

1 development. I have reviewed the information shared by TuSimple U.S. with
2 Hydron as part of the 2022 feasibility study, and I have also reviewed the information
3 shared by TuSimple with a European-based potential truck manufacturer OEM
4 partner as part of a feasibility study conducted in 2021. The information shared by
5 TuSimple U.S. with Hydron is consistent with the type of information shared in
6 connection with the feasibility study conducted with the European-based potential
7 truck manufacturer OEM partner as part of a feasibility study conducted in 2021—
8 and consistent with the purpose of the Hydron relationship as described to me before
9 I left TuSimple. That information is also only a small subset of the kind of
10 information TuSimple must share—and has shared—with truck manufacturer OEMs
11 like Navistar with whom it has entered into a partnership to develop the autonomous-
12 ready trucks that can interface with TuSimple’s autonomous driving software.

13 41. Without a replacement OEM to build trucks that could integrate with
14 TuSimple software, TuSimple had no path to commercialization of its technology in
15 the United States. TuSimple therefore publicly disclosed on June 28, 2023 that it
16 was seeking strategic alternatives for its U.S. business. Ex. C (June 28, 2023 Form
17 8-K). The Board engaged investment bankers who conducted a thorough process to
18 determine whether TuSimple’s U.S. business could be sold as a going concern, and
19 the Board also considered selling TuSimple U.S.’s proprietary technology. *Id.*
20 Unable to identify acceptable buyers for its TuSimple U.S. business, TuSimple
21 eventually announced that it would wind down its TuSimple U.S. business and shift
22 its focus to the APAC region. This strategy shift was necessitated by the Board’s
23 conclusion that the Company’s prospects in the United States were not worthy of
24 further investment and that APAC offered greater prospects for commercialization
25 given its existing relationships with business partners in countries like China and
26 Japan, and regulatory changes throughout the region that more freely permit use of
27 autonomous driving on public roads. It is also important to note that the U.S.

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1 business was expensive, having annual operating expenses of more than \$300
2 million USD (as opposed to approximately half that, for TuSimple China). Without
3 a viable OEM in the U.S., the Board believed that shifting the Company’s focus to
4 the less expensive APAC region was the best opportunity to commercialize the
5 Company’s software and generate value for its shareholders.

6 42. Despite this shift in TuSimple’s operational focus, as I stated above
7 (*supra* ¶ 7), TuSimple is a Delaware corporation subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

8 **IV. Plaintiffs Misunderstand the Other “Circumstantial Evidence” They**
9 **Describe**

10 43. I understand that, according to the TRO Motion, Plaintiffs allege that
11 certain “circumstantial evidence” suggests that TuSimple may “abscond to China
12 with the Company’s assets.” This is false. TuSimple has no such plan or intention.
13 In suggesting otherwise, Plaintiffs are misinterpreting the “circumstantial evidence”
14 that they describe.

15 44. As stated above (at ¶ 10), TuSimple has business reasons for keeping
16 its cash in the United States (until it is needed in APAC to fund operations). Those
17 reasons remain valid even after the wind-down of TuSimple U.S. and the Company’s
18 shift of its operational focus to the APAC region.

19 45. TuSimple’s wind-down of U.S. operations was not part of a secret
20 scheme—it was and is a publicly disclosed business decision, made by the Board in
21 response to the challenges and adverse developments in the United States that I
22 described above (*supra* ¶¶ 39-41). The subsidiaries that constitute TuSimple China
23 are a key part of TuSimple—indeed, they are the operating subsidiaries through
24 which TuSimple intends and expects to generate value for TuSimple’s shareholders
25 in the coming years.

