



W. R. Berkley Corporation Declares Dividend and Increases Share Repurchase Authorization

GREENWICH, Conn., Aug 04, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- **W. R. Berkley Corporation (NYSE:WRB)** announced that its Board of Directors has declared a regular quarterly cash dividend on its common stock of 6 cents per share to be paid on October 1, 2009 to stockholders of record at the close of business on September 14, 2009.

In addition, the Board of Directors has increased the Company's share repurchase authorization to 10 million shares of common stock. The increased authorization represents approximately 6 percent of the Company's shares outstanding at June 30, 2009. Repurchases may be made from time to time at prevailing prices in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, subject to market conditions and other factors. The Company does not have in place a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan.

Founded in 1967, W. R. Berkley Corporation is an insurance holding company that is among the largest commercial lines writers in the United States and operates in five segments of the property casualty insurance business: specialty insurance, regional property casualty insurance, alternative markets, reinsurance, and international.

SOURCE: W. R. Berkley Corporation

W. R. Berkley Corporation
Karen A. Horvath, 203-629-3000
Vice President - External
Financial Communications

Copyright Business Wire 2009