

future discovery. If it is the parties' intent to protect documents that already have been divulged, the Court is not persuaded that there is any reason why it should issue an order limiting disclosure of documents that already have been produced without any such protections.

Even if discovery were to continue, the Court would be unwilling to grant the broad protection sought. The proposed protective order would grant protection to "certain documents and tangible things which may be requested by Plaintiff to be produced during pre-trial discovery [which] may contain trade secrets and/or proprietary and confidential business information." Given that this case involves alleged design flaws with the Walker Fire Control trigger assembly, there is a strong public interest in not allowing the Court's orders to be used as a shield that precludes disclosure of this danger. More importantly, given that the parties intend to propose a national class-action settlement, there are strong fairness and Due Process concerns involved. The Court will not keep information from the public about this suit or this settlement; nor will the Court conceal information from potential class members.

For the foregoing reasons, the Motion is denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED

DATE: December 3, 2014

/s/ Ortrie D. Smith
ORTRIE D. SMITH, SENIOR JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT