STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF KERSHAW

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
C/A NO. **2025-CP-28-01445**

Road/Route Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement
Project ID No. P038251
Tract 62

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Condemnor,

VS.

Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991,

Landowner(s),

and

Bland Byrne a/k/a Granville Bland Byrne, III, as personal representative of the Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., and Unknown Trustee of the Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, as interest may appear,

Other Condemnee(s),

and

John Doe and Mary Roe, representing all unknown persons, having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in or to, or lien on the lands described herein, including all unknown heirs of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased,

Unknown Claimant(s).

PUBLICATION
TO
THE NEWS-ERA

Summons Notice of Filing Condemenation

TO: THE LANDOWNER(S), OTHER CONDEMNEE(S) AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED, advised and notified, that pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedures Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., the within Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, has been filed with the Clerk of Court for Kershaw County. The purpose of this lawsuit is to enable the Condemnor, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, to acquire certain real property for its public purposes, as is more fully stated in the attached Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment. Responsive pleadings to the Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment are not necessary.

Notice & Tender of Payment

TO: THE LANDOWNER(S), OTHER CONDEMNEE(S) AND UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS ABOVE NAMED:

Pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedure Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, you are hereby notified as follows:

1. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is the Condemnor herein and seeks to acquire the real property described herein for public purposes.

2. **The Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, is** named as Landowner(s) in this action by virtue of **their** claim(s) of title (or other interests) as shown by that certain **deed from Donald R. Wheeler and Aurora A. Wheeler, dated March 17, 2017, and recorded March 24, 2017, in the Office of Register of Deeds for Kershaw County in Deed Book 3668, Page 187.**

3. **The Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991 is** named as Landowner(s) in this action by virtue of **their** claim(s) of title (or other interests) as beneficiary of **Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., who died testate on August 15, 2024, as shown by that certain Will dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.**

4. **Bland Byrne a/k/a Granville Bland Byrne, III, as personal representative of the Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr.** is made a party in this action as "Other Condemnee(s)" by virtue of its claim(s) of interest in that certain **Last Will and Testament of Clifford Leonard, Jr., dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.**

5. **Unknown Trustee of the Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991,** is made a party in this action as "Other Condemnee(s)" by virtue of its claim(s) of interest in that certain **Last Will and Testament of Clifford Leonard, Jr., dated July 24, 2018, and filed in the Richland County Probate Court in Probate Case Number 2024-ES-40-01696, as interest may appear. Estate administration is incomplete, and case file is still open.**

6. All persons collectively designated **John Doe and Mary Roe** are made parties to this action as "Unknown Claimant)s)", representing unknown heirs and devises and all other persons claiming born or unborn by, through or under the **Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased**, and all other persons having an interest in or claim upon the property herein condemned.

7. The following is a description of the real property subject to this action and a description of the interest sought to be acquired in and to the property by the Condemnor:

All that parcel or strip of land, in fee simple, with improvements thereon, if any, owned by Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, containing 0.143 ac (6,216 square feet) more or less, and being described as follows: Within 45 feet of the centerline at S-12 (Black River Road), on the right, between approximate survey stations 13+30 and 21+73.

Tax Map Number 299-13-00-012

8. The SCDOT is vested with the power of eminent domain pursuant to Section 57-5-320 and Section 28-2-60, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

9. The property sought herein is to be acquired for public purposes, more particularly for the construction of **Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement.**

10. This action is brought pursuant to Section 28-2-240, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

11. The SCDOT has complied with the requirements set forth in Section 28-2-70(a), Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, by having the subject property appraised and making the appraisal available to the Landowner(s) where required by law, and certifies to the Court that a negotiated resolution has been attempted prior to the commencement of this action, or pursuant to Section 12-28-2940, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, an appraisal of this property was not required.

12. Project plans may be inspected at the office of South Carolina Department of Transportation **Kershaw County Maintenance Office, 512 Fair Street, Camden, South Carolina 29020, under Project ID P038251, Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement, Tract 62.**

13. THE CONDEMNOR HAS DETERMINED JUST COMPENSATION FOR THE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS TO BE ACQUIRED HEREUNDER, INCLUDING ALL DAMAGES (IF ANY), TO BE THE SUM OF **THIRTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO AND NO/100 DOLLARS ($30,872.00)** AND HEREBY TENDERS PAYMENT THEREOF TO THE LANDOWNER(S).

14. Payment of this amount will be made to the Landowner(s) if within thirty (30) days of service of this Condemnation Notice, the Landowner(s) in writing requests payment, and agrees to execute any instruments necessary to convey to the Condemnor the property interests and rights described hereinabove. The Agreement and Request for Payment must be sent by first class certified mail with return receipt requested or delivered in person to Director, Rights of Way, South Carolina Department of Transportation, 955 Park Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29202. If no Agreement and Request for Payment is received by the Condemnor within the thirty (30) day period, the tender is considered rejected.

