IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA EASTERN DIVISION

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

V.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:21-cv-211-RAH-KFP

1. Requesting Judge

Hon. R. Austin Huffaker Jr.

2. District Judge

Hon. Emily C. Marks

3. Circuit Judge

Hon. Kevin C. Newsom

DESIGNATION OF THREE-JUDGE COURT [13 U.S.C. § 141 note; 28 U.S.C. § 2284]

Judge R. Austin Huffaker Jr. has notified me that this action is one required by Act of Congress to be heard by a district court of three judges. I hereby designate District Judge Emily C. Marks and Circuit Judge Kevin C. Newsom to serve with the requesting judge, Judge Huffaker, as members of the three-judge court to hear and decide the action.

This designation is not a prejudgment as to whether this action should be heard by a three-judge court. Federal law requires the chief circuit judge to designate a three-judge panel upon the filing a request for such a panel. 28 U.S.C. § 2284(b)(1). "[T]he chief judge's duty is solely ministerial. . . . The three-judge court itself, of course, may subsequently determine that it should not have been

constituted." *Merced Rosa v. Herrero*, 423 F.2d 591, 593 n.2 (1st Cir. 1970). The parties will have the opportunity to brief and argue all questions before the three-judge court as the court concludes is appropriate.

DATED this 29th day of March, 2021.

William H. Pryor Jr.

Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit