

Risk Factors Comparison 2024-04-01 to 2023-03-27 Form: 10-K

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Our business is subject to numerous risks and uncertainties. We have listed below the material risk factors applicable to us. These material risks include, but are not limited to, the following: • Operational Risks • Investment Risks • Liquidity Risks • Legal and Regulatory Risks • Rating Agency Risks • General Risk Factors **The We may not be able to extend or repay our indebtedness owed to our secured lenders, which would have a material adverse effects- effect on** of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic and societal impact could adversely impact our businesses, assets and financial performance. **COVID-19 condition and ability to continue** has ~~as~~ caused significant disruption to public health, the global economy, financial markets, and commercial, social and community activity generally. The pandemic and the economic uncertainty may result in higher levels of loss and claims activity in certain lines of business and our premium revenue may reduce by a **going concern** suppression of national and global commercial activity. **If we are unable** the ongoing pandemic continues to **service** create disruptions or turmoil in the credit or financial markets, it could adversely affect our ~~or repay these obligations~~ ability to access capital on favorable terms, or at **maturity all**, and continue **we are otherwise unable** to meet **extend the maturity dates** our ~~or refinance~~ liquidity needs. Governmental, regulatory and judicial actions in response to the ~~these~~ **COVID-19** pandemic may adversely affect our financial performance and our ability to conduct our businesses. Insurance and financial regulators may attempt to impose new obligations on insurers in connection with the pandemic that could materially affect our business or profitability, including any retroactive change to the terms of existing insurance contracts that specifically exclude business interruption losses arising from the pandemic. While we believe that any retroactive attempt to rewrite the terms of existing contracts would be unconstitutional, **in default. We cannot provide any assurances that we cannot will be certain able to raise the necessary amount of capital to service** ultimate judicial outcomes. In addition, ~~these obligations. Upon a default, our secured lenders would have the right to exercise their rights and remedies to collect, which would include foreclosing on our assets. Accordingly, a default would have a material adverse effect on our business, and we would likely be forced to seek bankruptcy protection. Our various loan agreements contain financial and non- financial covenants and provisions providing for cross- default. The evaluation of compliance with these provisions is subject~~ a risk that novel litigation theories, in conjunction with a diverse range of potential jury and judicial venues across many jurisdictions, could give rise to **interpretation** unforeseen pandemic related liability. The disruption and other effects caused by COVID-19 could adversely impact the efficiency and productivity of our Business operations. To protect our employees and in response to the global and regional restrictions on interpersonal contact and travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic, much of our work force is working remotely, placing increased demands on our IT systems. There is no assurance that our ability to continue to function in this new environment will not be adversely affected by an **and** extended period of limited access to our physical facilities or by other ~~the exercise of judgment~~ developments such as an extended disruption in the telecommunications and internet infrastructure that support our remote work capability. Our actual incurred losses may be greater than our loss and loss adjustment expense reserves, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Insurance companies' financial condition and results of operations depend upon their ability to accurately assess the potential losses and loss adjustment expenses under the terms of the insurance policies they underwrite. Reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability. Rather, reserves represent an estimate of what the expected ultimate settlement and administration of claims will cost, and the ultimate liability may be greater or less than the current estimate. In the insurance industry, there is always the risk that reserves may prove inadequate as it is possible for insurance companies to underestimate the cost of claims. There has been considerable adverse development reported by the Company in recent years. We base our estimates on our assessment of known facts and circumstances, as well as estimates of future trends in claim severity, claim frequency, judicial theories of liability and other factors. These variables are affected by both internal and external events that could increase our exposure to losses, including changes in actuarial projections, claims handling procedures, inflation, severe weather, climate change, economic and judicial trends, and legislative changes. We continually monitor reserves using new information on reported claims and a variety of statistical techniques to update our current estimate. Our estimates could prove to be inadequate, and this understatement could have a material adverse effect on our financial strength. The uncertainties we encounter in establishing our loss reserves include: • For the majority of our policies, we are obligated to pay any covered loss that occurs while the policy is in force. Accordingly, claims may be reported and develop many years after a policy has lapsed; • Even when a claim is received, it may take considerable time to fully appreciate the extent of the covered loss suffered by the insured and, consequently, estimates of loss associated with specific claims can increase over time; • New theories of liability are enforced retroactively from time to time by courts; • Volatility in the financial markets, economic events, weather events and other external factors may result in an increase in the number of claims and the severity of the claims reported. In addition, elevated inflationary conditions would, among other things, drive loss costs to increase; • When we enter new lines of business, or encounter new theories of claims liability, we may encounter an increase in claims frequency and greater claims handling costs than we had anticipated; and • Estimation of IBNR losses is a complex and inherently uncertain process which involves a considerable degree of judgment and expertise, which adds to the overall difficulty of estimating loss reserves. If any of our insurance reserves should prove to be inadequate for the reasons discussed above, or for any other reason, we will be required to increase reserves, resulting in a reduction in our net income and shareholders' equity in the period in which the deficiency is identified. Such adverse development can result in the unplanned need for additional capital, which may need to be obtained through the sale of assets or additional issuance of common stock **or**

preferred stock which could dilute current shareholder value. If we are unable to underwrite risks accurately and charge competitive yet profitable rates to our policyholders, our business, financial condition and results of operations will be adversely affected. In general, the premiums for our insurance policies are established at the time a policy is issued and, therefore, before all of our underlying costs are known. Like other insurance companies, we rely on estimates and assumptions in setting our premium rates. Establishing adequate premium rates is necessary, together with investment income, to generate sufficient revenue to offset losses, LAE and other underwriting costs and to earn a profit. If we do not accurately assess the risks that we underwrite, we may not charge adequate premiums to cover our losses and expenses, which would adversely affect our results of operations and our profitability. Alternatively, we could set our premiums too high, which could reduce our competitiveness and lead to lower revenues. Pricing involves the acquisition and analysis of historical loss data and the projection of future trends, loss costs and expenses, and inflation trends, among other factors, for each of our products in multiple risk tiers and many different markets. In order to accurately price our policies, we must:

- Collect and properly analyze a substantial volume of data from our insureds;
- Develop, test and apply appropriate actuarial projections and rating formulas;
- Closely monitor and timely recognize changes in trends; and
- Project both frequency and severity of our insureds' losses with reasonable accuracy.

We seek to implement our pricing accurately in accordance with our assumptions. Our ability to undertake these efforts successfully and, as a result, accurately price our policies, is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including:

- Insufficient or unreliable data;
- Incorrect or incomplete analysis of available data;
- Uncertainties generally inherent in estimates and assumptions;
- Our failure to implement appropriate actuarial projections and rating formulas or other pricing methodologies;
- Regulatory constraints on rate increases; and
- Our failure to accurately estimate investment yields and the duration of our liability for loss and loss adjustment expenses, as well as unanticipated court decisions, legislation or regulatory action.

In addition, as a result of current industry non-weather factors, such as the increase in litigation surrounding the Assignment of Benefits claims and lawsuits in Florida, in particular, we may experience additional losses that could adversely affect our financial position and results of operations. ~~We~~ **There may not be able limited capacity from third party insurers to support the manage our growth effectively. We intend to continue to grow our business produce by our MGA. As discussed in Item 1 ~ Business, which could require additional capital, systems development the Company is making a strategic shift wherein our Insurance Company Subsidiaries will underwrite significantly less business. The Company's earned premium and skilled personnel investment income revenues will be substantially replaced with commission revenue generated by CIS, our MGA, producing premiums for third- party insurers.** We cannot assure you that we will be able to locate profitable third party insurers to underwrite the business opportunities, meet our capital needs, expand our systems and our internal controls effectively, allocate our human resources optimally, identify qualified employees or our MGA can produce agents or incorporate effectively the components of any businesses we may acquire in our effort to achieve growth. The failure to obtain sufficient third party manage our growth effectively and maintain underwriting discipline capacity could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We operate in a highly competitive environment and we may not continue to be able to compete effectively against larger or more well - established business rivals. We compete with a large number of other companies in our selected lines of business. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and may enjoy better name recognition, substantially greater financial resources, higher financial strength ratings by rating agencies, broader and more diversified product lines and more widespread agency relationships than we do. Insurers in our markets generally compete on the basis of price, consumer recognition, coverages offered, claims handling, financial stability, customer service and geographic coverage. Although pricing is influenced to some degree by that of our competitors, it is not in our best interests to compete solely on price, and we may from time- to- time experience a loss of market share during periods of intense price competition. A number of new, proposed or potential legislative or industry developments could further increase competition in our industry including, but not limited to:

- An increase in capital - raising by companies in our lines of business, which could result in new entrants to our markets and an excess of capital in the industry;
- The deregulation of commercial insurance lines in certain states and the possibility of federal regulatory reform of the insurance industry, which could increase competition from standard carriers for our E & S lines of insurance business; and
- Changing practices caused by the Internet may lead to greater competition in the insurance business. Among the possible changes are shifts in the way insurance is purchased. If our distribution model were to be significantly altered by changes in the way products are marketed, including, without limitation, through use of the Internet, it could have a material adverse effect on our premiums, underwriting results and profits. There is no assurance that we will be able to continue to compete successfully in the insurance markets in which we participate. Increased competition in our market could result in a change in the supply and / or demand for insurance, affect our ability to price our products at risk - adequate rates and retain existing business, or underwrite new business on favorable terms. If this increased competition so limits our ability to transact business, our operating results could be adversely affected. Increased information technology security threats and more sophisticated computer crimes pose a risk to our systems, networks, products and services. Our business is dependent upon the uninterrupted functioning of our information technology and telecommunication systems. We rely upon our systems, as well as the systems of our vendors, to underwrite and process our business; make claim payments; provide customer service; provide policy administration services, such as endorsements, cancellations and premium collections; comply with insurance regulatory requirements; and perform actuarial and other analytical functions necessary for pricing and product development. Our systems may be damaged, disrupted, or shut down due to unauthorized access, malicious software, undetected intrusion, hardware failures, or other events, and in these circumstances our disaster recovery planning may be ineffective or inadequate. Information technology security threats from user error to cybersecurity attacks are increasing in frequency and sophistication. These threats pose a risk to the security of our systems and networks and the confidentiality, availability and integrity of our data. The potential consequences of a material cybersecurity attack include reputational damage, litigation with third parties, and increased cybersecurity protection and remediation costs. A sustained business interruption or system failure could adversely impact our ability to process our business, provide customer

service, pay claims in a timely manner or perform other necessary business functions. We could also be subject to fines and penalties related to a security breach. The cost to remedy a severe breach could be substantial. Severe weather conditions and other catastrophes are inherently unpredictable and may have a material adverse effect on our financial results and financial condition. Our property insurance business is exposed to the risk of severe weather conditions and other catastrophes. Catastrophes can be caused by various events, including natural events such as hurricanes, winter weather, tornadoes, windstorms, earthquakes, hailstorms, severe thunderstorms, fires and other non-natural events such as explosions or riots. The incidence and severity of catastrophes and severe weather conditions are inherently unpredictable. The extent of losses from a catastrophe is a function of both the total amount of insured exposure in the area affected by the event and the severity of the event. Severe weather conditions and catastrophes can cause greater losses in our property lines and cause our liquidity and financial condition to deteriorate. In addition, our inability to obtain reinsurance coverage at reasonable rates and in amounts adequate to mitigate the risks associated with severe weather conditions and other catastrophes could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations. We may be unable to obtain reinsurance coverage at reasonable prices or on terms that provide us adequate protection. We purchase reinsurance in many of our lines of business to help manage our exposure to insurance risks that we underwrite and to reduce volatility in our results. The availability and cost of reinsurance are subject to prevailing market conditions, both in terms of price and available capacity, each of which can affect our business volume and profitability. The availability of reasonably affordable reinsurance is a critical element of our business plan. One important way we utilize reinsurance is to reduce volatility in claims payments by limiting our exposure to losses from large risks. Another way we use reinsurance is to purchase substantial protection against concentrated losses when we enter new markets. As a result, our ability to manage volatility and avoid significant losses, expand into new markets or grow by offering insurance to new kinds of enterprises may be limited by the unavailability of reasonably priced reinsurance. We may not be able to obtain reinsurance on acceptable terms or from entities with satisfactory creditworthiness. Under such circumstances, we may have to reduce the level of our underwriting commitments, which would reduce our revenues. Many reinsurance companies have begun to exclude certain coverages from, or alter terms in, the reinsurance contracts we enter into with them. Some exclusions relate to risks that we cannot exclude from the policies we write due to business or regulatory constraints. In addition, reinsurers are imposing terms, such as lower per occurrence and aggregate limits, on direct insurers that do not wholly cover the risks written. As a result, we, like other direct insurance companies, write insurance policies which, to some extent, do not have the benefit of reinsurance protection. These gaps in reinsurance protection expose us to greater risk and greater potential losses. For example, certain reinsurers have excluded coverage for terrorist acts or priced such coverage at unreasonably high rates. We distribute our insurance products through a select group of agents, several of which account for a significant portion of our business, and there can be no assurance that such relationships will continue, or if they do continue, that the relationship will be on favorable terms to us. In addition, reliance on agents subjects us to their credit risk. Our distribution model depends almost entirely on the agencies that distribute our products. In 2022-2023, six independent agencies accounted for approximately 42-40% of our gross written premiums in our commercial lines, and four independent agencies, accounted for approximately 45-62% of our gross written premiums in our personal lines. We cannot assure you that these relationships, or our relationships with any of our agencies will continue. Even if the relationships do continue, they may not be on terms that are profitable for us. The termination of a relationship with one or more significant agents could result in lower premium revenue and could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or business prospects. Certain premiums from policyholders, where the business is produced by agents, are collected directly by the agents and forwarded to our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. In certain jurisdictions, when the insured pays its policy premium to these agents for payment on behalf of our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, the premiums might be considered to have been paid under applicable insurance laws and regulations. Accordingly, the insured would no longer be liable to us for those amounts, whether or not we have actually received the premiums from that agent. Consequently, we assume a degree of credit risk associated with agents. There may be instances where agents collect premiums but do not remit them to us and we may be required to provide the coverage set forth in the policy despite the absence of premiums. If we are unable to collect premiums from agents, underwriting profits may decline and our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. The property and casualty insurance business is historically cyclical in nature, and we may experience periods with excess underwriting capacity and unfavorable premium rates, which could adversely affect our business. Historically, insurers have experienced significant fluctuations in operating results due to competition, frequency and severity of catastrophic events, levels of capacity, adverse litigation trends, regulatory constraints, general economic conditions and other factors. The supply of insurance is related to prevailing prices, the level of insured losses and the level of capital available to the industry that, in turn, may fluctuate in response to changes in rates of return on investments being earned in the insurance industry. As a result, the insurance business historically has been a cyclical industry characterized by periods of intense price competition due to excessive underwriting capacity as well as periods when shortages of capacity increased premium levels. Demand for insurance depends on numerous factors, including the frequency and severity of catastrophic events, levels of capacity, the introduction of new capital providers, and general economic conditions. All of these factors fluctuate and may contribute to price declines generally in the insurance industry. We cannot predict with certainty whether market conditions will improve, remain constant or deteriorate. Negative market conditions may impair our ability to underwrite insurance at rates we consider appropriate and commensurate relative to the risk assumed. If we cannot underwrite insurance at appropriate rates, our ability to transact business will be materially and adversely affected. Any of these factors could lead to an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Adverse economic factors, including recession, inflation, periods of high unemployment or lower economic activity could result in the sale of fewer policies than expected or an increase in the infrequency or severity of claims and premium defaults or both, which, in turn, could affect our growth and profitability. Factors, such as business revenue, economic conditions, the volatility and strength of the capital markets and inflation can all affect the business and economic environment in which we operate.

These same factors affect our ability to generate revenue and profits. In an economic downturn that is characterized by higher unemployment, declining spending and reduced corporate revenues, the demand for insurance products is adversely affected, which directly affects our premium levels and profitability. Negative economic factors may also affect our ability to receive the appropriate rate for the risk we insure with our policyholders and may adversely affect the number of policies we can write, including with respect to our opportunities to underwrite profitable business. In an economic downturn, our customers may have less need for insurance coverage, cancel existing insurance policies, modify their coverage or not renew with us. ~~Existing policyholders may exaggerate or even falsify claims to obtain higher claims payments.~~ These outcomes would reduce our underwriting profit to the extent these factors are not reflected in the rates we charge. The failure of any of the loss limitations or exclusions we employ, or changes in other claims or coverage issues, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. Our policies include provisions to limit our exposure to known risks. In addition, we design our policy terms to manage our exposure to expanding theories of legal liability like those which have given rise to claims for lead paint, asbestos, mold, construction defects and environmental matters. Many of the policies we issue also include conditions requiring the prompt reporting of claims to us and entitle us to decline coverage in the event of a violation of that condition. Also, many of our policies limit the period during which a policyholder may bring a claim under the policy, which in many cases is shorter than the statutory period under which such claims can be brought against our policyholders. As industry practices and legal, judicial, social and other conditions change, unexpected and unintended issues related to claims and coverage may emerge. These issues may adversely affect our business by either extending coverage beyond the underwriting intent or by increasing the size or number of claims. It is possible that a court or regulatory authority could nullify or void any number of the provisions we put in place to limit our exposure. Regulatory authorities or courts may not interpret the limitations or exclusions that we included in the policies in the manner we intended. Or legislation could be enacted modifying or barring the use of such endorsements and limitations. These types of governmental actions could result in higher than anticipated losses and loss adjustment expenses, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until sometime after we have issued insurance policies that are affected by the changes. As a result, the full extent of liability under our insurance contracts may not be known for many years after a contract is issued. If we are unable to retain key management and employees or recruit other qualified personnel, we may be adversely affected. We believe that our future success depends, in large part, on our ability to retain our experienced management team and key employees, particularly our ~~chairman and~~ chief executive officer, **James G. Nicholas J.** Petcoff. There can be no assurance that we can attract and retain the necessary employees to conduct our business activities on a timely basis or at all. Our competitors may offer more favorable compensation arrangements to our key management or employees to incentivize them to leave our Company. Furthermore, our competitors may make it more difficult for us to hire their personnel by offering excessive compensation arrangements to certain employees to induce them not to leave their current employment and bringing litigation against employees who do leave (and possibly us as well) to join us. The loss of any of our executive officers or other key personnel, or our inability to recruit and retain additional qualified personnel as we grow, could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations, and could prevent us from fully implementing our growth strategies. We rely on our systems and employees, and those of certain third - party vendors and service providers in conducting our operations, and certain failures, including internal or external fraud, operational errors, or systems malfunctions, could materially adversely affect our operations. We are exposed to many types of operational risk, including the risk of fraud by employees and outsiders, clerical and recordkeeping errors and computer or telecommunications systems malfunctions. Our business depends on our ability to process a large number of increasingly complex transactions. If any of our operational, accounting, or other data processing systems fail or have other significant shortcomings, we could be materially adversely affected. Similarly, we depend on our employees. We could be materially adversely affected if one or more of our employees cause a significant operational breakdown or failure, either as a result of human error or intentional sabotage or fraudulent manipulation of our operations or systems. Third parties with whom we do business, including vendors that provide services or security solutions for our operations, could also be sources of operational and information security risk to us, including from breakdowns, failures, or capacity constraints of their own systems or employees. Any of these occurrences could diminish our ability to operate our business, or cause financial loss, potential liability to insureds, inability to secure insurance, reputational damage or regulatory intervention, which could materially adversely affect us. Litigation and legal proceedings against our subsidiaries could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and / or results of operations. As an insurance holding company, our Subsidiaries are named as defendants in various legal actions in the ordinary course of business. We believe that the outcome of presently pending matters, individually and in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, operating results or liquidity. However, the outcomes of lawsuits cannot be predicted and, if determined adversely, could require us to pay significant damage amounts or to change aspects of our operations, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial results. Our geographic concentration ties our performance to the business, economic, natural perils, man- made perils, and regulatory conditions within our most concentrated region. Our revenues and profitability are subject to the prevailing regulatory, legal, economic, political, demographic, competitive, weather and other conditions in the principal states in which we do business. Changes in any of these conditions could make it less attractive for us to do business in such states and would have a more pronounced effect on us compared to companies that are more geographically diversified. In addition, our exposure to severe losses from localized perils, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, wind, ice storms, hail, fires, terrorism, riots and explosions, is increased in those areas where we have written significant numbers of insurance policies. We are subject to credit risk with regard to our reinsurance counterparties. Although reinsurance makes the assuming reinsurer liable to us to the extent of the risk ceded, we are not relieved of our primary liability to our insureds as the direct insurer. We cannot be sure that our reinsurers will pay all reinsurance claims on a timely basis or at all. For example, reinsurers may default in their financial obligations to us as the result

of insolvency, lack of liquidity, operational failure, fraud, asserted defenses based on agreement wordings or the principle of utmost good faith, asserted deficiencies in the documentation of agreements or other reasons. The failure of a reinsurer to pay us does not lessen our contractual obligations to insureds. If a reinsurer fails to pay the expected portion of a claim or claims, our net losses might increase substantially and adversely affect our financial condition. Any disputes with reinsurers regarding coverage under reinsurance contracts could be time - consuming, costly and uncertain of success. Downgrades to the credit ratings of our reinsurance counterparties may result in the reduction of rating agency capital credit provided by those reinsurance contracts and could, therefore, result in a downgrade of our own credit ratings. We evaluate each reinsurance claim based on the facts of the case, historical experience with the reinsurer on similar claims and existing case law and include any amounts deemed uncollectible from the reinsurer in our reserve for uncollectible reinsurance. Damage to our reputation could have a material adverse effect on our business. Our reputation is one of our key assets. Our ability to attract and retain policyholders is highly dependent upon the external perceptions of our level of service, trustworthiness, business practices, financial condition and other subjective qualities. Negative perceptions or publicity regarding these or other matters, including from actual or alleged conduct by us or our employees, could damage our reputation. Any resulting erosion of trust and confidence among existing and potential policyholders, regulators and other parties important to the success of our business could make it difficult for us to attract new policyholders and maintain existing ones, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Our investment portfolio is subject to significant market and credit risks, which could result in an adverse impact on our financial conditions or results of operations. Our results of operations depend, in part, on the performance of our investment portfolio. We seek to hold a diversified portfolio of investments that is managed by professional investment advisory management firms in accordance with our investment policy and routinely reviewed by our Investment Committee. However, our investments are subject to general economic conditions and market risks as well as risks inherent to particular securities. The value of our investment portfolio is subject to the risk that certain investments may default or become impaired due to deterioration in the financial condition of one or more issuers of the securities held, or due to deterioration in the financial condition of an entity that guarantees an issuer's payments of such investments. Such defaults and impairments could reduce our net investment income and result in realized investment losses. A severe economic downturn could cause us to incur substantial realized and unrealized investment losses in future periods, which would have an adverse impact on our financial condition, results of operations, debt and financial strength ratings, Insurance Company Subsidiaries' capital liquidity and ability to access capital markets. In addition, losses in our investment portfolio may occur at the same time as underwriting losses and, therefore, exacerbate the adverse effect of the losses on us. We may be adversely affected by interest rate changes. Our investment portfolio is predominantly comprised of fixed income securities. These securities are sensitive to changes in interest rates. An increase in interest rates typically reduces the fair market value of fixed income securities. In addition, if interest rates decline, investment income earned from future investments in fixed income securities will be lower. Rising interest rates could result in a significant reduction of our book value. A low investment yield environment could adversely impact our net earnings, as a result of fixed income securities maturing and being replaced with lower yielding securities which impact investing results. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors beyond our control including general economic conditions, governmental monetary policy, and political conditions. See Item 7A ~ Qualitative and Quantitative Disclosures About Market Risk for further discussion on interest rate risk. Any debt service obligations will reduce the funds available for other business purposes, and the terms and covenants relating to our current and future indebtedness could adversely impact our financial performance and liquidity. As of December 31, 2022-2023, we the Company had \$ 24-17 . 49 million of 9.75 % public senior unsecured notes (the "Notes") outstanding and \$ 10-9 . 58 million of subordinated senior secured notes (the "Subordinated Notes") outstanding. The Company's line of credit matured on December 1, 2022, and was not renewed. See Note 9-10 ~ Debt for additional details. We are subject to risks typically associated with debt financing, such as insufficient cash flow to meet required debt service payment obligations and the inability to refinance existing indebtedness. The Notes are due on September 30, 2023. Our ability to make payments on our indebtedness is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow to service our debt and meet our other commitments, we may need to restructure or refinance all or a portion of our debt, sell material assets or operations or raise additional debt or equity capital. We may not be able to effect any of these actions on a timely basis, on commercially reasonable terms or at all, and these actions may not be sufficient to meet our capital requirements. In addition, the terms of our existing or future debt arrangements may restrict us from effecting any of these alternatives. In addition For example, the Subordinated senior secured Notes notes contain various restrictive covenants that relate to the Company's tangible net worth, fixed- charge coverage ratios, dividend paying capacity, reinsurance retentions, and risk- based capital ratios. If we are unable to meet debt covenant requirements or to obtain future waivers regarding such failures, we could be in breach of our credit agreement. Any such breach could cause significant disruption to our operations, including a requirement to immediately repay our indebtedness, and would have severe adverse effects on our liquidity and financial flexibility. As of December 31, 2023, the Company was not in compliance with the tangible net worth, dividend paying capacity, risk- based capital and consolidated debt to capital covenants on its senior secured notes. On March 27, 2024, the holders of the senior secured notes waived the December 31, 2023 covenants and modified the minimum requirements of the financial debt covenants beginning with the first quarter ending March 31, 2024. Management expects to be in compliance with all debt covenants in future periods. Our ability to meet ongoing cash requirements, service debt and pay dividends may be limited by our holding company structure and regulatory constraints restricting dividends or other distributions by our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. We are a holding company that transacts the majority of our business through our Insurance Company Subsidiaries and, as a result, our principal sources of funds are payments from our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, including intercompany service fees and dividends. Our ability to meet our obligations on our outstanding debt and pay our expenses, depends on continuing to receive sufficient funds from our Insurance Company

