

EXHIBIT 2

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 08-80736-CIV-MARRA/JOHNSON

JANE DOE #1 AND JANE DOE #2,

Petitioners,

vs.

UNITED STATES,

Respondent.

**UNITED STATES' SEALED MOTION TO DISMISS
FOR LACK OF SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**

The United States hereby requests that this Court enter an order dismissing these proceedings and the *Petition for Enforcement of Crime Victim's Rights Act, 18 U.S.C. Section 3771* (DE 1, the "Petition"), through which Petitioners Jane Doe #1 and Jane Doe #2 have advanced claims pursuant to the Crime Victims' Rights Act ("CVRA"), for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.¹ This Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the Petition because

¹ See, e.g., *Grupo Dataflux v. Atlas Global Group, L.P.*, 541 U.S. 567, 571 (2004) ("Challenges to subject-matter jurisdiction can of course be raised at any time prior to final judgment."); *United States v. Giraldo-Prado*, 150 F.3d 1328, 1329 (11th Cir. 1998) (recognizing that "a party may raise jurisdiction at any time during the pendency of the proceedings"); *Harrell & Sumner Contracting Co. v. Peabody Petersen Co.*, 546 F.2d 1227, 1229 (5th Cir. 1977) ("[U]nder Rule 12(h)(3), Fed.R.Civ.P., the defense of lack of subject matter jurisdiction may be raised at any time by motion of a party or otherwise."); see also Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3). In the present motion, the United States seeks dismissal of Petitioners' claims based on both a legal and factual challenge to the Court's subject matter jurisdiction. This Court may properly consider and weigh evidence beyond Petitioners' allegations when evaluating such a challenge to the Court's subject matter jurisdiction:

Factual attacks [on a Court's subject matter jurisdiction] . . . "challenge subject matter jurisdiction in fact, irrespective of the pleadings." In resolving a factual attack, the district court "may consider extrinsic evidence such as testimony and affidavits." Since such a motion implicates the fundamental question of a trial

Petitioners lack Article III standing and because the claims raised by Petitioners in these proceedings are not constitutionally ripe.

I. The Claims Raised in the Petition Must Be Dismissed for Lack of Subject Matter Jurisdiction Because the Petitioners Lack Standing to Bring Those Claims.

These proceedings pursuant to the CVRA must be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction because Petitioners lack standing to pursue the remedies that they are seeking for alleged CVRA violations. As the Supreme Court has explained,

to satisfy Article III’s standing requirements, a plaintiff must show (1) it has suffered an “injury in fact” that is (a) concrete and particularized and (b) actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical; (2) the injury is fairly traceable to the challenged action of the defendant; and (3) it is likely, as opposed to merely speculative, that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision.

Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Environmental Services (TOC), Inc., 528 U.S. 167, 180-81 (2000); *see also, e.g., Young Apartments, Inc. v. Town of Jupiter*, 529 F.3d 1027, 1038 (11th Cir. 2008) (quoting *Harris v. Evans*, 20 F.3d 1118, 1121 (11th Cir. 1994) (en banc)). Moreover, “a plaintiff must demonstrate standing separately for each form of relief sought.” *Friends of the Earth*, 528 U.S. at 185.

Here, the record incontrovertibly demonstrates that Petitioners cannot satisfy the third prong of the standing test, and the Petition and these proceedings must accordingly be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.² *E.g., Florida Wildlife Federation, Inc. v. South Florida*

court’s jurisdiction, a “trial court is free to weigh the evidence and satisfy itself as to the existence of its power to hear the case” without presuming the truthfulness of the plaintiff’s allegations.

Makro Capital of America, Inc. v. UBS AG, 543 F.3d 1254, 1258 (11th Cir. 2008) (citations omitted); *see also, e.g., McMaster v. United States*, 177 F.3d 936, 940 (11th Cir. 1999) (“[W]e determine whether this lawsuit survives the government’s factual attack [on subject matter jurisdiction] by looking to matters outside the pleadings, and we do not accord any presumptive truthfulness to the allegations in the complaint.”); *Scarfo v. Ginsberg*, 175 F.3d 957, 960-61 (11th Cir. 1999).

