



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 12, 2020

Ms. Sonya L. Palmer
Staff Attorney
Texas Windstorm Insurance Association
P.O. Box 99090
Austin, Texas 78709-9090

OR2020-28455

Dear Ms. Palmer:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 852563 (TWIA ID 000689).

The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (the "association") received a request for the reinsurers for the 2020 reinsurance program. Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of third parties. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified Arch Re Ltd; Ariel-Argo; Ascot; Axis; Beazley; Berkshire Hathaway; Canopus; Convex; CSAM/Bernina Re; Elementum Advisors; Eskatos Capital Management; Fermat Capital; Fidelis; Guy Carpenter & Company, LLC; Hiscox; Markel CATco Re Ltd; Neon; Nephila Capital Ltd.; Pillar Capital Management Ltd; Pioneer Underwriting Ltd; Quantedge Capital; Renaissance Re; SATEC Srl; Securis ILS Management Ltd; and TransRe of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)*; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

We note an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B)*. As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments

from any of the notified third parties explaining why their information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude any of the notified third parties have a protected proprietary interest in the submitted information. *See, e.g., id.* § 552.110 (requiring the provision of specific factual evidence demonstrating the applicability of the exception). Accordingly, the association may not withhold any of the information at issue on the basis of any proprietary interest any of the notified third parties may have in it. The association must release the submitted information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Copeland
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JC/rm

Ref: ID# 852563

c: Requestor

25 Third Parties