Subsidiaries. We have met our outstanding cash flow obligations at the holding company level primarily through intercompany service fees we receive as well as direct expense reimbursements. We may also use dividends from our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, however, insurance regulations limit such dividend payments. At this time any dividend payment from our Insurance Company Subsidiaries would need prior regulatory approval. Any significant reduction in the intercompany service fees we receive, and any regulatory or other limitations on the payment of dividends to us from our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, may adversely affect our ability to meet our debt obligations and pay our expenses. We are subject to extensive regulation, which may adversely affect our ability to achieve our business objectives. In addition, if we fail to comply with these regulations, we may be subject to penalties, including fines and suspensions, which may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. As a holding company which owns insurance companies domiciled in the United States, we and our admitted Insurance Company Subsidiaries are subject to extensive regulation, primarily by Michigan (the domiciliary state for CIC and WPIC) and to a lesser degree, the other jurisdictions in which we operate. Most insurance regulations are designed to protect the interests of insurance policyholders, as opposed to the interests of shareholders. These regulations generally are administered by a department of insurance in each state and relate to, among other things, authorizations to write certain lines of business, capital and surplus requirements, reserve requirements, rate and form approvals, investment and underwriting limitations, affiliate transactions, dividend limitations, cancellation and non - renewal of policies, changes in control, solvency and a variety of other financial and non - financial aspects of our business. These laws and regulations are regularly re - examined and any changes in these laws and regulations or new laws may be more restrictive, could make it more expensive to conduct business or otherwise adversely affect our operations. State insurance departments also conduct periodic examinations of the affairs of insurance companies and require the filing of annual and other reports relating to financial condition, holding company issues and other matters. These regulatory requirements may impose timing and expense or other constraints that could adversely affect our ability to achieve some or all of our business objectives. In addition, regulatory authorities have broad discretion to deny or revoke licenses for various reasons, including the violation of regulations. In some instances, where there is uncertainty as to applicability, we follow practices based on our interpretations of regulations or practices that we believe are generally followed by the industry. These practices may turn out to be different from the interpretations of regulatory authorities. If we do not have the requisite licenses and approvals or do not comply with applicable regulatory requirements, insurance regulatory authorities could preclude or temporarily suspend us from carrying on some or all of our activities or otherwise penalize us. This could adversely affect our ability to operate our business. The admitted market is subject to more state regulation than the E & S market, particularly with regard to rate and form filing requirements, restrictions on the ability to exit lines of business, premium tax payments and membership in various state associations, such as guaranty associations. Some states have deregulated their commercial insurance markets. We cannot predict the effect that further deregulation would have on our business, financial condition or results of operations. The State of Michigan has adopted the NAIC' s calculation to measure the adequacy of statutory capital of U. S. - based insurers, known as RBC. The RBC calculation establishes the minimum amount of capital necessary for a company to support its overall business operations. Insurers falling below a calculated threshold may be subject to varying degrees of regulatory action, including supervision, rehabilitation or liquidation. Failure to maintain adequate RBC at the required levels could adversely affect the ability of our Insurance Company Subsidiaries to maintain regulatory authority to conduct their business. The State of Michigan has adopted the NAIC' s holding company act and regulations. This act requires, among other things, that: • An insurance holding company system' s ultimate controlling person submit an annual enterprise risk report to its domiciliary state insurance regulator which identifies activities, circumstances or events involving one or more affiliates of an insurer that may have a material adverse effect upon the financial condition or liquidity of the insurer or its insurance holding company system as a whole, • A controlling person to submit prior notice to its domiciliary insurance regulator of a divestiture of control, and • Insurers comply with certain minimum requirements for cost sharing and management agreements between the insurer and its affiliates. The State of Michigan also adopted the NAIC' s Risk Management and Own Risk and Solvency Assessment Model Act (the " ORSA Model Act "). The ORSA Model Act requires that an insurance holding company system' s Chief Risk Officer to submit annually to its domiciliary regulator an Own Risk and Solvency Assessment Summary Report (" ORSA "). The ORSA is a confidential internal assessment conducted by that insurer of the material and relevant risks identified by the insurer associated with the insurer' s current business plan and the sufficiency of capital resources to support those risks. The Company is currently exempt from providing an ORSA summary report as it does not meet the minimum premium requirements. We may be required to comply with this requirement in the future if our gross written premium exceeds \$ 500 million annually. We cannot predict the impact these requirements or any other regulatory requirements may have on our business, financial condition or results of operations. Our Insurance Company Subsidiaries are subject to minimum capital and surplus requirements. Failure to meet these requirements could subject us to regulatory action. Our Insurance Company Subsidiaries are subject to minimum capital and surplus requirements imposed under the laws of their respective states of domicile and each state in which they issue policies. ~~As of December 31, 2022, our Insurance Company Subsidiaries were in compliance with all such reserves.~~ Any failure by one of our Insurance Company Subsidiaries to meet minimum capital and surplus requirements will subject it to corrective action. This may include requiring the adoption of a comprehensive financial plan, revocation of its license to sell insurance products or placing the subsidiary under state regulatory control. It may also result in our Insurance Company Subsidiaries being limited in their ability to make a dividend to us and could be a factor in causing rating agencies to downgrade our ratings. Any new minimum capital and surplus requirements adopted in the future may require us to increase the capital and surplus of our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, which we may not be able to do. **As of December 31, 2023, CIC fell within the Company Action Level and WPIC fell within the Regulatory Action Level of the RBC formula. WPIC also fell below two other regulatory thresholds which are necessary to stay in compliance. Management is required to provide a plan to its domiciliary regulator that shows how the Companies will get above the minimum level requirements. Management believes that the**

planned reduction in premium anticipated by a strategic shift to use third- party insurers for substantially all of its commercial lines business will be sufficient to bring the Companies back into compliance by December 31, 2024.

Management expects to substantially cease all writings in WPIC by the end of the second quarter of 2024. For more information about Management' s strategic shift to non- risk bearing revenue, see Item 1 ~ Business and Item 7 ~ Management' s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

We may become subject to additional government or market regulation which may have a material adverse impact on our business. Market disruptions like those experienced during the credit - driven financial market collapse in 2008, as well as the dramatic increase in the capital allocated to alternative asset management during recent years, have led to increased governmental as well as self - regulatory scrutiny of the insurance industry in general. In addition, certain legislation proposing greater regulation of the industry is periodically considered by governing bodies of some jurisdictions. Our business could be adversely affected by changes in state laws, including those relating to asset and reserve valuation requirements, surplus requirements, limitations on investments and dividends, enterprise risk and RBC requirements and, at the federal level, by laws and regulations that may affect certain aspects of the insurance industry, including proposals for preemptive federal regulation. The U. S. federal government generally has not directly regulated the insurance industry except for certain areas of the market, such as insurance for flood, nuclear and terrorism risks. However, the federal government has undertaken initiatives or considered legislation in several areas that may affect the insurance industry, including tort reform and corporate governance. The Dodd - Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “ Dodd - Frank Act ”) also established the Federal Insurance Office, which is authorized to study, monitor and report to Congress on the insurance industry and to recommend that the Financial Stability Oversight Council (the “ FSO C ”) designate an insurer as an entity posing risks to U. S. financial stability in the event of the insurer’ s material financial distress or failure. In December 2013, the Federal Insurance Office issued a report on alternatives to modernize and improve the system of insurance regulation in the United States, including increasing national uniformity through either a federal charter or effective action by the states. Any additional regulations established as a result of the Dodd - Frank Act or actions in response to the Federal Insurance Office Report could increase our costs of compliance or lead to disciplinary action. In addition, legislation has been introduced from time to time that, if enacted, could result in the federal government assuming a more direct role in the regulation of the insurance industry, including federal licensing in addition to or in lieu of state licensing and reinsurance for natural catastrophes. We are unable to predict whether any legislation will be enacted or any regulations will be adopted, or the effect any such developments could have on our business, financial condition or results of operations. It is impossible to predict what, if any, changes in the regulations applicable to us, the markets in which we operate, trade and invest or the counterparties with which we do business may be instituted in the future. Any such regulation could have a material adverse impact on our business. The effect of emerging claim and coverage issues on our business is uncertain. As industry practices and legal, judicial, social and other environmental conditions change, unexpected and unintended issues related to claims and coverage may emerge. These issues may adversely affect our business by either broadening coverage beyond our underwriting intent or by increasing the number or size of claims. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until sometime after we have issued insurance contracts that are affected by the changes. As a result, the full extent of liability under our insurance contracts may not be known for many years after a contract is issued. A decline in our financial strength rating may result in ~~a reduction of new~~ **an adverse effect on or our renewal** business, **financial condition and operating results**. Participants in the insurance industry use ratings from independent ratings agencies, such as A. M. Best Company, Inc. (“ A. M. Best ”) and Kroll Bond Rating Agency (“ Kroll”) as an important means of assessing the financial strength and quality of insurers. In setting their ratings, A. M. Best and Kroll utilize a quantitative and qualitative analysis of a company’ s balance sheet strength, operating performance and business profile. These analyses include comparisons to peers and industry standards as well as assessments of operating plans, philosophy and management. For A. M. Best, the ratings range from A , or superior, to F for in liquidation. Kroll’ s ratings range from AAA (extremely strong) to R (under regulatory supervision). **On March 25** ~~As of the filing date of this Annual Report on Form 10- K-~~ **2024, Kroll downgraded the** A. M. Best has assigned financial strength ratings of **B** with a stable outlook for CIC and WPIC . ~~A rating of B means A. M. Best considers both companies to have a “ good ” ability to meet ongoing financial obligations.~~ Kroll has given CIC and ~~an insurance financial strength rating of BB-~~ **with a negative outlook. Kroll has given** WPIC an insurance financial strength rating of **B BBB** with a ~~stable~~ **negative** outlook . ~~A BB~~ **as of the date of this Annual Report on Form 10- and a B K- ~~A BBB~~ rating indicates that the insurer’ s financial condition is ~~adequate~~ **low quality. Concurrently, the Company withdrew its participation in the rating process, and shall be non- rated by Kroll going forward. On March 14, 2024, A. M. Best downgraded the financial strength ratings of CIC and WPIC to C. A rating of C means A. M. Best considers both companies to have a " weak" ability to meet ongoing financial obligations. Concurrently, the Company withdrew its participation in the rating process, and shall be non- rated by A. M. Best going forward** . A. M. Best and Kroll assign ratings that are intended to provide an independent opinion of an insurance company’ s ability to meet its financial obligations to policyholders and such ratings are not evaluations directed to investors. A. M. Best and Kroll periodically review our ratings and may revise ratings downward or revoke them at their sole discretion based primarily on their analyses of our balance sheet strength (including capital adequacy and loss and loss adjustment expense reserve adequacy), operating performance and business profile. Factors that could affect such analyses include but are not limited to: • If unfavorable financial, regulatory or market trends affect us, including excess market capacity; • If we incur operating losses or significant investment portfolio losses; • If we have unresolved issues with government regulators; • If we are unable to retain our senior management or other key personnel; • If A. M. Best or Kroll alters its capital adequacy assessment methodology in a manner that would adversely affect our rating. In addition, with a heightened level of scrutiny placed on many financial institutions (including insurance companies) in recent years, rating agencies may increase the capital and other requirements to maintain certain ratings levels. These and other factors could result in a downgrade of our rating. ~~A~~ **The recent** ~~downgrade and withdrawal~~ of our rating could cause our current and future agents, retail brokers and insureds to choose other, more highly -**

rated competitors and . A downgrade of this rating could also increase the cost or reduce the availability of reinsurance to us. **Furthermore, these recent developments** A downgrade or withdrawal of any rating could severely limit or prevent us from writing new and renewal insurance contracts and **would may** have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. We are subject to assessments and other surcharges from state guaranty funds, and mandatory state insurance facilities, which may reduce our profitability. Our Insurance Company Subsidiaries are subject to assessments in most states where we are licensed for the provision of funds necessary for the settlement of covered claims under certain policies provided by impaired, insolvent or failed insurance companies. These assessments are levied by guaranty associations within the state in proportion to the premiums written by member insurers in the lines of business in which the impaired, insolvent or failed insurer was engaged. Maximum contributions required by law in any one year vary by state, and have historically been less than one percent of annual premiums written. We cannot predict with certainty the amount of future assessments because they depend on factors outside our control, such as insolvencies of other insurance companies. Significant assessments could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. The price of our common stock may be volatile and limited public float and low trading volume for our shares may have an adverse impact on the share price or make it difficult to liquidate. The trading price of our common stock may be highly volatile and could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control and may not be related to our operating performance. These fluctuations could be significant and could cause a loss in the amount invested in our shares of common stock. In addition, the stock market in general, and the market for insurance companies in particular, has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of those companies. At times, securities class action litigation has been instituted against companies following periods of volatility in the overall market and in the market price of a company's securities. This litigation, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs, divert our management's attention and resources, and harm our business, operating results, and financial condition. As a result of these factors, investors in our common stock may not be able to resell their shares at or above their purchase price or may not be able to resell them at all. These market and industry factors may materially reduce the market price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance. In addition, price volatility may be greater if the public float and the trading volume of our common stock remain low. **Our common stock may be delisted from The Nasdaq Stock Market if we cannot maintain compliance with Nasdaq's continued listing requirements. On October 23, 2023, the Company received a letter from the Listing Qualifications Department of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq") indicating that, based upon the closing bid price of the Company's common stock for the last 30 consecutive business days and its number of publicly held shares, the Company no longer met Nasdaq Listing Rule 5450 (b) (1) (C), which requires listed companies to maintain a minimum market value of publicly held shares ("MVPHS") of at least \$ 5. 0 million. Nasdaq Listing Rule 5810 (c) (3) (D) provides a compliance period of 180 calendar days, or until April 22, 2024 (the "First Compliance Date"), in which to regain compliance with this requirement. In March 2024, we applied to transfer the listing of our common stock from the Nasdaq Global Market to the Nasdaq Capital Market. Nasdaq approved our application effective on March 19, 2024, and the listing of our common stock transferred to the Nasdaq Capital Market effective as of the opening of business on March 21, 2024. Our common stock is currently listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market. If we fail to satisfy the continued listing requirements of The Nasdaq Capital Market, The Nasdaq Capital Market may take steps to delist our common stock, which could have a materially adverse effect on our ability to raise additional funds as well as the price and liquidity of our common stock. Such a delisting would likely have a negative effect on the price of our common stock and would impair our stockholders' ability to sell or purchase our common stock when they wish to do so. In the event of a delisting, we can provide no assurance that any action taken by us to restore compliance with listing requirements would allow our common stock to become listed again, stabilize the market price or improve the liquidity of our common stock, prevent our common stock from dropping below the Nasdaq minimum bid price requirement, or prevent future non-compliance with The Nasdaq Capital Market's listing requirements.** We may require additional capital in the future, which may not be available or available only on unfavorable terms. Our future capital requirements depend on many factors, including our ability to grow premium volume and underwrite the business profitably. To the extent that our existing capital is insufficient, we may need to raise additional capital in the future through offerings of debt or equity securities or otherwise to:

