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JUN 2 0 2005

OFFICE OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA, MONTANA

ATTORNEYS FOR Ohio Casualty Insurance Co., West American Insurance Co., American Fire and Casualty Co., Great American Insurance Co. of New York, Great American Alliance Insurance Co., Great American Insurance Co., Great American Assurance Co., and Ohio Security Insurance

IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

ROBERT FLYNN and CARL MILLER, Individually and on Behalf of Others Similarly Situated, Petitioners, V.) WCC No. 2000-0222))) ANSWER TO SUMMONS AND NOTICE) OF ATTORNEY FEE LIEN)
MONTANA STATE FUND,)
Respondent/Insurer)
And)))
LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORPORATION.)))

Pursuant to the Court's Summons and Notice of Attorney Fee Lien, Ohio Casualty Insurance Co., West American Insurance Co., American Fire and Casualty Co., Great American Insurance Co. of New York, Great American Alliance Insurance Co., Great American Insurance Co., Great American Assurance Co., and Ohio Security Insurance submit the following answer:

Ohio Casualty Insurance Co., West American Insurance Co., American Fire and Casualty Co., Great American Insurance Co. of New York, Great American Alliance Insurance Co., Great American Insurance Co., Great American Assurance Co., and

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DOCKET ITEM NO. 2

Ohio Security Insurance object to common fund certification in this case and assert the following defenses:

- 1. Petitioner cannot satisfy the three elements for common fund certification set forth in the *Ruhd* decision.
 - 2. Petitioner did not request common fund certification in a timely manner.
- 3. The decision should not be applied retroactively because Petitioner cannot satisfy any of the three *Chevron* factors set forth in the *Dempsey* decision.
- 4. Application of a common fund under the facts of this case would violate provisions of the U.S. and Montana Constitutions, including but not limited to, procedural and substantive due process, freedom of contract, and taking without just compensation.
- 5. All defenses raised by any and all defendants in this case or that have been asserted or could be asserted in this case or any other common fund case pending before this Court or the Montana Supreme Court.

For the reasons set forth above and asserted by other defendants, Ohio Casualty Insurance Co., West American Insurance Co., American Fire and Casualty Co., Great American Insurance Co. of New York, Great American Alliance Insurance Co., Great American Insurance Co., Great American Assurance Co., and Ohio Security Insurance object to common fund certification in this case.

DATED this 200 day of June, 2005.

BY

BROWNING, KALECZYC, BERRY & HOVEN, P.C.

Oliver S. Goe

ATTORNEYS FOR Ohio Casualty Insurance Co., West American Insurance Co., American Fire and Casualty Co., Great American Insurance Co. of New York, Great American Alliance Insurance Co., Great American Insurance Co., Great American Assurance Co., and Ohio Security Insurance