26 46. TuSimple’s decision to delist its shares from the Nasdaq National
27 Market was also not part of some secret scheme to take its cash to China. There is
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1 no relationship between TuSimple’s cash management and whether TuSimple
2 remained publicly listed. On January 16, 2024, the day before TuSimple announced
3 that it would delist its shares from Nasdaq, TuSimple’s stock closed at \$0.7064 per
4 share, implying a market capitalization of approximately \$160 million. That
5 valuation was substantially lower than even the cash and cash equivalents held by
6 TuSimple. Continuing to trade as a public company given the discrepancy between
7 TuSimple’s implied market value and the assets owned by TuSimple (including its
8 technology and cash) would not have been in the interests of TuSimple’s
9 shareholders. Any effort to raise capital at a valuation less than the assets it had on
10 hand would significantly dilute the interests of existing shareholders, all while
11 TuSimple continued to incur significant expense to meet the requirements of a
12 publicly listed company.

13 47. As part of its strategic shift to APAC, TuSimple established operations
14 in Australia through an Australian subsidiary, TuSimple Australia Pty Ltd.

15 48. TuSimple is also looking to redeploy to APAC from the United States
16 hardware components purchased from third parties that can be used to
17 commercialize its technology in APAC without incurring the unnecessary expense
18 of purchasing those same components in APAC. TuSimple’s recent shipment of
19 certain NVIDIA chips to Australia for use in Australia by its Australian subsidiary
20 was consistent with that objective. Rather than purchase in Australia the exact same
21 NVIDIA chips owned by TuSimple U.S. and for which TuSimple U.S. now has no
22 purpose, TuSimple attempted to send unused NVIDIA chips in the United States to
23 its Australian subsidiary. Although these computer chips can be purchased in
24 Australia, TuSimple determined that it would be cheaper to ship the chips it already
25 owned there than it would be to sell them at a discount here and buy them at full
26 price there. There was never any intention to re-route these chips from Australia to
27 China. Indeed, TuSimple specifically decided *not* to make a similar shipment of
28

1 chips to China, for legal and regulatory reasons, after exploring whether shipping
2 the chips to China was permissible. TuSimple proposed to send the chips to the office
3 of a company helping TuSimple to set up operations in Australia and did not intend
4 to send them to China when they were “picked up” from that company’s office. I
5 made clear at the time in writing that the chips should not go to China.

6 **V. The Requested Injunction Would Hurt TuSimple Badly**

7 49. I understand that Plaintiffs are requesting that the Court enter an order
8 that would preclude TuSimple from spending any of its cash without prior approval
9 by Plaintiffs and the Court.

10 50. The order Plaintiffs are seeking would harm TuSimple enormously and
11 likely would precipitate the shutting down of the Company. As explained above,
12 the Company’s current strategic plan for commercializing its technology and
13 generating shareholder value is to wind down its U.S. operations and re-focus its
14 business on its APAC operations. After the U.S. wind-down, TuSimple China will
15 be the Company’s principal operating asset and, for the foreseeable future, the sole
16 means by which TuSimple’s shareholders may benefit from the optimization and
17 sale of TuSimple technology. To execute on that business plan, TuSimple needs to
18 be able to draw upon the common pool of cash that supports all its businesses and to
19 allocate appropriate capital and other resources to support its APAC subsidiaries.

20 51. Plaintiffs’ requested order threatens to substantially slow down and
21 starve the Company of necessary resources to execute this business plan. Obtaining
22 Plaintiff- and Court-approval for all expenditures will necessarily require that the
23 Company devote more resources—and likely expend more legal fees—preparing
24 disclosures for Plaintiffs and the Court and resolving with Plaintiffs and the Court
25 any disagreements about potential expenditures. With respect, Plaintiffs have no
26 experience operating a development-stage technology company with hundreds of
27 employees; and disputes concerning what actually are ordinary and necessary
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1 expenses are likely to occur frequently. Obtaining approval from Plaintiffs and the
2 Court also risks delaying the Company’s ability to timely address TuSimple’s
3 obligations, let alone address emergency expenditures. These impediments to
4 necessary operations are only exacerbated by the fact that TuSimple’s operating
5 subsidiaries are located in foreign jurisdictions, including China (which has laws
6 governing collecting information to be provided to U.S. courts).