- Fund liquidity needs caused by underwriting or investment losses;
- Replace capital lost in the event of significant losses or adverse reserve development;
- Satisfy letters of credit or guarantee bond requirements that may be imposed by our clients or by regulators;
- Meet rating agency or regulatory capital requirements; or
- Respond to competitive pressures .

Additionally, since the Company is no longer rated by Kroll or A. M. Best, following the Company's withdrawal from the rating process, the absence of credit ratings on our outstanding securities could impact our ability to obtain additional debt or hybrid capital at reasonable terms or at all. Credit ratings are an opinion by third parties of our financial strength and ability to meet ongoing obligations to our future policyholders. The lack of a credit rating may make it difficult for investors to evaluate an investment in our securities and for us to raise additional capital in the future on acceptable terms or at all . Any equity or debt financing, if available at all, may be on terms that are unfavorable to us. Furthermore, any additional capital raised through the sale of equity could dilute your ownership interest in the Company and may cause the value of our shares to decline. Additional capital raised through the issuance of debt may result in creditors having rights, preferences and privileges senior or otherwise superior to those of the holders of our shares and may limit our flexibility in operating our business and make it more difficult to obtain capital in the future. Disruptions, uncertainty, or volatility in the capital and credit markets may also limit our access to capital required to operate our business. If we are not able to obtain adequate capital, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. We cannot assure you that we will declare or pay dividends on our common shares in the future so any returns may be limited to the value of our stock. We currently anticipate that we will retain future earnings for the development, operation and expansion of our business and do not anticipate declaring

or paying any cash dividends for the foreseeable future. Any return to shareholders will therefore be limited to appreciation in value of their stock, if any. In addition, any determination to declare or pay future dividends to our shareholders will be at the discretion of our **board of directors ("Board")** and will depend on a variety of factors, including (1) our financial condition, liquidity, results of operations (including our ability to generate cash flow in excess of expenses and our expected or actual net income), retained earnings and collateral and capital requirements, (2) general business conditions, (3) legal, tax and regulatory limitations, (4) contractual prohibitions and other restrictions, (5) the effect of a dividend or dividends upon our financial strength ratings and (6) any other factors that our Board deems relevant. Our principal shareholders and management own a significant percentage of our stock and are able to exert significant control over matters subject to shareholder approval. As of December 31, **2022-2023**, our executive officers, directors, 5 % shareholders and their affiliates owned approximately **69-71.37** % of our voting stock. Therefore, these shareholders have the ability to influence us through their ownership position. These shareholders may be able to significantly influence all matters requiring shareholder approval. For example, these shareholders may be able to significantly influence elections of directors, amendments of our organizational documents, or approval of any merger, sale of assets, or other major corporate transaction. This may prevent or discourage unsolicited acquisition proposals or offers for our common stock that you may feel are in your best interest as one of our shareholders. We incur significant costs as a result of operating as a public company, and our management is required to devote substantial time to related compliance initiatives. As a public company, we incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. In addition, we are subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, which require, among other things, that we file with the SEC, annual, quarterly and current reports with respect to our business and financial condition. We are also subject to other reporting and corporate governance requirements, including certain requirements of Nasdaq and provisions of the Sarbanes - Oxley Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder, which imposes significant compliance obligations upon us. The Sarbanes - Oxley Act and the Dodd - Frank Act, as well as rules subsequently implemented by the SEC and Nasdaq, have increased regulation of, and imposed enhanced disclosure and corporate governance requirements on, public companies. Our efforts to comply with these laws, regulations and standards have increased our operating costs and may divert management' s time and attention from revenue - generating activities. Other expenses associated with being a public company include increases in auditing, accounting and legal fees and expenses, investor relations expenses, increased directors' fees and director and officer liability insurance costs, registrar and transfer agent fees and listing fees, as well as other expenses. Certain provisions of our corporate governance documents and Michigan law could discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition at a premium price. Our amended and restated articles of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that may make the acquisition of our Company more difficult without the approval of our **board of directors (our "Board")**. These include provisions that, among other things: • Permit the Board to issue up to 10 million shares of preferred stock, with any rights, preferences and privileges as they may determine (including the right to approve an acquisition or other change in control); • Provide that the authorized number of directors may be fixed only by the Board in accordance with our amended and restated bylaws; • Do not provide for cumulative voting rights (therefore allowing the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote in any election of directors to elect all of the directors standing for election); • Provide that all vacancies and newly created directorships may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of directors then in office, even if less than a quorum; • Prohibit removal of directors without cause; • Prohibit shareholders from calling special meetings of shareholders; • Requires unanimous consent for shareholders to take action by written consent without approval of the action by our Board; • Provide that shareholders seeking to present proposals before a meeting of shareholders or to nominate candidates for election as directors at a meeting of shareholders must provide advance notice in writing and also comply with specified requirements related to the form and content of a shareholder' s notice; • Require at least 80 % supermajority shareholder approval to alter, amend or repeal certain provisions of our amended and restated articles of incorporation; and • Require at least 80 % supermajority shareholder approval in order for shareholders to adopt, amend or repeal our amended and restated bylaws. These provisions may frustrate or prevent any attempts by our shareholders to replace or remove our current management by making it more difficult for shareholders to replace members of the Board, which is responsible for appointing members of our management. In addition, our 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan permits the Board or a committee thereof to accelerate, vest or cause the restrictions to lapse with respect to outstanding equity awards, in the event of, or immediately prior to, a change in control. Such vesting or acceleration could discourage the acquisition of our Company. We could also become subject to certain anti - takeover provisions under Michigan law which may discourage, delay or prevent someone from acquiring us or merging with us, whether or not an acquisition or merger is desired by or beneficial to our shareholders. If a corporation' s board of directors chooses to "opt in" to certain provisions of Michigan Law, such corporation may not, in general, engage in a business combination with any beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 10 % of the corporation' s outstanding voting shares unless the holder has held the shares for five years or more or, among other things, the board of directors has approved the business combination. Our Board has not elected to be subject to this provision, but could do so in the future. Any provision of our amended and restated articles of incorporation or bylaws or Michigan law that has the effect of delaying or deterring a change in control could limit the opportunity for our shareholders to receive a premium for their shares, and could also affect the price that some investors are willing to pay for our common stock otherwise. Our ability to meet our obligations on our outstanding debt, including making principal and interest payments on the **New Public** Notes and the **Subordinated Senior Secured** Notes, may be limited by our holding company structure and regulatory constraints restricting dividends or other distributions by our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. We are a holding company that transacts the majority of our business through our Insurance Company Subsidiaries and, as a result, our principal sources of funds are payments from our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, including intercompany service fees and dividends. Our ability to meet our obligations on our outstanding debt obligations, including making principal and interest payments on the Notes, depends on continuing to receive sufficient funds from our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. We have met our outstanding debt obligations primarily through intercompany service fees we receive. We may also use