15. If the tender is rejected, the Condemnor has the right to file this Condemnation Notice with the Clerk of Court of the County where the property is situated and deposit the tender amount with the Clerk. The Condemnor shall give the Landowner(s) and Other Condemnee(s) notice that it has done so and may then proceed to take possession of the property interests and exercise the rights described in this Condemnation Notice.

16. AN ACTION CHALLENGING THE CONDEMNOR'S RIGHT TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS DESCRIBED HEREIN MUST BE COMMENCED IN A SEPARATE PROCEEDING IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THIS CONDEMNATION NOTICE, OR THE LANDOWNER(S) WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE WAIVED THE CHALLENGE.

17. THE CONDEMNOR HAS ELECTED NOT TO UTILIZE THE APPRAISAL PANEL PROCEDURE. Therefore, if the tender herein is rejected, the Condemnor shall notify the Clerk of Court and shall demand a trial to determine the amount of just compensation to be paid. A copy of that notice must be served on the Landowner(s). That notice shall state whether the Condemnor demands a trial by jury or by the Court without a jury. The Landowner(s) has the right to demand a trial by jury. The case may not be called for trial before sixty (60) days after the service of that notice, but it may thereafter be given priority for trial over other civil cases. The Clerk of Court shall give the Landowner(s) written notice by mail of the call of the case for trial.

18. THEREFORE, IF THE TENDER HEREIN IS REJECTED, THE LANDOWNER(S) IS ADVISED TO OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL AT ONCE, IF NOT ALREADY OBTAINED.

19. In the event the Landowner(s) accepts the amount tendered in this Notice, the attached Agreement and Request for Payment form should be signed and returned to the Condemnor within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this Notice.

Lis Pendens

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Condemnor above named pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedures Act, Section 28-2-10, et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, has brought an action against the Condemnee(s) above named to acquire the real property described herein for public purposes, to-wit:

All that parcel or strip of land, in fee simple, with improvements thereon, if any, owned by Estate of Clifford Leonard a/k/a Clifford Leonard, Jr., deceased, and Clifford Leonard, Jr., Trust, Dated May 10, 1991, containing 0.143 ac (6,216 square feet) more or less, and being described as follows: Within 45 feet of the centerline at S-12 (Black River Road), on the right, between approximate survey stations 13+30 and 21+73.

Tax Map Number 299-13-00-012

The property sought herein is to be acquired for public purposes, more particularly for the construction of a section of **Road S-12 (Black River Rd.) Corridor Improvement**.

Notice of Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem Nisi

TO: THE CONDEMNEE(S) OR CLAIMANT(S) HEREIN, NAMES AND ADDRESSES UNKNOWN, INCLUDING ANY THEREOF WHO MAY BE MINORS OR UNDER OTHER LEGAL DISABILITY, IF ANY, WHETHER RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO THE NATURAL, GENERAL, TESTAMENTARY GUARDIAN OR COMMITTEE, OR OTHERWISE AND TO THE PERSON WITH WHOM THEY MAY RESIDE, IF ANY THERE BE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the order appointing **Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire**, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi, for all persons whomsoever herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, Condemnee(s) herein, names and addresses unknown, including any thereof who may be minors or under other legal disability, whether residents or non-residents of South Carolina, has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for **KERSHAW** County.

YOU WILL FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that unless the said minors or persons under other legal disability, if any, or someone on their behalf or on behalf of any of them, shall within thirty (30) days after service of notice of this order upon them by publication, exclusive of the day of such service, procure to be appointed for them, or any of them, a Guardian ad Litem to represent them for the purposes of this action, the Condemnor will apply for an order making the appointment of said Guardian ad Litem Nisi absolute.

Order (Appointing Gal NISI) Affidavit

Upon reading and filing the Petition of the Condemnor for the appointment of **Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire,** as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for the Unknown Condemnee(s) who are minors and Unknown Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, and it appearing that the names and addresses of such minors, or other persons under legal disability, if any, whether residents or non-residents of the State of South Carolina, are unknown to the Condemnor and cannot with reasonable diligence be ascertained, and that the said **Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire,** is a suitable and competent person to understand and protect the rights and interest of said Minor Landowner(s) and Others under legal disability, if any, and has no interest therein adverse to the interest of said minors or Landowner(s) under legal disability, if any, and is not connected in business with the Condemnor in this action or with its counsel.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the said **Charles T. Brooks, III, Esquire,** be, and (s)he is hereby, designated and appointed Guardian ad Litem Nisi for said Unknown Minor Condemnee(s) and those Other Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, and (s)he is hereby authorized to appear and defend said action on behalf of said Condemnee(s), unless said Minor Landowner(s), Other Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, or either of them shall within thirty days after the service of a copy of this Order upon them, exclusive of the day of service, as herein provided, procure to be appointed a Guardian ad Litem for said Minor Landowner(s) or other Landowner(s) under legal disability, if any, for the purposes of this action.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be served upon said Unknown Minor Condemnee(s) and Other Unknown Condemnee(s) under legal disability, if any, herein collectively designated as John Doe and Mary Roe, by publication of such notice of this Order in **The News-Era**, for a period of not less than once a week for three successive weeks.

WILLCOX, BUYCK & WILLIAMS, P.A.
BY: *s/ Mark W. Buyck, Jr.*
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January 7, 2025

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Team Church To Show-Documentary

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The craftsmanship in Truth Rising caught my eye—sweeping visuals of ancient ruins and modern cities, beautifully shot interviews, crisp audio, and a narrative voice from Guinness, now in his 80s, yet still strong. Alongside him, Stonestreet—my weekly "Culture Friday" conversation partner for over 10 years—added a steady cadence. It felt like a 4K compression of those conversations.

My only quibble is that the film opens at a too-slow academic pace, unfurling ideas too high on the ladder of abstraction—though for those familiar, it does work. It sets out the history and philosophy that deepen the personal stories of men and women whose convictions put them at odds with prevailing powers. Daly said in his email that the Church must pair orthodoxy with orthopraxy, equipping people "to stand boldly in an increasingly hostile public square for the truth," as a young activist in the film puts it: "It's not your truth or my truth … Jesus Christ is THE truth."

The production feels cinematic: multi-camera interviews, overhead tracking shots alongside buses and trains, and Guinness' talent for guiding viewers through complex material like a tour guide. We see him listening to his guests. His voice-over blends seamlessly with his on-camera remarks; the audio matching is finely crafted when the recording source shifts. The result is an unbroken conversation, with the camera simply moving from scene to scene.

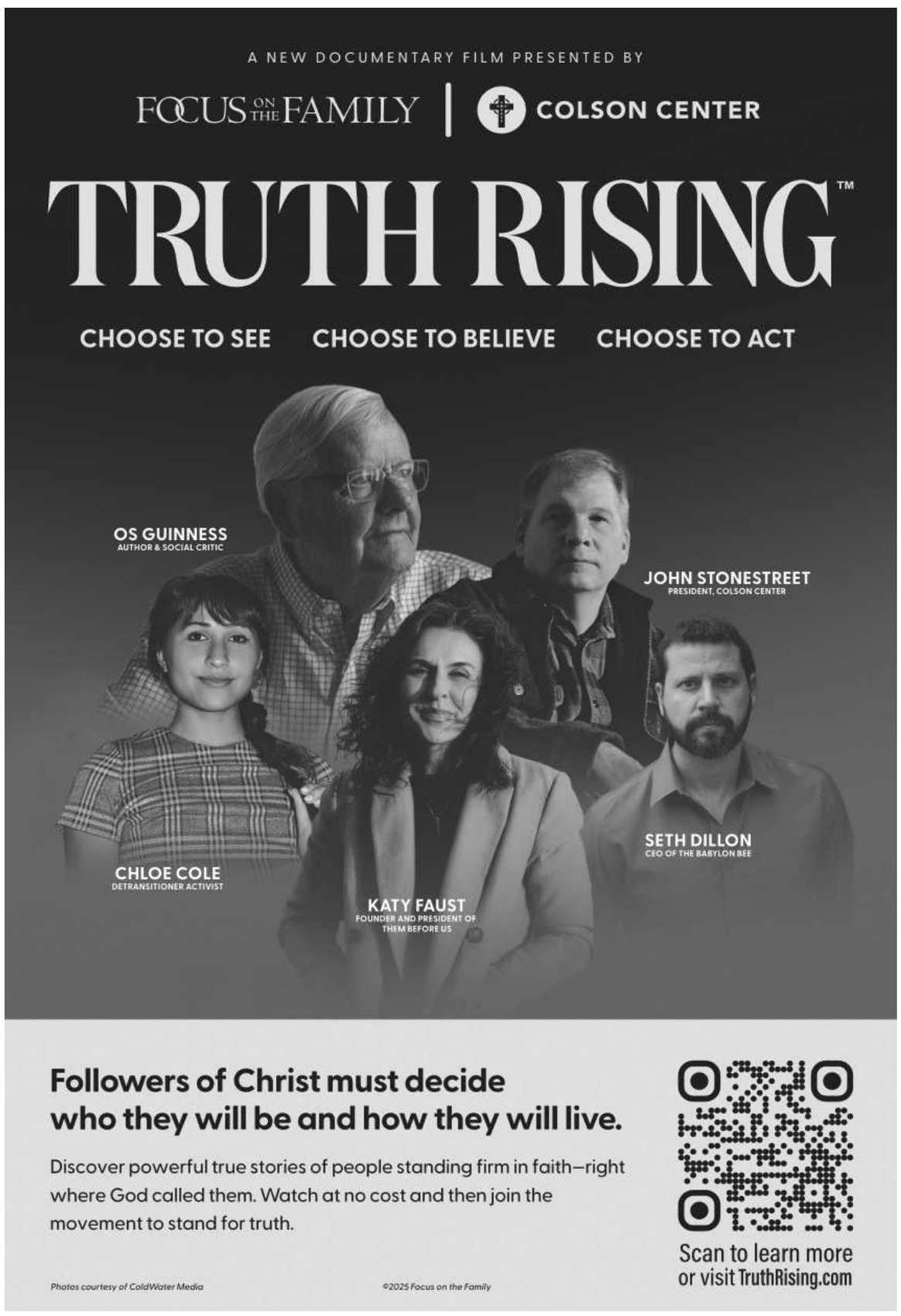
The documentary switches between Guinness' personal story—his upbringing in China during the Communist revolution, his years at L'Abri—and his analysis of the West's cultural and moral crises. This gives the ideas grounding in a life lived across cultures.