² Although Petitioners also fail to satisfy the first and second prongs of the standing test,

Water Management Dist., 647 F.3d 1296, 1302 (11th Cir. 2011) (“If at any point in the litigation the plaintiff ceases to meet all three requirements for constitutional standing, the case no longer presents a live case or controversy, and the federal court must dismiss the case for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.”); *Phoenix of Broward, Inc. v. McDonald’s Corp.*, 489 F.3d 1156, 1161 (11th Cir. 2007) (“[T]he issue of constitutional standing is jurisdictional”); *National Parks Conservation Ass’n v. Norton*, 324 F.3d 1229, 1242 (11th Cir. 2003) (“[B]ecause the constitutional standing doctrine stems directly from Article III’s ‘case or controversy’ requirement, this issue implicates our subject matter jurisdiction, and accordingly must be addressed as a threshold matter regardless of whether it is raised by the parties.”) (citation omitted).

In these proceedings, the only identified legal relief that Petitioners have sought pursuant to the CVRA is the setting aside of the Non-Prosecution Agreement that was entered into between Jeffrey Epstein and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida (“USAO-SDFL”). *See, e.g.*, DE 99 at 6 (recognizing that the relief Petitioners seek “is to invalidate the non-prosecution agreement”). But even assuming *arguendo* that Petitioners’ rights under the CVRA were violated when Epstein and the USAO-SDFL entered into the Non-Prosecution Agreement, constitutional due process guarantees do not allow either the Non-Prosecution Agreement – which by its terms induced Epstein to, *inter alia*, plead guilty to state criminal charges and serve an 18-month sentence of state incarceration³ – or the governmental

this Court need not reach or address those issues because an analysis of the third prong of the standing test incontrovertibly establishes the Petitioners’ lack of standing. Nonetheless, the circumstances which demonstrate Petitioners’ lack of a concrete injury traceable to government conduct are explored *infra* in Section II of this memorandum, which addresses how Petitioners’ claims and these proceedings lack constitutional ripeness.

³ *See also* July 11, 2008 Hr’g Tr. at 20-21 (Petitioners’ acknowledgement that Epstein’s reliance on promises in Non-Prosecution Agreement led to his guilty plea to state charges and his

obligations undertaken therein to be set aside.⁴ *See, e.g., Santobello v. New York*, 404 U.S. 257, 262 (1971) (“[W]hen a plea rests in any significant degree on a promise or agreement of the prosecutor, so that it can be said to be part of the inducement or consideration, such promise must be fulfilled.”); *United States v. Harvey*, 869 F.2d 1439, 1443 (11th Cir. 1989) (“Due process requires the government to adhere to the terms of any plea bargain or immunity agreement it makes.”). Indeed, even if this Court were somehow to set aside the Non-Prosecution Agreement on the authority of the CVRA, and even if after consultation with Petitioners the United States determined that it would be proper and desirable to institute a criminal prosecution in the Southern District of Florida against Epstein on the criminal charges contemplated in the Non-Prosecution Agreement, the United States would still be constitutionally required to adhere to the negotiated terms of the Non-Prosecution Agreement. *See, e.g., Santobello*, 404 U.S. at 262; *Harvey*, 869 F.2d at 1443.

Due process considerations further bar this Court from setting aside a non-prosecution agreement that grants contractual rights to a contracting party (Epstein) who has not been made a party to the proceedings before the Court. *See, e.g., School Dist. of City of Pontiac v. Secretary of U.S. Dept. of Educ.*, 584 F.3d 253, 303 (6th Cir. 2009) (“It is hornbook law that all parties to a contract are necessary in an action challenging its validity”); *Dawavendewa v. Salt River Project Agr. Imp. & Power Dist.*, 276 F.3d 1150, 1157 (9th Cir. 2002) (“[A] party to a contract is necessary, and if not susceptible to joinder, indispensable to litigation seeking to decimate that

subsequent 18-month state incarceration).