dividends from our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, however, insurance regulations limit such dividend payments. Dividend payments may be further constrained by rating agency capital requirements or other business considerations. As a result, our ability to use dividends as a source of funds to meet our debt obligations may be significantly limited. Any significant reduction in the intercompany service fees we receive, and any regulatory and other limitations on the payment of dividends to us by our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, may adversely affect our ability to pay interest on the Notes as it comes due and the principal of the Notes at their maturity. Although the **New Public** Notes are currently listed on Nasdaq, the trading market for the **New Public** Notes may be limited, which could affect the market price of the **New Public** Notes or your ability to sell them. Although the Notes are currently listed on Nasdaq, we cannot provide any assurances that it will remain on Nasdaq or that an active trading market will exist for the Notes or that you will be able to sell your Notes. The Notes may trade at a discount to their face value depending on access to markets, prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our credit ratings, general economic conditions, our financial condition, performance and prospects and other factors. We cannot assure you that a liquid trading market will be available for the Notes, that you will be able to sell the Notes at a particular time or that the price you receive when you sell will be favorable. To the extent an active trading market does not exist, the liquidity and trading price for the Notes may be harmed. If we default on our obligations to pay our other indebtedness, we may not be able to make payments on the **New Public** Notes. Any default under the agreements governing our indebtedness, including other indebtedness to which we may be a party that is not waived by the required lenders, and the remedies sought by the holders of such indebtedness could make us unable to pay principal and interest on the Notes and substantially decrease the market value of the Notes. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow and are otherwise unable to obtain funds necessary to meet required payments of principal and interest on our indebtedness, or if we otherwise fail to comply with the various covenants, including financial and operating covenants, in the instruments governing our indebtedness, we could be in default under the terms of the agreements governing such indebtedness. In the event of such default, the holders of such indebtedness could elect to declare all the funds borrowed thereunder to be due and payable, together with accrued and unpaid interest, the lenders under any other debt we may incur in the future could elect to terminate their commitments, cease making further loans and institute foreclosure proceedings against our assets, and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation. There are limited covenants in the Indenture relating to our Notes. In addition to our currently outstanding indebtedness and other liabilities, the Indenture does not restrict us or our subsidiaries from incurring additional debt or other liabilities, including additional senior debt or secured debt under our secured credit facilities. If we incur additional debt or liabilities, our ability to pay the obligations on the Notes could be adversely affected. Our indebtedness, including the indebtedness we or our subsidiaries may incur in the future, could have important consequences for the holders of the Notes, including: • limiting our ability to satisfy our obligations with respect to the Notes; • increasing our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions; • limiting our ability to obtain additional financing to fund future working capital, capital expenditures, and other general corporate requirements; • requiring a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations for the payment of principal of, and interest on, our indebtedness and thereby reducing our ability to use our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures and general corporate requirements; and • limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry; and putting us at a disadvantage compared to competitors with less indebtedness. In addition, we have limited restrictions under the Indenture from granting security interests in our assets, paying dividends or issuing or repurchasing securities. Moreover, the Indenture does not require us to maintain any financial ratios or specific levels of net worth, revenues, income, cash flow or liquidity and, accordingly, does not protect holders of the Notes in the event that we experience material adverse changes in our financial condition or results of operations. Holders of the Notes have limited protection under the Indenture in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, reorganization, default under our existing indebtedness, restructuring, merger or similar transaction. For these reasons, you should not consider the covenants in the Indenture a significant factor in evaluating whether to invest in the Notes. The Notes are structurally subordinated to the indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries. The Notes are obligations exclusively of Conifer Holdings, Inc. and not of any of our subsidiaries. None of our subsidiaries is a guarantor of the Notes and the Notes are not guaranteed by any subsidiary we may acquire or create in the future. Any assets of our subsidiaries will not be directly available to satisfy the claims of our creditors, including holders of the Notes. Even if we are recognized as a creditor of one or more of our subsidiaries, our claims would still be effectively subordinated to any security interests in the assets of any such subsidiary and to any indebtedness or other liabilities of any such subsidiary senior to our claims. Consequently, the Notes are structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities of any of our subsidiaries and any subsidiaries that we may in the future acquire or establish. Our subsidiaries may incur substantial indebtedness in the future, all of which would be structurally senior to the Notes. Volatility in the market price and trading volume of our common stock could adversely impact the trading price of the Notes. The market price of our common stock could fluctuate significantly for many reasons, including in response to the risks described in this section or any number of our financial filings or disclosures or for reasons unrelated to our operations, such as reports by industry analysts, investor perceptions or negative announcements by our customers, competitors or suppliers regarding their own performance, as well as industry conditions and general financial, economic and political instability. A decrease in the market price of our common stock could adversely impact the trading price of the Notes. We may redeem the Notes before maturity, and holders of the redeemed Notes may be unable to reinvest the proceeds at the same or a higher rate of return. We may redeem all or a portion of the Notes. If redemption does occur, holders of the redeemed Notes may be unable to reinvest the money received in the redemption at a rate that is equal to or higher than the rate of return on the Notes.