7 52. Moreover, if TuSimple’s employees, partners, and vendors must
8 contend with a reality in which the Court or an adversary in litigation (whose best
9 outcome would be putting TuSimple out of business while it has the most cash
10 available to satisfy any judgment it might obtain) must approve every payment (here
11 or abroad), TuSimple’s prospects for commercial success are likely to be thwarted.
12 TuSimple would need to revise every commercial agreement requiring cash
13 payments to state such payments are subject to court approval. That is because
14 TuSimple would otherwise be subject to claims of breach if Plaintiff or the Court
15 did not approve of a payment required by TuSimple’s commercial agreements. And
16 doing so would effectively end these commercial arrangements and prevent
17 TuSimple from signing any future supplier agreements. The recipient of every
18 payment must have, in advance, confidence that it will be paid and will continue to
19 be paid. Partners who are not obliged to do business with TuSimple need not spend
20 their own time and money on a business relationship burdened with the risk that an
21 adversary may prevent the payment of TuSimple’s obligations or the deployment of
22 people and assets necessary to make their investment of time and money worthwhile.

23 53. Employees concerned about compliance with future payroll obligations
24 will also leave TuSimple for other employment. As with its commercial agreements,
25 to avoid potential claims for unpaid wages, TuSimple will need to amend all
26 employment agreements to state that the employee’s remuneration is contingent on
27 approval by Plaintiffs or the Court of the payment of that remuneration. Inserting
28

1 such provisions into employment agreements would effectively prevent TuSimple
2 from hiring critical talent in a highly competitive labor environment.

3 54. These impacts to TuSimple are not speculative or hypothetical. [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] These impacts will only be exacerbated if TuSimple’s ability to
17 pay its partners and suppliers is conditioned on approval by Plaintiffs and the Court.

18 55. If the TRO causes TuSimple to lose its partners, the TRO substantially
19 threatens several potential revenue opportunities exceeding [REDACTED]. As
20 TuSimple disclosed in June 2023, TuSimple China was among the first autonomous
21 driving technology companies to be awarded a driverless test license by the Pudong
22 New Area of Shanghai in China (“Pudong Shanghai”). The license granted to
23 TuSimple China is a significant step toward the commercialization of TuSimple’s
24 autonomous driving technology and presents TuSimple China with the opportunity
25 to contract with the Port of Shanghai for approximately [REDACTED] in freight
26 delivery services over the next three years—currently TuSimple’s most promising
27 contract for commercializing its L4 autonomous driving technology. TuSimple
28

1 China has also contracted with [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] for installation in trucks
3 manufactured by those truck manufacturers and sold to third parties. Each contract
4 has the potential to generate nearly [REDACTED] in revenue over
5 the coming years. If TuSimple is subject to a TRO freezing its assets, these partners,
6 [REDACTED] will
7 almost certainly begin looking for new partners to replace TuSimple.

8 56. I understand that if it is ultimately determined that an injunction has
9 been improvidently entered, TuSimple’s only recourse for payment of damage
10 caused by the injunction is the bond posted by Plaintiffs. Because the injunction
11 threatens TuSimple’s ability to move forward to commercialize its software, the
12 bond should be of sufficient size to compensate TuSimple for the value of such a
13 lost opportunity. In April 2021, investors paid over \$1 billion for approximately
14 13% of TuSimple’s stock, for the purpose of providing capital to pursue this
15 opportunity. Although progress has been made, and success remains uncertain, the
16 value of success certainly exceeds the \$1 billion of the investments made in 2021
17 and the [REDACTED] in cash on hand.

18
19 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States of America
20 that the foregoing is true and correct.

21
22 Executed on June 7, 2024 at the U.S. Embassy, Beijing, China.

23
24 Cheng Lu
25 Cheng Lu
26
27
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