

## DECREASE RIDER

BOND NO. 024054114

To be attached and form a part of Bond No. 024054114 executed by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company as surety, on behalf of Meritage Homes of Texas, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company as current principal of record, and in favor of Robert E. Hebert, County Judge of Fort Bend County, Texas or his successors in office, as Obligee.

In consideration of the agreed premium charged for this bond, it is understood and agreed that Liberty Mutual Insurance Company hereby consents that effective from the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014, said bond shall be amended as follows:

THE BOND AMOUNT SHALL BE DECREASED:

FROM: One Hundred Forty Five Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$145,000.00)

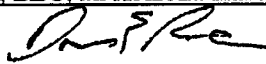
TO: Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and 00/100 (\$72,500.00)

The Decrease of said bond amount shall be effective as of the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014, and does hereby agree that the continuity of protection under said bond subject to changes in amount shall not be impaired hereby, provided that the aggregate liability of the above mentioned bond shall not exceed the amount of liability assumed by it at the time the act and/or acts of default were committed and in no event shall such liability be cumulative.

Signed, sealed and dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2014.

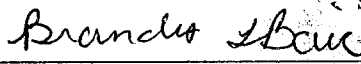
Meritage Homes of Texas, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company  
PRINCIPAL

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Darin E. Rowe  
Vice President Finance

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company  
SURETY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Brandy L. Baich, Attorney-in-Fact

**THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY IS NOT VALID UNLESS IT IS PRINTED ON RED BACKGROUND.**

This Power of Attorney limits the acts of those named herein, and they have no authority to bind the Company except in the manner and to the extent herein stated.

Certificate No. 6417689

American Fire and Casualty Company  
The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company  
West American Insurance Company

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

KNOWN ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: That American Fire & Casualty Company and The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company are corporations duly organized under the laws of the State of New Hampshire, that Liberty Mutual Insurance Company is a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, and West American Insurance Company is a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Indiana (herein collectively called the "Companies"), pursuant to and by authority herein set forth, does hereby name, constitute and appoint, Brandy L. Baich; David G. Jensen; Erin Brown; Terry Crull; Vicki L. Breunig

all of the city of Scottsdale, state of AZ each individually if there be more than one named, its true and lawful attorney-in-fact to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver, for and on its behalf as surety and as its act and deed, any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations, in pursuance of these presents and shall be as binding upon the Companies as if they have been duly signed by the president and attested by the secretary of the Companies in their own proper persons.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Power of Attorney has been subscribed by an authorized officer or official of the Companies and the corporate seals of the Companies have been affixed thereto this 15th day of January, 2014.

American Fire and Casualty Company  
The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company  
Liberty Mutual Insurance Company  
West American Insurance Company

By: David M. Carey  
David M. Carey, Assistant Secretary

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA ss  
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

On this 15th day of January, 2014, before me personally appeared David M. Carey, who acknowledged himself to be the Assistant Secretary of American Fire and Casualty Company, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company, and West American Insurance Company, and that he, as such, being authorized so to do, execute the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained by signing on behalf of the corporations by himself as a duly authorized officer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal at Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, on the day and year first above written.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Notarial Seal  
Teresa Pastella, Notary Public  
Plymouth Twp., Montgomery County  
My Commission Expires March 28, 2017  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

By: Teresa Pastella  
Teresa Pastella, Notary Public

This Power of Attorney is made and executed pursuant to and by authority of the following By-laws and Authorizations of American Fire and Casualty Company, The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and West American Insurance Company which resolutions are now in full force and effect reading as follows:

**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS – Section 12. Power of Attorney.** Any officer or other official of the Corporation authorized for that purpose in writing by the Chairman or the President, and subject to such limitation as the Chairman or the President may prescribe, shall appoint such attorneys-in-fact, as may be necessary to act in behalf of the Corporation to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver as surety any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations. Such attorneys-in-fact, subject to the limitations set forth in their respective powers of attorney, shall have full power to bind the Corporation by their signature and execution of any such instruments and to attach thereto the seal of the Corporation. When so executed, such instruments shall be as binding as if signed by the President and attested to by the Secretary. Any power or authority granted to any representative or attorney-in-fact under the provisions of this article may be revoked at any time by the Board, the Chairman, the President or by the officer or officers granting such power or authority.

**ARTICLE XIII – Execution of Contracts – SECTION 5. Surety Bonds and Undertakings.** Any officer of the Company authorized for that purpose in writing by the chairman or the president, and subject to such limitations as the chairman or the president may prescribe, shall appoint such attorneys-in-fact, as may be necessary to act in behalf of the Company to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver as surety any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations. Such attorneys-in-fact subject to the limitations set forth in their respective powers of attorney, shall have full power to bind the Company by their signature and execution of any such instruments and to attach thereto the seal of the Company. When so executed such instruments shall be as binding as if signed by the president and attested by the secretary.

**Certificate of Designation –** The President of the Company, acting pursuant to the Bylaws of the Company, authorizes David M. Carey, Assistant Secretary to appoint such attorneys-in-fact as may be necessary to act on behalf of the Company to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver as surety any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations.

**Authorization –** By unanimous consent of the Company's Board of Directors, the Company consents that facsimile or mechanically reproduced signature of any assistant secretary of the Company, wherever appearing upon a certified copy of any power of attorney issued by the Company in connection with surety bonds, shall be valid and binding upon the Company with the same force and effect as though manually affixed.

I, Gregory W. Davenport, the undersigned, Assistant Secretary, of American Fire and Casualty Company, The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and West American Insurance Company do hereby certify that the original power of attorney of which the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Power of Attorney executed by said Companies, is in full force and effect and has not been revoked.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seals of said Companies this 2nd day of June, 2014.

By: Gregory W. Davenport  
Gregory W. Davenport, Assistant Secretary

Not valid for mortgage, note, loan, letter of credit,  
currency rate, interest rate or residual value guarantees.

To confirm the validity of this Power of Attorney call  
1-610-832-8240 between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm EST on any business day.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO OBTAIN INFORMATION OR MAKE A COMPLAINT:  
YOU MAY CONTACT THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF  
INSURANCE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON COMPANIES,  
COVERAGES RIGHTS OR COMPLAINTS AT:

1-800-252-3439

YOU MAY WRITE THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE:

P. O. BOX 149104  
AUSTIN, TX 78714-9104  
FAX# (512) 475-1771