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STATE OF INDIANA
SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
FIRST NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
HOME OFFICE SAFECO PLAZA
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105
99 OCT -1 PM 12:57

MORRIS W. CARTER
Recorder
Bond # 6027282

LICENSE OR PERMIT BOND

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO. as Principal,
of 3333 Beverly Road Hoffman Estates IL and
(Street and Number) (City) (State)

the SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, a Washington corporation, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto ALL CITIES, TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA as Obligee.

in the sum of Five Thousand and 00/100
Dollars (\$ \$5,000.00) for which sum, well and truly to be paid, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals, and dated this 24th day of September, 1999

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That WHEREAS, the Principal has been or is about to be granted a license or permit to do business as General Contractor's License for the City of Gary, IN by the Obligee.

NOW, THEREFORE, if the Principal well and truly comply with applicable local ordinances, and conduct business in conformity therewith, then this obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER:

1. This bond shall continue in force:
 - Until January 1st, 2000, or until the date of expiration of any Continuation Certificate executed by the Surety
 - OR
 - Until canceled as herein provided.
2. This bond may be canceled by the Surety by the sending of notice in writing to the Obligee, stating when, not less than thirty days thereafter, liability hereunder shall terminate as to subsequent acts or omissions of the Principal.

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO. Principal



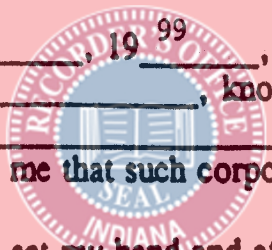
James Stey
SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
By Debra Kohlman Attorney-in-Fact

16.00
E.P.
CS

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NOT OFFICIAL!

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the Lake County Recorder!

STOP



STATE OF
COUNTY OF

ILLINOIS
COOK

On this 24th day of September, 1999, before me personally appeared Debra Kohlman, known to me to be the Attorney-in-Fact of Safeco Insurance Company of America, the corporation that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at my office in the aforesaid county, the day and year in this certificate first written above.

OFFICIAL SEAL"
DIANE M. O'LEARY
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS
My Commission Expires Jan. 4, 2001

Diane M. O'Leary
(Notary Public)



POWER OF ATTORNEY

SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
HOME OFFICE: SAFECO PLAZA
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98185

No. 7881

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS:

That SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, each a Washington corporation, does each hereby appoint

.....GARRY L. WESSELINK; BRENDA D. HOCKBERGER; ANN FORMHALS; DONNA WRIGHT; DEBRA KOHLMAN; DIANE M. O'LEARY; KRISTAN RETUSNIC; WILLIAM REIDINGER; MARLISE JAHNKE; ROSE ANN SEIDL; AMY WICKETT; Chicago, Illinois.....

its true and lawful attorney(s)-in-fact, with full authority to execute on its behalf fidelity and surety bonds or undertakings and other documents of a similar character issued in the course of its business, and to bind the respective company thereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA have each executed and attested these presents

this 2nd day of February, 1999

R.A. Pierson

R.A. PIERSON, SECRETARY

W. Randall Stoddard

W. RANDALL STODDARD, PRESIDENT

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CERTIFICATE

This Document is the property of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA.

"Article V, Section 13. - FIDELITY AND SURETY BONDS ... the President, any Vice President, the Secretary, and any Assistant Vice President appointed for that purpose by the officer in charge of surety operations, shall each have authority to appoint individuals as attorneys-in-fact or under other appropriate titles with authority to execute on behalf of the company fidelity and surety bonds and other documents of similar character issued by the company in the course of its business. On any instrument making or evidencing such appointment, the signatures may be affixed by facsimile. On any instrument conferring such authority or on any bond or undertaking of the company, the seal, or a facsimile thereof, may be impressed or affixed or in any other manner reproduced; provided, however, that the seal shall not be necessary to the validity of any such instrument or undertaking."

Extract from a Resolution of the Board of Directors of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA adopted July 28, 1970.

"On any certificate executed by the Secretary or an assistant secretary of the Company setting out,

- (i) The provisions of Article V, Section 13 of the By-Laws, and
- (ii) A copy of the power-of-attorney appointment, executed pursuant thereto, and
- (iii) Certifying that said power-of-attorney appointment is in full force and effect,

the signature of the certifying officer may be by facsimile, and the seal of the Company may be a facsimile thereof."

I, R.A. Pierson, Secretary of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, do hereby certify that the foregoing extracts of the By-Laws and of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of these corporations, and of a Power of Attorney issued pursuant thereto, are true and correct, and that both the By-Laws, the Resolution and the Power of Attorney are still in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the facsimile seal of said corporation

this 24th day of September, 1999



R.A. Pierson

R.A. PIERSON, SECRETARY

**SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS
APPOINTMENT AND DESIGNATION OF AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to the resolutions of the Board of Directors of Sears, Roebuck and Co., dated May 14, 1998, the undersigned hereby appoints **Janet Stage** to the office of Assistant Secretary of the Company, to serve in said office from May 14, 1998, and until the last day of the month in which the next annual meeting of shareholders of Sears, Roebuck and Co. is held or until such other time as the undersigned or his duly appointed successor may hereafter direct in writing.

The undersigned further designates to **Janet Stage**, for such time as she reports to me or my duly appointed successor, the authority to execute and deliver, on behalf of the Company, the documents listed below:


- applications, reports and affidavits required under state workers' compensation laws;
- corporate surety bonds, indemnity bonds and other bid bonds, and performance bonds, sign license bonds and other miscellaneous bonds and indemnity agreements required by state or local law, in order to secure a license or privilege for the Company;
- bonds required under state workers' compensation laws;
- corporate bid and performance bonds and personal bid and performance bonds in connection with the sale of merchandise to industrial, commercial, governmental and other purchasers;
- releases, affidavits and other instruments necessary or desirable in connection with the corporate insurance program or with effecting recoveries of or for lost or damaged property; and
- contracts, agreements, documents and instruments relating to the purchase of loss control and loss prevention products and services necessary or desirable in connection with the corporate insurance program

This designation does not include authority to sign contracts that extend for more than one year or bonds in excess of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000).

The above named person shall hold the office designated above at the will of the undersigned and subject to his or his duly appointed successor's further direction and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed from time to time by appropriate officers of the Company.

The foregoing designation cancels and supersedes any prior appointments and designations to the above-referenced person.

May 14, 1998
Date



Gary L. Clitenden
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer