# **REPORT ON EXAMINATION**

OF

## **BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY**

**150 LAKE STREET WEST** 

WAYZATA, MINNESOTA 55391

AS OF

**DECEMBER 31, 2020** 

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Topeka, Kansas June 8, 2022

Honorable Vicki Schmidt Commissioner of Insurance Kansas Insurance Department 1300 SW Arrowhead Rd Topeka, Kansas 66604-4019

Dear Commissioner:

In accordance with your authorization and pursuant to K.S.A. 40-222, an

examination has been conducted of the financial condition and business affairs of:

## **BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY**

with its statutory home office at:

### 2900 SW WANAMAKER DRIVE, SUITE 204 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66614

and main administrative office at:

### 150 LAKE STREET WEST WAYZATA, MINNESOTA 55391

hereinafter referred to as the "Company" or "BIC." The following report on such examination is respectfully submitted.

### **SCOPE OF EXAMINATION**

The examiners have performed a multi-state financial examination of the Company, a Kansas-domiciled property and casualty insurance company. The last examination covered the four-year period from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2016. This examination covers the four-year period from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2020.

The examination was conducted in accordance with the rules, regulations, and

directives of the Kansas Insurance Department ("Department") and the observed guidelines and procedures contained in the National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC") *Financial Condition Examiners Handbook* ("Handbook"). The Handbook requires that the examiners plan and perform the examination to evaluate the financial condition, assess corporate governance, identify current and prospective risks of the Company, and evaluate system controls and procedures used to mitigate those risks. An examination also includes identifying and evaluating significant risks that could cause an insurer's surplus to be materially misstated both currently and prospectively.

All accounts and activities of the Company were considered in accordance with the risk-focused examination process. This may include assessing significant estimates made by management and evaluating management's compliance with Statutory Accounting Principles.

Those activities considered in the examination as key or critical to BIC included Capital Management, Investments, Reinsurance, Related Party, Reserving, and Underwriting and Pricing. The examination also included a review and evaluation of information technology general controls.

The examination does not attest to the fair presentation of the financial statements included herein. If, during the course of the examination an adjustment is identified, the impact of such adjustment is documented separately following the Company's financial statements.

This examination report includes significant findings of fact, as mentioned in K.S.A. 40-222, and general information about the insurer and its financial condition. There may be other items identified during the examination that, due to their nature (e.g., subjective

conclusions, proprietary information, etc.), are not included within the examination report but separately communicated to other regulators and/or the Company.

#### Independent Audit Reports

Financial statements of the Company were previously audited by RSM US for the years ending December 31, 2017, through December 31, 2018. Financial statements of the Company were audited by Deloitte LLP of Minneapolis, Minnesota for the years ending December 31, 2019, through December 31, 2020. In each of the years under examination, the auditors concluded that the financial statements of the Company present fairly, in all material respects, the admitted assets, liabilities and policyholders' surplus of the Company as of December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with the statutory accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department.

The independent auditor's workpapers were reviewed and analyzed by the examiners. Significant reliance was placed on select workpapers during this examination.

#### Actuarial Review

The Company retained Alan Hapke, FCAS, MAAA, of Streff Insurance Services of Stilwell, Kansas to perform a review of the Company's actuarial practices and reserves as of December 31, 2020. The review consisted of evaluating assumptions, methodologies, and calculations utilized by the Company in its reserve setting process.

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

The Company enters into written agreements with each Managing General Agent ("MGA") and General Agent ("GA") that produces business for the Company. Each agreement identifies the responsibilities and authorizations of the MGA and GA when

representing the Company. The Company is responsible under K.S.A. 40-2,133(d) for each MGA to "not less than semi-annually, conduct an onsite review of the underwriting and claims processing operations on the MGA."

The Company did not meet the standards identified in K.S.A. 40-2,133(d).

#### **COMPANY HISTORY**

### <u>General</u>

Pursuant to K.S.A. 40-901 *et seq.*, Benchmark Insurance Company was incorporated in the State of Kansas on March 6, 1991, as a for-profit capital stock fire and casualty company, and commenced writing business on April 5, 1991.

On June 10, 1994, the Company merged with National Colonial Insurance Company ("NCIC"), a Kansas corporation. NCIC emerged as the surviving company, and simultaneously changed its name to Benchmark Insurance Company.

On December 15, 2003, Trean Corporation ("TREAN"), an independent insurance holding company in Minnesota, acquired 100% of BIC's shares of common stock.

On March 31, 2011, TREAN transferred 100% of the Company's common stock to Benchmark Holding Company ("BHC"); thereafter the Company became a wholly owned subsidiary of BHC.

On October 1, 2014, BHC and Altaris Capital Partners, LLC ("ACP") entered into a letter of intent, whereby ACP was to provide capital to BHC in order to fund future growth. ACP provided capital of \$28.5 million which was designated for:

### ALTARIS CAPITAL PARTNER – INVESTMENT

\$ 22.572 million	BHC repurchase of outstanding common stock
5.178 million	BHC funding for growth initiatives
0.750 million	Altaris reimbursement for transaction expenses
	Total initial investment

On July 29, 2015, the Department approved the acquisition and control of the Company by AHP-BHC LLC and BIC Holdings LLC ("BIC Holdings") through the transfer of all issued and outstanding stock of BHC to BIC Holdings. BIC Holdings converted its Class A common stock to non-voting shares and converted Class B common stock to voting shares as documented in a July 29, 2015 Form A filing. Subsequent to the filed Form A, the number of shares held by each voting shareholder was increased. Upon the Department's approval and the transfer of BHC common stock, the new shareholders of BIC Holdings consisted of BHC historic shareholders and AHP-BHC LLC shareholders with 63.6% and 36.4%, respectively. BIC Holdings voting stock remained the same as prior to July 29, 2015.

On January 1, 2017, BHC purchased 75% of the outstanding shares of the American Liberty Insurance Company, Inc. ("ALIC"). BHC completed the purchase of the remaining 25% shares of ALIC as of March 31, 2019.

On June 1, 2019, First Choice Casualty Insurance Company merged into the Company, with the Company as the surviving entity.

On January 16, 2020, Trean Insurance Group, Inc. ("TIG") was formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of BIC Holdings. TIG was formed as a holding company and created as part of an internal restructuring plan in an anticipation of an initial public offering (IPO). In July 2020, TIG completed its IPO. Prior to the completion of the IPO, on or about March 2020, TIG filed a Form A, obtaining an approval of an internal restructuring of the insurance holding company group to facilitate the IPO. As part of the restructuring, Trean Holding LLC and BIC Holdings contributed all of their respective assets and liabilities to TIG in exchange for shares of common stock in TIG. After the completion of the transfers, Trean Holdings LLC and BIC Holdings were dissolved.

#### Capital Stock

As of December 31, 2020, the Company had 10,000 shares of common stock authorized and 3,850 shares issued and outstanding, resulting in total paid-in common capital stock of \$5,005,000. The Company has 50,000 shares of preferred stock authorized with none outstanding.

As of December 31, 2020, BHC owns 100% of the Company's outstanding common stock.

#### **Dividends and Capital Contributions**

During the period under examination, BIC made the following dividend payments to BHC: \$1,100,000 on March 28, 2019, and \$100,000 on January 27, 2020. The Company also received a capital contribution of \$16,500,000 on December 30, 2020, as paid in capital from BHC.

#### **CORPORATE RECORDS**

The Company's articles of incorporation and bylaws were reviewed. There were no amendments to the articles of incorporation or the bylaws during the examination period.

### MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

#### **Stockholders**

The Company's sole stockholder is BHC.

### Board of Directors

The Company's bylaws consist of nine (9) articles that provide the framework for the operation, management, and control of the Company. The Company is managed under the direction of its board of directors ("Board").

Pursuant to the Company's bylaws, the Board should consist of no less than two (2) nor more than twenty-five (25) directors. At the annual meeting, the stockholders shall elect directors, each of whom will hold office for a term of one year or until a successor is elected and qualified or until such director's earlier resignation or removal. The directors elected and serving as of December 31, 2020, were as follows.

Name	Position(s) Held
Julie A. Baron	Chief Financial Officer, TREAN
Joy N. Edler	Chief Operating Officer, TREAN
David G. Ellison	Managing Director, ACP
Martin A. Ericson	Vice President, TREAN
Randall D. Jones	Education Director, National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices
Steven B. Lee	Senior Vice President, TREAN
Andrew M. O'Brien	President, TREAN
Sean P. Ryan	Senior Vice President, TREAN

#### **Committees**

The Company's bylaws indicate that the Board may designate one (1) or more committees of the Board. The established committees and the members elected and serving as of December 31, 2020, were as follows:

Audit Committee	Investment Committee
Randall D. Jones	Randall D. Jones
Steven B. Lee	Steven B. Lee
David G. Ellison	Julie A. Baron

#### Martin A. Ericson

### <u>Officers</u>

Pursuant to the bylaws, the Company will have a President and a Secretary and may also have a Chairman of the Board, one (1) or more Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, one (1) or more Assistant Secretaries, and one (1) or more Assistant Treasurers. The bylaws direct the Board to elect at its annual meeting a President and a Secretary and may elect one (1) or more officers as it may deem advisable. The following is a listing of officers and their position(s) held as of December 31, 2020:

<u>Name</u>	Position(s) Held
Andrew M. O'Brien	President
Julie A. Baron	Treasurer
Martin A. Ericson	Secretary
Joy N. Edler	Chief Operating Officer

#### **INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANY SYSTEM**

K.S.A. 40-3305 requires a domestic insurer that is part of an insurance holding company system to file appropriate registration statements with the Commissioner of Insurance. The Company has submitted Forms "B" and "C" registration statements to the Department for each of the years under examination. A review of the registration statements indicated that the items and events pertaining to the Company were properly reported as required by statute.

As noted in the footnote to the corporate organization chart below, George Aitken-Davies and Daniel Tully in combination, are the ultimate controlling persons of the Company due to their ownership of more than 10% of the voting control of Altaris Capital Partners, LLC. ALIC is a Utah domiciled stock insurance company that was a former Program Partner and writes workers' compensation insurance. TREAN is holding

company in Minnesota responsible for the administrative oversight and day-to-day operations of BIC and ALIC. Benchmark Administrators, LLC ("Benchmark Administrators") is a claims third-party administrator providing workers compensation and employer's liability claims handling services for affiliated and unaffiliated companies.

The abbreviated organizational chart below illustrates the identities and intercompany relationships among insurance and non-insurance companies and the controlling entities thereof, as of December 31, 2020. Ownership is noted in parentheses and the Kansas domiciled insurer is bolded.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Daniel G. Tully and George E. Aitken-Davies are members of the board of managers of Altaris Partners, LLC. Altaris Partners, LLC through AHP-TH LLC, ACP-TH LLC, AHP-BHC LLC and ACP-BHC LLC own approximately 55% of the common stock in Trean Insurance Group, Inc.

## Intercompany/Cost Sharing Agreements

The following is a brief description of significant agreements executed with affiliate entities that were in effect as of December 31, 2020.

### Management Contract

Effective March 1, 2007, the Company entered into a Management Contract with affiliate TREAN. Pursuant to the agreement, the Company paid \$7,862,786, \$12,865,319, \$17,293,283, and \$20,595,994 to TREAN in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, respectively.

### **Claims Services Agreement**

Effective June 15, 2016, the Company entered into a Claims Services Agreement with Benchmark Administrators as respects policies underwritten by Benchmark or TREAN. Pursuant to the agreement, the Company paid \$716,877, \$1,376756, \$1,985,366, and \$1,438,217 in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, respectively.

Effective June 15, 2016, the Company entered into a Claims Services Agreement with Benchmark Administrators as respects policies underwritten by CompStar Insurance Services, Inc. The Company paid \$3,522,280, \$4,719,534, \$7,117,099, and \$7,095,555 under this agreement in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, respectively.

In addition to the above related party transactions, the Company also have the following intercompany reinsurance transactions:

 The Company reinsures 100% of ALIC's gross liability under a quota-share agreement, effective January 1, 2019. The Agreement was approved by the Department.

• The Company reinsures 100% of 7710 Insurance Company's gross liability under a quota-share agreement, effective October 1, 2020.

#### TERRITORY AND PLAN OF OPERATION

As of December 31, 2020, the Company is authorized to transact business in all states, except for New York. The NAIC Schedule T Exceptions Report was reviewed for each of the states where the Company is licensed. No exceptions were noted.

The top three (3) states for direct written premiums were California at 44.5%, Michigan at 9.2%, and Texas at 6.3%.

The Company's plan of operation utilizes MGAs and GAs to write business on the Company's policy forms. The Company seeks to contract with MGAs and GAs writing profitable books of business in the Company's lines of business, that are willing to share in the written risks with the Company and the existence of an acceptable professional reinsurer to accept the written risks.

The Company enters into written agreements with each Managing General Agent ("MGA") and General Agent ("GA"). Each agreement identifies the responsibilities and authorizations of the MGA and GA when representing the Company. The Company is responsible under K.S.A. 40-2,133(d) for each MGA to "not less than semi-annually, conduct an onsite review of the underwriting and claims processing operations on the MGA."

The Company did not meet the standards identified in K.S.A. 40-2,133(d) for each year under examination.

As of December 31, 2020, the Company's largest lines of direct written premium were workers' compensation at 74.8%, other liability – occurrence at 5.6%, and

commercial auto liability at 5.5%.

## **SELECT FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The exhibit below shows the Company's financial results for the period of December 31, 2017, through December 31, 2020. The financial amounts were obtained from annual statements filed by the Company.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
(\$000 omitted)				
Admitted Assets	\$347,312	\$432,344	\$479,519	\$616,509
Liabilities	248,556	319,592	343,579	443,269
Capital and Surplus	98,757	112,752	135,941	173,241
Net Income (Loss)	11,276	13,551	23,475	20,475
Net Premium Written	57,417	68,704	87,401	134,561

## REINSURANCE

All reinsurance agreements reviewed during the examination contained insolvency and cancellation clauses as required by paragraph (c) of K.S.A. 40-221a. All reinsurance agreements reviewed provided for the transfer of risk.

### <u>General</u>

The Company's premium activity on a direct written, assumed, and ceded basis for the period under examination is detailed below:

(\$000s omitted)				
Premium Type	2017	2018	2019	2020
Direct Premiums Written	\$ 288,857	\$ 330,457	\$ 390,627	\$ 457,183
Reinsurance Assumed	11,142	9,432	10,854	18,673
Reinsurance Ceded:	(242,582)	(271,185)	(214,080)	(341,295)
Net Premiums Written	\$ 57,417	\$ 68,704	\$ 87,401	\$ 134,561

## **Assumed Reinsurance**

The Company's assumed reinsurance is predominantly comprised of the following:

- Premium assumed from its affiliates ALIC and 7710 Insurance Company under 100% Quota Share contracts;
- 2. Participating in mandatory assigned risk pools; and
- Premium assumed from unaffiliated insurers who are Program Partners of the Company.

#### **Ceded Reinsurance**

The Company enters into reinsurance contracts to mitigate risk and manage net premium growth. The reinsurance partners consist of authorized and unauthorized professional reinsurers, non-rated carriers and captives. The reinsurance programs are structured for each Program Partner, and in some cases in combinations of Programs, including direct and owned MGA business, if the terms and conditions are favorable. The Company's reinsurance program reflects the specialty program nature of the business, with individual reinsurance programs in place for each program. Many of these programs involve cession of a significant portion of the risk to the risk bearing affiliate.

The Company uses excess of loss reinsurance to protect against catastrophic or other unforeseen loss activity. The majority of the exposure to catastrophic risk pertains to the workers' compensation business. As of December 31, 2020, the core catastrophe excess of loss reinsurance program covered 72.7% of the workers' compensation business. The Company has a \$2 million retention of which 50% is reinsured under a quota share reinsurance agreement with third-party reinsurers. The Company also has coverage for (i) 15% of \$3 million of losses in excess of \$2 million, (ii) 15% of \$5 million of losses in excess of \$10 million.

The Company is contingently liable for all reinsurance losses ceded to others. This contingent liability would become an actual liability in the event that an assuming reinsurer fails to perform its obligations under the reinsurance contract.

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The following financial statements are based on the statutory financial statements filed by the Company with the Department and present the financial condition of the Company for the period ending December 31, 2020. There were no adjustments to the Company's filed statutory financial statements as a result of this examination.

## BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

Assets	Assets Nonadmitted	Net Admitted Assets
\$373,922,311	\$ -	\$373,922,311
	-	240,420
	-	1,534,257
		.,
6.277.029	-	6,277,029
	-	107,837,563
, ,	-	1,815,033
	-	2,360,488
	704,749	92,860,614
	(e)	2,897,042
4,883,682	237,169	4,646,513
561,608	1 <b>-</b> 1	561,608
20,892,491	-	20,892,491
		,,
55,006	2	55,006
608,961	-	608,961
\$617,451,254	\$ 941,918	\$ 616,509,336
	\$373,922,311 240,420 1,534,257 6,277,029 107,837,563 1,815,033 2,360,488 93,565,363 2,897,042 4,883,682 561,608 20,892,491 55,006 608,961	Assets   Nonadmitted     \$373,922,311   \$ -     240,420   -     1,534,257   -     6,277,029   -     107,837,563   -     1,815,033   -     2,360,488   -     93,565,363   704,749     2,897,042   -     4,883,682   237,169     561,608   -     20,892,491   -     55,006   -     608,961   -

## BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

Losses	\$ 82,723,720
Loss adjustment expenses	28,961,402
Commissions payable, contingent commissions and other	
similar changes	3,261,738
Other expenses	3,302,501
Taxes, licenses and fees	4,051,129
Current federal and foreign income taxes	3,209,152
Unearned premiums	49,933,247
Advance premiums	894,816
Ceded reinsurance premiums payable	54,269,967
Funds held by company under reinsurance treaties	171,905,486
Amounts withheld or retained by the company for accounts	, ,
of others	36,958,062
Provision for reinsurance	409,000
Payable for securities	16,977
Aggregate write-ins for liabilities	3,371,595
Total liabilities	443,268,792
Common capital stock	5,005,000
Gross paid in and contributed surplus	53,977,567
Unassigned funds (surplus)	114,257,977
Surplus as regards policyholders	173,240,544
Totals	\$ 616,509,336

# BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Losses incurred35,631,421Loss adjustment expense incurred16,391,435Other underwriting expenses incurred34,145,007Total underwriting deductions86,167,863Net underwriting gain22,160,590INVESTMENT INCOME5,812,826Net investment income earned5,812,826Net investment gain6,056,740OTHER INCOME(161,841)Finance and service charges not included in premiums135,277Total other income(26,564)Net income before dividends to policyholders, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes28,190,766Dividends to policyholders700,738Net income, after dividends to policyholder, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred7,015,447Net income27,490,781	Premiums earned DEDUCTIONS	\$108,328,454
Other underwriting expenses incurred Total underwriting deductions34,145,007 86,167,863Net underwriting gain22,160,590INVESTMENT INCOME Net investment income earned 		35,631,421
Total underwriting deductions33,167,863Net underwriting gain22,160,590INVESTMENT INCOME22,160,590Net investment income earned5,812,826Net realized capital gains less capital gains tax243,914Net investment gain6,056,740OTHER INCOME(161,841)Finance and service charges not included in premiums135,277Total other income(26,564)Net income before dividends to policyholders, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes28,190,766Dividends to policyholder, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred27,490,028		16,391,435
Net underwriting gain22,160,590INVESTMENT INCOME5,812,826Net investment income earned5,812,826Net investment gain243,9146,056,7406,056,740OTHER INCOME(161,841)Finance and service charges not included in premiums135,277Total other income(26,564)Net income before dividends to policyholders, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes28,190,766Dividends to policyholder, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred7,015,447	<b>•</b>	34,145,007
INVESTMENT INCOME5,812,826Net investment income earned5,812,826Net realized capital gains less capital gains tax243,914Net investment gain6,056,740OTHER INCOME(161,841)Finance and service charges not included in premiums135,277Total other income(26,564)Net income before dividends to policyholders, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes28,190,766Dividends to policyholder, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred7,015,447	Total underwriting deductions	86,167,863
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Net realized capital gains less capital gains tax243,914Net investment gain6,056,740OTHER INCOME(161,841)Net loss from agents' or premium balances charged off(161,841)Finance and service charges not included in premiums135,277Total other income(26,564)Net income before dividends to policyholders, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes28,190,766Dividends to policy holders700,738Net income, after dividends to policyholder, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred7,015,447		
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Net loss from agents' or premium balances charged off(161,841)Finance and service charges not included in premiums135,277Total other income(26,564)Net income before dividends to policyholders, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes28,190,766Dividends to policy holders700,738Net income, after dividends to policyholder, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred27,490,028	OTHER INCOME	
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Net income, after dividends to policyholder, after capital gains tax and before all other federal and foreign income taxes27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred7,015,447		
before all other federal and foreign income taxes27,490,028Federal and foreign income taxes incurred7,015,447	Net income, after dividends to policyholder, after capital gains tax and	
Federal and foreign income taxes incurred 7,015,447	before all other federal and foreign income taxes	27,490,028
	Net income	\$ 20,474,581

# BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION OF CAPITAL AND SURPLUS SINCE LAST EXAMINATION

	2017	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	2020
Surplus as regards policyholders, December 31				
prior year	\$ 88,183,225	\$ 98,756,720	\$ 112,752,280	\$ 135,940,630
Net income (loss)	11,276,231	13,087,249	23,475,021	20,474,581
Change in net unrealized capital gains or (losses)	(261,355)	(15,087)	9,717	(59,982)
Change in net deferred income tax	(913,057)	625,695	769,418	1,686,366
Change in nonadmitted assets	480,676	305,704	(293,724)	(626,397)
Change in provision for reinsurance	(9,000)	(8,000)	20,000	(409,000)
Surplus adjustments – paid in	<u>u</u>	-		16,500,000
Dividends to stockholders	÷	-	(1,100,000)	(100,000)
Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus	-	-	307,919	(165,654)
Surplus as regards policyholders, December 31				(
current year	\$ 98,756,720	\$ 112,752,280	\$ 135,940,630	\$ 173,240,544

## **ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

No adjustments were made to surplus as a result of this examination. The capital and surplus of the Company as of December 31, 2020, was \$173,240,544, which was the same amount reported by the Company in its 2020 filed Annual Statement.

#### **COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

There were no significant or material findings resulting from the examination that warranted inclusion in this Report on Examination.

#### SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to develop throughout 2020, 2021 and into 2022, with significant uncertainty remaining regarding the full effect of COVID-19 on the U.S. and global insurance and reinsurance industry. At the time of releasing this report, the examination's review noted that there has not been a significant impact to the Company. However, the Department will continue to closely monitor the impact of the pandemic on the Company and will take necessary action if concerns arise.

#### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Territory and Plan of Operation**

#### Page 11

The Company did not conduct at least on a semi-annual basis, onsite review of the underwriting and claims processing operations of its appointed Managing General Agents as required by law. The Company should ensure that it conducts onsite review of the underwriting and claims processing operations of its appointed Managing General Agents at least on a semi-annual basis in compliance with K.S.A. 40-2,133.

#### CONCLUSION

The assistance and cooperation by the officers of the Company during this examination is hereby acknowledged and appreciated. In addition to the undersigned, Jim Hattaway, CFE, CIA, CIE, Vitaliy Kyryk, CFE, and Noah Taylor with Noble Consulting Services, Inc. assisted on the financial portion of the examination; Stefan Obereichholz-Bangert, AES, CISA, CISM, and Brent Bostic with Noble Consulting Services, Inc. performed the information technology portion of the examination; and Alan Kaliski, FCAS, MAAA and McKay Heasley, FSA, MAAA, Actuarial Specialists with Eide Bailly LLP performed an actuarial review of the Company.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitaľiy Kyryk, CFE Examiner-in-Charge Noble Consulting Services, Inc., representing the Kansas Insurance Department

#### SUPERVISION

The examination process has been monitored and supervised by the undersigned. The examination report and supporting workpapers have been reviewed and approved. Compliance with NAIC procedures and guidelines as contained in the Financial Condition Examiners Handbook has been confirmed except where practices, procedures and applicable regulations of the Department and statutes of the State of Kansas prevailed.

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Levi Nwasoria, CPA, CFE Chief Examiner Kansas Insurance Department

# EXHIBIT S EXAMINER'S AFFIDAVIT AS TO STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES USED IN AN EXAMINATION

State of Indiana

County of Marion

Vitaliy Kyryk, being duly sworn, states as follows:

- 1. I have authority to represent the kansas Insurance Department in the examination of Benchmark Insurance Company.
- 2. The Kansas Insurance Department is accredited under the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation.
- 3. I have reviewed the examination work papers and examination report, and the examination of Benchmark Insurance Company was performed in a manner consistent with the standards and procedures required by K.S.A 40-222.

The affiant says nothing further.

Examiner's Signature

Subscribed and sworn before me by	Vitaliy Kyryk on this_	24th day of June, 2022.
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	Jacassassas
	DIANNE DEITCH
	Notary Public - Seal
(SEAL)	Madison County - State of Indiana
	Commission Number NP0725200
$\bigcirc$	My Commission Expires Feb 16, 2028 🌔
under A	NUCLED

Notary Public

My commission expires 2/16/2028 [date].