⁴ To the extent that the Petitioners’ requested invalidation of the Non-Prosecution Agreement would implicitly reject and nullify the correctness of both the state court’s acceptance of Epstein’s guilty plea and the resulting judgment of conviction – which were induced in part by the Non-Prosecution Agreement – such judicial action might raise additional questions about this Court’s jurisdiction under the *Rooker/Feldman* doctrine. *See, e.g., Casale v. Tillman*, 558 F.3d 1258, 1260-61 (11th Cir. 2009); *Powell v. Powell*, 80 F.3d 464, 466-68 (11th Cir. 1996).

contract.”); *Lomayaktewa v. Hathaway*, 520 F.2d 1324, 1325 (9th Cir. 1975) (“No procedural principle is more deeply imbedded in the common law than that, in an action to set aside a lease or a contract, all parties who may be affected by the determination of the action are indispensable.”); *see also National Licorice Co. v. NLRB*, 309 U.S. 350, 362 (1940) (“It is elementary that it is not within the power of any tribunal to make a binding adjudication of the rights in personam of parties not brought before it by due process of law.”).⁵

Additionally, a “favorable ruling” from this Court will not provide Petitioners with anything for the alleged CVRA violations that is not already available to them. For the due process reasons already discussed above, the United States must legally abide by the terms of the Non-Prosecution Agreement even if this Court should somehow set the agreement aside for Petitioners to consult further with the government attorney handling the case. Moreover, as will be explained in greater detail below, *see infra* at 8-12, Petitioners already have the present ability to confer with an attorney for the government about a federal criminal case against Epstein – whether or not the Non-Prosecution Agreement is set aside – because the investigation and potential federal prosecution of Epstein for crimes committed against the Petitioners and others remains a legally viable possibility.⁶

The present proceedings under the CVRA must accordingly be dismissed for lack of standing because Petitioners simply have no injury that is likely to be redressed by a favorable ruling in these proceedings. *See, e.g., Scott v. Taylor*, 470 F.3d 1014, 1018 (11th Cir. 2006) (holding that there was no standing where it was speculative that remedy that Plaintiff sought

⁵ Significantly, it is *Epstein’s contractual rights* under the non-prosecution agreement that Petitioners seek to void through these proceedings.

⁶ Petitioners’ present, as well as past, ability to confer with an attorney for the government also demonstrates that Petitioners fail to satisfy the first two prongs of the standing test: Petitioners have simply not suffered a concrete injury that is fairly traceable to the challenged government conduct.

would redress claimed injury).

II. The Claims Raised in the Petition Are Not Constitutionally Ripe, and These Proceedings Must Thus Be Dismissed for Lack of Subject Matter Jurisdiction.

This Court must also dismiss these proceedings for lack of subject matter jurisdiction because the Petitioners' claims are not constitutionally ripe.

Ripeness, like standing, “originate[s] from the Constitution’s Article III requirement that the jurisdiction of the federal courts be limited to actual cases and controversies.” *Elend v. Basham*, 471 F.3d 1199, 1204-05 (11th Cir. 2006). “‘The ripeness doctrine keeps federal courts from deciding cases prematurely,’ *Beaulieu v. City of Alabaster*, 454 F.3d 1219, 1227 (11th Cir. 2006), and ‘protects [them] from engaging in speculation or wasting their resources through the review of potential or abstract disputes,’ *Digital Props., Inc. v. City of Plantation*, 121 F.3d 586, 589 (11th Cir.1997).” *United States v. Rivera*, 613 F.3d 1046, 1050 (11th Cir. 2010); *see also Pittman v. Cole*, 267 F.3d 1269, 1278 (11th Cir. 2001) (“‘The ripeness doctrine prevent[s] the courts, through avoidance of premature adjudication, from entangling themselves in abstract disagreements’”) (quoting *Coalition for the Abolition of Marijuana Prohibition v. City of Atlanta*, 219 F.3d 1301, 1315 (11th Cir. 2000) (citations and quotations omitted))). Under the ripeness doctrine, a court must therefore determine “‘whether there is sufficient injury to meet Article III’s requirement of a case or controversy and, if so, whether the claim is sufficiently mature, and the issues sufficiently defined and concrete, to permit effective decisionmaking by the court.’” *In re Jacks*, 642 F.3d 1323, 1332 (11th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Cheffer v. Reno*, 55 F.3d 1517, 1524 (11th Cir. 1995)).

When evaluating whether a claim is ripe, a court considers: “‘(1) the fitness of the issues for judicial decision, and (2) the hardship to the parties of withholding court consideration.’” *Id.* (quoting *Cheffer*, 55 F.3d at 1524 (citing *Abbott Labs. v. Gardner*, 387 U.S. 136, 149 (1967)));

see also, e.g., Association For Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc. v. Conger, 899 F.2d 1164, 1165 (11th Cir. 1990). Under the doctrine, “[a] claim is not ripe when it is based on speculative possibilities,” *In re Jacks*, 642 F.3d 1323, 1332 (11th Cir. 2011), such as if the claim “rests upon contingent future events that may not occur as anticipated, or indeed may not occur at all,” *Atlanta Gas Light Co. v. FERC*, 140 F.3d 1392, 1404 (11th Cir. 1998) (quoting *Texas v. United States*, 523 U.S. 296, 300 (1998)). Indeed, “[t]he ripeness doctrine is designed to prevent federal courts from engaging in such speculation and prematurely and perhaps unnecessarily reaching constitutional issues.” *Pittman*, 267 F.3d at 1280.

In these proceedings, the Petitioners have sought to set aside the Non-Prosecution Agreement between Epstein and the USAO-SDFL so that Petitioners can “confer with the attorney for the Government” about the possible filing of federal criminal charges against Epstein and the potential disposition of any such charges. *See, e.g.*, July 11, 2008 Hr’g Tr. at 6-7 (seeking an “[o]rder that the [non-prosecution] agreement that was negotiated is invalid” so that Petitioners can exercise the right to confer with the government); *id.* at 19-20, 24; 18 U.S.C. § 3771(a)(5); *see also* DE 1 at 2 ¶ 5 (claiming that Petitioner was “denied her rights” under the CVRA because she “received no consultation with the attorney for the government regarding the possible disposition of the charges”).

Notwithstanding the Non-Prosecution Agreement, Petitioners are and have been free to confer with attorneys for the government about the investigation and potential prosecution of Epstein. At least one attorney for the government (Assistant United States Attorney Villafaña from the USAO-SDFL) had spoken to Petitioners about the offenses committed against them by Epstein prior to the signing of the Non-Prosecution Agreement, *see, e.g.*, July 11, 2008 Hr’g Tr. at 22 (acknowledging that prosecutors spoke to Petitioners “about what happened” to them); DE

48 at 6 ¶ 8; *see also* DE 99 at 3, and government attorneys have on multiple occasions offered to confer with Petitioners, *see, e.g.*, July 11, 2008 Hr’g Tr. at 13 (“I will always confer, sit down with Jane Doe 1 and 2, with the two agents and Ms. Villafana. We’ll be happy to sit down with them.”). Indeed, on December 10, 2010, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, accompanied by supervisory and line prosecutors from the USAO-SDFL, *personally* conferred with Petitioners’ counsel and with Petitioner Jane Doe #1 and entertained discussion about Petitioners’ desires to see Epstein criminally prosecuted on federal charges.⁷ The United States Attorney and prosecutors in the USAO-SDFL have also corresponded with Petitioners’ counsel on multiple occasions about Petitioners’ desires to have Epstein criminally prosecuted on federal charges.⁸

Additionally, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a number of districts outside the Southern District of Florida (*e.g.*, the Southern District of New York and the District of New Jersey) share jurisdiction and venue with the Southern District of Florida over potential federal criminal charges based on the alleged sexual acts committed by Epstein against the Petitioners. Epstein is thus subject to potential prosecution for such acts in those districts. Furthermore, because of the nature of the allegations against Epstein, the filing of such potential charges against Epstein still remains temporally viable; charges for such sexual activities involving minors are not barred by the applicable

⁷ The United States Attorney also offered to confer with Jane Doe #2, but Jane Doe #2 declined the invitation and did not attend the meeting that was scheduled with the United States Attorney.

⁸ Since that time, the USAO-SDFL has been recused by the Department of Justice from prospective responsibility for any criminal investigation or potential prosecution relating to Epstein’s alleged sexual activities with minor females. The Department of Justice has reassigned responsibility for the investigation and potential prosecution of such criminal matters in the Southern District of Florida to the United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Florida for consideration of any prosecutorial action that may be authorized and appropriate.

statutes of limitations. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3283, 3299. Petitioners are free to contact the United States Attorney’s Office in those districts and seek to confer with government attorneys in those offices about investigating and potentially prosecuting Epstein based on the alleged federal crimes committed against them.⁹

