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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**PURSE AND HANDBAG RESTRICTION POLICY WILL CONTINUE FOR REMAINING CENTURYLINK CENTER OMAHA AUGUST CONCERTS**

Omaha, Neb. – People attending upcoming August concerts at CenturyLink Center Omaha will not be allowed to bring most purses or handbags into the arena for the show. Arena officials said that only small “clutch-sized purses or handbags” measuring no larger than 4.5 inches by 6.5 inches will be allowed inside the arena for the upcoming concerts by Green Day (August 12), Cold Play (August 14) and Lady Gaga (August 19).

The smaller purse restriction was required by promoters for last weekend’s Lady Antebellum and Shawn Mendes shows. Roger Dixon, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority, said there were few issues with the policy for these shows and for consistency it was decided the restriction should continue through August.

“More than 20,000 people attended the two concerts over the past weekend and there were only a handful of situations where a concert goer was not aware or had concerns with the restriction,” Dixon said. “In order to avoid confusion with the remaining August shows we felt it was in the public’s best interest to continue the policy through the end of the month, especially since this is another effort to ensure the safety of people attending our shows.”

Dixon said MECA management is talking to promoters and reviewing restriction policies being put in place at concert and sporting venues around the country, and anticipates formalizing a permanent policy after the summer concert season has ended. He said they will continue to inform the public of the restriction through social media and will have informational signs throughout the property before each show.

People with additional questions about the handbag restrictions can call CenturyLink Center Omaha at 402-341-1500.