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March 14, 1997

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL MEMBER COMPANIES

IMPORTANT

MATERIAL

Re: North Carolina Department of Insurance -

Legal Directive

On January 14, 1997, the North Carolina Department of Insurance issued its Legal Directive No. 97-D-1 to the member companies of this Rate Bureau. The Directive which was issued to the attention of the President deals with the Insurance Department's guidelines for refunding premiums to be escrowed in connection with the revised private passenger automobile insurance rates implemented effective December 1, 1996 as a result of the Rate Bureau's April 1, 1996 rate filing.

The Insurance Department's Directive refers to the "Commissioner's ordered rates" and since our member companies were not provided with such rates, the Rate Bureau is, attached hereto, providing member companies with exhibits setting forth the base rates for automobiles and motorcycles by territory (when applicable) ordered into effect by the Insurance Commissioner effective December 1, 1996 and the base rates for automobiles and motorcycles by territory (when applicable) implemented by the Rate Bureau effective December 1, 1996. Also displayed are the factors which, when applied to the base rates implemented by the Rate Bureau, result in the actual amounts by which the Rate Bureau's implemented base rates exceed the base rates ordered by the Commissioner.

Very truly yours,

John W. Watkins

General Manager

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Enclosure

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