Petitioners nonetheless have appeared to contend throughout these proceedings that the many opportunities that they have been given to consult with the attorneys for the government about Epstein’s offenses and the potential charges against Epstein – opportunities which continue to be available to Petitioners – are not meaningful under the CVRA due to the existence of the Non-Prosecution Agreement. According to Petitioners, the Non-Prosecution Agreement has given Epstein a “free pass” on federal criminal charges for the offenses he committed against Petitioners and others. *See, e.g.*, DE 9 at 15 (characterizing Non-Prosecution Agreement as “a ‘free pass’ from the federal government”), 2 (contending that the Non-Prosecution Agreement “allowed [Epstein] . . . to escape all federal prosecution for dozens of serious federal sex offenses against minors”), 7 (“the wealthy defendant has escaped all federal punishment”), 12 (“[T]he agreement prevents federal prosecution of the defendant for numerous sex offenses.”); DE 77 at 2 (describing Non-Prosecution Agreement as “an agreement that blocked federal prosecution of Epstein for the multitude of sex offenses he committed again [sic] the victims”), 17 (“The [Non-

⁹ The USAO-SDFL has no present knowledge about whether the United States Attorney’s Offices in those districts have opened any investigations into the allegations that have been made against Epstein, whether those offices are even aware of those allegations or the evidence supporting them, or what investigative or prosecutorial actions, if any, those offices might take in the future. Nonetheless, should any investigation be underway or should any investigation be initiated involving such allegations, the evidence gathered [REDACTED] in the Southern District of Florida could be disclosed to federal prosecutors and federal grand juries in New York or New Jersey. *See* [REDACTED]

Prosecution Agreement] barred prosecution of the federal sexual offenses that Epstein had committed *against Jane Doe #1 and Jane Doe #2 . . .*).¹⁰ That is simply not so.

Contrary to Petitioners' contentions, there has been no disposition by the government of any federal criminal charges against Epstein. No federal charges involving Petitioners have ever been brought against Epstein, and no such federal charges have been resolved. The Non-Prosecution Agreement about which Petitioners complain disposes of **no** federal criminal charges against Epstein, and that agreement does not bar the United States from bringing federal criminal charges against Epstein. Instead, when addressing potential federal criminal charges against Epstein, the USAO-SDFL merely agreed in the Non-Prosecution Agreement that:

on the authority of R. Alexander Acosta, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, prosecution *in this District* for these offenses shall be deferred in favor of prosecution by the State of Florida, provided that Epstein abides by the following conditions and the requirements of this Agreement set forth below.

and that

After timely fulfilling all the terms and conditions of the Agreement, no prosecution for the offenses set out on pages 1 and 2 of this Agreement, nor any other offenses that have been the subject of the joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office, nor any offenses that arose from the Federal Grand Jury investigation will be instituted *in this District*, and the charges against Epstein if any, will be dismissed.

Non-Prosecution Agreement at 2 (emphasis added).

Thus, the Non-Prosecution Agreement simply obligated the government not to prosecute Epstein *in the Southern District of Florida* for the offenses set forth in the Non-Prosecution

¹⁰ This Court has also previously described the Non-Prosecution Agreement as "an agreement under which . . . the U.S. Attorney's Office would agree not to prosecute Epstein for federal offenses." DE 99 at 2-3. That description of the Non-Prosecution Agreement, however, was not based on the Court's interpretation of the terms of the Non-Prosecution Agreement, but was instead based on "allegations" by Petitioners that the Court concluded were "not yet supported by evidence" but upon which the Court nonetheless relied "solely to provide the context for the threshold issues addressed in" its September 26, 2011 Order. *Id.* at 2 n.2.

Agreement. The Non-Prosecution Agreement does not bar the United States from bringing federal criminal charges against Epstein for the offenses set forth in the Non-Prosecution Agreement in any other district in the nation.¹¹ See, e.g., *United States v. Cain*, 587 F.2d 678, 680 (5th Cir. 1979) (“Where . . . the prosecutor is not found to have made promises relating to nonprosecution of charges in another district and the [defendant] is not found to have relied on such alleged promises, this Court will affirm the trial court’s denial of a motion to dismiss the subsequent prosecutions.”). Neither does the Non-Prosecution Agreement bar prosecution in any district for offenses not identified in the agreement.

Petitioners contend that the CVRA gives a victim the right to confer with the attorney for the government before there is a disposition of contemplated, but-not-yet-filed federal criminal charges arising from offenses against the victim. But, although the government disputes that the CVRA creates such a right,¹² the Petitioners have never been denied any such right. The Petitioners have had *and still have* the ability confer to with the attorney for the government about potential federal criminal charges against Epstein and about the potential disposition of any such charges, should they be filed. In fact, Petitioners are free to approach the United States Attorney’s Offices in districts such as the Southern District of New York and the District of New Jersey – whose authority to institute criminal charges against Epstein in their districts has not

¹¹ Significantly, under the governing provision of the United States Attorney’s Manual, the USAO-SDFL did not have the authority to unilaterally bar Epstein’s prosecution in any other district in the country:

No district or division shall make any agreement, including any agreement not to prosecute, which purports to bind any other district(s) or division without the express written approval of the United States Attorney(s) in each affected district and/or the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division.

USAM 9-27.641 (Multi-District (Global) Agreement Requests).

¹² The government acknowledges that this Court has nonetheless ruled that “as a matter of law the CVRA can apply before formal charges are filed,” DE 99 at 10; see also *id.* at 6-9, but has not yet determined “whether the particular rights asserted here attached,” *id.* at 10.

been curtailed by the Non-Prosecution Agreement – to discuss the possibility of pursuing federal criminal charges against Epstein.¹³ Nothing precludes Petitioners from doing so, and there is **nothing** to indicate that Petitioners’ wishes to confer with government attorneys in those districts would be rebuffed in any way. Indeed, it would be rank speculation by Petitioners to contend otherwise.

Here, Petitioners have acknowledged that the best relief they can hope to obtain through these proceedings is the ability to confer with the attorneys for the government. *See, e.g.*, July 11, 2008 Hr’g Tr. at 7 (agreeing that “the best [Petitioners] can get” is the “right to confer”). Yet, under the circumstances, a claim that Petitioners have been denied the opportunity to confer with the attorney for the government about the filing and disposition of criminal charges against Epstein is premature and constitutionally unripe. “This is plainly the type of hypothetical case that [a court] should avoid deciding.” *Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc. v. Conger*, 899 F.2d 1164, 1166 (11th Cir. 1990). Any speculation by Petitioners that they might prospectively be denied the opportunity to confer with the government about still-legally-viable federal charges against Epstein simply cannot ripen Petitioners’ claims. *See id.* (recognizing that courts “do not generally decide cases based on a party’s predicted conduct”).

For these reasons, Petitioners’ claims in these proceedings should be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. *See, e.g., In re Jacks*, 642 F.3d 1323, 1332 (11th Cir. 2011) (holding that claims that are “based on events that may take place in the future” are to be “dismissed for lack of jurisdiction”) (citing *Greenbriar, Ltd. v. City of Alabaster*, 881 F.2d 1570, 1574 n.7 (11th Cir. 1989) (“[R]ipeness goes to whether the district court had subject matter

¹³ Petitioners could also approach the United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Florida, but, due to that office’s recusal-based derivative prosecutorial responsibilities in the Southern District of Florida, *see supra* note 8, the Non-Prosecution Agreement would constrain the possible filing of federal charges by that office in the Southern District of Florida.

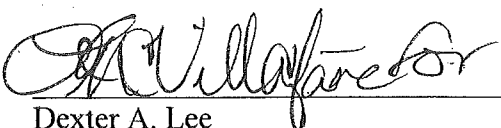
jurisdiction to hear the case.”)); *Reahard v. Lee County*, 30 F.3d 1412, 1415 (11th Cir. 1994) (“The question of ripeness ‘goes to whether the district court had subject matter jurisdiction.’”) (quoting *Greenbriar*, 881 F.2d at 1573); *see also Jacksonville Property Rights Ass’n, Inc. v. City of Jacksonville*, 635 F.3d 1266, 1276 (11th Cir. 2011) (concluding that when plaintiffs ask a court “to issue a declaration on an issue that might never impact their substantive rights,” they are “asking th[e] court either to issue an impermissible advisory opinion, or to decide a case that is not yet ripe for decision”), *reh’g & reh’g en banc denied*, Case No. 09-15629, ___ Fed. App’x ___ (11th Cir. Jun. 29, 2011) (Table).

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the United States respectfully requests that this Court enter an order dismissing the Petitioners’ claims and these proceedings for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,

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