Midway through Truth Rising, the focus shifts from Europe to the U.S., and the film speeds up. The connection between continents is Stonestreet, seen rolling through American backroads in a weathered mid-'60s Chevy pickup, which works as a metaphor that suggests durability and authenticity—a piece of American machinery that has served faithfully for decades, still functional. It works well with Stonestreet's commentary, driving through rural landscapes while talking about deep fractures in American culture, reinforcing the idea that repairing them may require the same patient restoration an old truck demands.

Guinness has laid out three paths—renewal, replacement, or decline—and in an email interview with me, insists that "from the perspective of the Jewish and Christian faiths, renewal is fully possible," pointing to moments in history when God restored a people against all odds. His European conversations about civilizational memory and cultural inheritance give way to distinctly American settings and stories. Here, the film features U.S.-based thinkers and activists embodying the themes Guinness traced. The editing is tight, weaving these domestic stories into the larger argument that the West can also be renewed.

As the film concludes, it becomes reflective again. Guinness reappears to voice the words of a letter he'd written to Stonestreet, symbolically passing the torch: "I'm expecting great things," he says. In our interview, Guinness reminded, "The Lord is greater than all. He can be trusted in all situations. Have faith in God," recalling his father's counsel during those childhood years under the Chinese revolution. The ending feels more an invitation than a conclusion: Viewers are left with questions to wrestle with rather than neatly tied-up answers.

EICHER 2024
Nick Eicher
Nick is chief content officer of WORLD and co-host for WORLD Radio. He has served WORLD Magazine as a writer and reporter, managing editor, editor, and publisher. Nick resides with his family in St. Louis, Mo.



Cody Mitchell Update

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helped highlight the importance of safeguarding parental rights and protecting students' privacy. Due to the large volume of testimony, the committee will continue its work on this issue next week.

Video Link: https://x.com/i/broadcasts/1OwGWeVQndQxQ?s=20

Fighting for Small Businesses

Supporting job creators and growing South Carolina's economy remains a top priority for me and the House Republican Caucus. At Thursday morning's press conference hosted by Americans for Prosperity, lawmakers, small business owners, and advocates from all across South Carolina came together to highlight the Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act. We heard from Speaker of the House Murrell Smith on the importance of accountability and from Americans for Tax Reform's Grover Norquist on the nationwide support for this key legislation. The press conference focused on the importance of commonsense regulatory reform that cuts red tape, improves accountability, and ensures regulations work for, not against, small businesses.

This legislation has already passed the House unanimously, underscoring that supporting small businesses and job creators is a top priority for South Carolina. As we move forward, we look forward to working with the Senate to get this bill across the finish line this year. The Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act takes responsible steps to establish a clear and accountable review process, ensuring government is efficient, transparent, and focused on growth.

South Carolina is currently #1 in the nation for job growth, and legislation like this helps keep our state competitive, open for opportunity, and positioned for continued success.

Supporting Fairness in College Athletics (NIL)

The House passed legislation addressing Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) policies to help keep South Carolina's colleges and universities competitive. The bill protects private donor information from public disclosure, ensuring our schools can fairly recruit and retain student-athletes without putting them at a disadvantage compared to other states.

South Carolina Social Media Regulation Act

Protecting children online and reinforcing parental authority in the digital age remains a key priority for House Republicans. This bill focuses on protecting minors online and giving parents more control and visibility over their children's social media use. If enacted, the act would:

Require parental consent before a minor can open a social media account.

Provide parents with tools and information to help monitor and support their child's online activity.

Set requirements for social media platforms to limit access and certain features for minors, including restrictions on engagement during certain hours.

Ensure state authorities can enforce these protections and handle consumer complaints.

Cody Mitchell Update

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