

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Before the  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING  
File No. 3-18201

<p>In the Matter of</p> <p>Hampshire Group, Limited, <i>et al.</i>,</p> <p>Respondents.</p>
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**DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
RATIFICATION OF RECORD, RULINGS, AND ORDERS IN THIS PROCEEDING**

On November 30, 2017, the Commission issued an order ratifying the prior appointment of its Administrative Law Judges to preside over pending administrative proceedings. *See In re: Pending Administrative Proceedings*, Securities Act Release No. 10440 (Nov. 30, 2017). As applied to this proceeding, the order directs the Administrative Law Judges to determine, based on a *de novo* reconsideration of the full administrative record, whether to ratify or revise in any respect all prior actions taken by any administrative law judge during the course of this proceeding. *Id.* at 1-2.

It is well established that subsequent ratification of an earlier decision rendered by an unconstitutionally appointed officer remedies any alleged harm or prejudice caused by the violation. *See Doolin Sec. Sav. Bank, F.S.B. v. Office of Thrift Supervision*, 139 F.3d 203, 213-14 (D.C. Cir. 1998); *FEC v. Legi-Tech, Inc.*, 75 F.3d 704, 707-09 (D.C. Cir. 1996). And that principle applies whether or not the ratifying authority is the same person who made the initial decision, so long as “the ratifier has the authority to take the action to be ratified,” and, “with full knowledge of the decision to be ratified,” makes a “detached and considered affirmation of th[at]

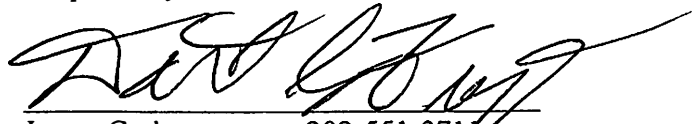
earlier decision.” *Advanced Disposal Services East, Inc. v. NLRB*, 820 F.3d 592, 602-03 (3d Cir. 2016).

Accordingly, to implement this remedy, the Administrative Law Judge in each affected proceeding should conduct a *de novo* review of the administrative record, engage in an independent evaluation of the merits through the exercise of detached and considered judgment, and then determine whether prior actions should be ratified and thereby affirmed. This process ensures “that the ratifier does not blindly affirm the earlier decision without due consideration.” *Advanced Disposal Services East*, 820 F.3d at 602-03.

The Division submits that the previous decisions and orders issued by Judge Elliot in this proceeding, including the initial decision issued on November 2, 2017, were well-founded and respectfully requests that they be ratified. To that end, the Division attaches a proposed draft order to this letter.

Dated: January 4, 2018

Respectfully submitted,



James Carlson      202-551-3711  
David S. Frye      202-551-4728  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, N.E.  
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COUNSEL FOR  
DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING**

**File No. 3-18201**

**In the Matter of**

**Hampshire Group, Limited, *et al.*,**

**Respondents.**

After a de novo review and reexamination of the record in these proceedings, I have reached the independent decision to ratify and affirm all prior actions made by an administrative law judge in these proceedings, including the initial decision issued on November 2, 2017 Initial Decision Rel. No. 1220. This decision to ratify and affirm is based on my detached and considered judgment after an independent evaluation of the merits.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cameron Elliot  
Administrative Law Judge

Certificate of Service

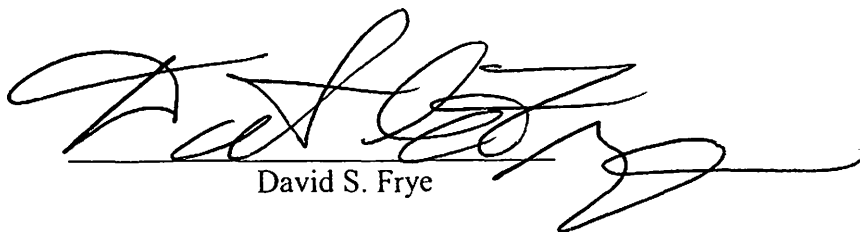
I, the undersigned, certify that on January 4, 2017, I caused to be served, or commenced the process leading to service of, the Division of Enforcement's Statement in Support of Ratification of Record, Rulings, and Orders in this proceeding, and the accompanying proposed Order on the people and entities listed below in the manner indicated:

By hand and by email to [alj@sec.gov](mailto:alj@sec.gov):

The Honorable Cameron Elliot  
Administrative Law Judge  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20549-2557

By First Class Mail:

Hampshire Group, Limited  
1924 Pearman Dairy Road  
Anderson, SC 29625



David S. Frye