1625 11th Avenue P.O. Box 537 Helena, MT 59624-0537 (406) 444-7794 FAX (406) 444-7798 TDD (406) 444-0532



E-mail Clerk of Court at: pkessner@state.mt.us

Court Web Site: http://wcc.dli.state.mt.us

Workers' Compensation Courten

Mike McCarter Judge

May 30, 2003

MAY 3 0 2003

OFFICE OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA, MONTANA

Ms. Laurie Wallace Attorney at Law P.O. Box 2020 Columbia Falls, MT 59912-2020

Mr. Bradley J. Luck Attorney at Law P.O. Box 7909 Missoula, MT 59807-7909 Mr. David A. Hawkins Special Assistant Attorney General Montana State Fund P.O. Box 4759 Helena, MT 59604-4759

Mr. Thomas J. Murphy Attorney at Law P.O. Box 3226 Great Falls, MT 59403-3226

Mr. Monte D. Beck Attorney at Law 1946 Stadium Dr., Suite 1 Bozeman, MT 59715 Mr. Stephen D. Roberts Attorney at Law 1700 W. Koch St., Suite 5 Bozeman, MT 59715

Mr. Lon J. Dale Attorney at Law P.O. Box 4947 Missoula, MT 59806-4947 Mr. Greg E. Overturf Special Assistant Attorney General Montana State Fund P.O. Box 4759 Helena, MT 59604-4759

Mr. Geoffrey C. Angel Attorney at Law 125 W. Mendenhall Bozeman, MT 59715

Mr. Rex Palmer Attorneys Inc., P.C. 301 W. Spruce Missoula, MT 59802 Ms. Ann E. Clark Special Assistant Attorney General Montana State Fund P.O. Box 4759 Helena, MT 59604-4759

Mr. Lawrence A. Anderson Attorney at Law P.O. Box 2608 Great Falls, MT 59403-2608



Re: Schmill, etc. May 30, 2003 Page 2

Ms. Laurie Wallace Attorney at Law P.O. Box 2020 Columbia Falls, MT 59912-2020 Mr. Bradley J. Luck Attorney at Law P.O. Box 7909 Missoula, MT 59807-7909 Mr. David A. Hawkins Special Assistant Attorney General Montana State Fund P.O. Box 4759 Helena, MT 59604-4759

Mr. Larry W. Jones Attorney at Law 700 S.W. Higgins Ave., Suite 108 Missoula, MT 59803-1489

Re:

Schmill v. Liberty Northwest Insurance Corp., WCC No. 2001-0300

Stavenjord v. Montana State Fund, WCC No. 2000-0207 Rausch v. Montana State Fund, WCC No. 9907-8274 Fisch v. Montana State Fund, WCC No. 2000-0023 Frost v. Montana State Fund, WCC No. 2000-0030

Ruhd v. Liberty Northwest Insurance Corp., WCC No. 2002-0500

Flynn v. Montana State Fund, WCC No. 2000-0222

Miller v. Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Co., WCC No. 2000-0174

Counsel:

I have read Mr. Jones' letter of May 15, 2003, proposing consolidation of the all of the cases as indicated above. I have also read the responses made by several of you.

In light of my recent order in *Ruhd* limiting the common fund to benefits owed by the named respondent insurer, I am not sure consolidation of these cases, other than possibly *Stavenjord* and *Schmill*, would be appropriate. However, insofar as the procedures in one case may provide guidance for the others, I invite any counsel who wishes to be present or participate informally in any of these proceedings to do so. Let me know if you wish to do so and I will arrange for copies of notices and other materials to be sent to you.

Sincerely,

Mike McCarter Judge