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FILED

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OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA, MONTANA

IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA

CHARLES FISCH, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated.

Petitioner.

-VS-

STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND.

Respondent.

WC Court No: <u>2000-0023</u> ₽ /

IN RE RAUSCH, FISCH AND FROST NOTICE TO PLAN 1 SELF INSUREDS AND PLAN 2 CARRIERS OF PETITIONERS' COMMON FUND ATTORNEY FEE LIEN THOMAS FROST, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,

Petitioner,

vs-

STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND,

Respondent.

ALEXIS RAUSCH, as the Conservator for KEVIN RAUSCH,

Petitioner,

VS-

STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND,

Respondent.

Court No: 9907-8274

WC Court No: 2000-0030 P.

COME NOW, the Petitioners, by and through their undersigned counsel and herewith notify Plan 1 workers' compensation self insureds and Plan 2 workers' compensation carriers of the Montana Supreme Court Opinion in Rausch, et al. v. State Compensation Insurance Fund, Consolidated Cause No. 01-420, 2002 Mont. 203, ____ P.3d ____ (2002), in which the Montana Supreme Court determined that all permanently totally disabled claimants similarly situated to Petitioners within the Montana workers' compensation scheme were entitled to impairment awards upon receipt of an undisputed impairment rating. The undersigned herewith notify all Plan 1 participants and Plan 2 carriers of said decision and herewith assert a lien for attorneys' fees based upon the common fund doctrine applicable in this case pursuant to the Rausch et. al decision, a copy of which is attached to this notice.

The attorney fee lien claimed is the amount granted by the attorney fee statute on appeal, 25%. In the alternative, the court or the parties may determine reasonable and just fees considering the following factors: the total amount of benefits generated on behalf of the subject pool of claimants; the number claimants entitled to benefits; the length of time, complexity and

cost in determining the amount of benefits and number of claimants; the experience, skill and reputation of counsel pursuing this litigation; and fees customarily charged for similar services. The court will set a hearing at the conclusion of this matter to determine and approve appropriate attorney fees.

Petitioners herewith request the Workers' Compensation Court to order the Division of Workers' Compensation to provide notice of this attorney fee lien to all Plan 1 participants and Plan 2 carriers.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11th day of October 2002.

Attorney for Petitioner Rausch

WC Court No: 9907-8274

Attorney for Petitioner Frost

WC Court No: 2000-0030

WC Court No: 2000-0023

Attorney for Petitioner Fisch

STEPHEN D. ROBERTS

MONTE D. BECK, ESQ.