

## EXHIBIT A

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
525 CENTRAL AVENUE  
LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440

STEWART J. GILCHRIST (1925-2014)  
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May 4, 2026

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Johnny Magee, Mayor  
City of Laurel  
City Hall  
Laurel, MS 39441

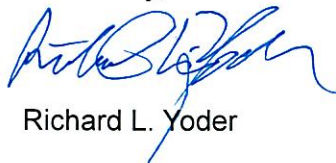
RE: \$2,600,000 General Obligation MBIA Bond,  
Series 2008 (Howard Industries, Inc. Project)  
Dated March 5, 2008  
Letter of Credit No.: 48000833-00-000

Dear Mayor Magee:

On January 13, 2026, Howard Industries, Inc. made a principal payment of \$165,000.00 and an interest payment of \$15,150.00 for a total payment of \$180,150.00 on the above referenced bond. The City received this payment January 21, 2026. This reduced the bond to \$340,000.00. Enclosed is a certificate which needs to be executed by the City of Laurel and returned to me so that I can forward it to the bond trustee for reduction of the bond and corresponding letter of credit. I have also enclosed the Certificate Of No Bankruptcy which has been executed by Howard Industries, Inc. for your attention.

If you should have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours truly,



Richard L. Yoder

tb

Enclosures

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI  
\$2,600,000.00 MBIA BOND,  
SERIES 2008 (HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. PROJECT)  
DATED MARCH 5, 2008

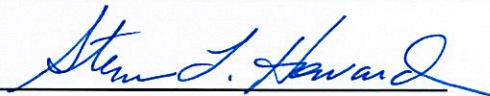
CERTIFICATE OF NO BANKRUPTCY

TO: City of Laurel, MS

This is to certify that no act of bankruptcy has occurred and no proceedings under the United States Bankruptcy Code are pending with respect to Howard Industries, Inc., at the expiration of a ninety-five (95) day period commencing on January 13, 2026 the date of Payment referred to in Item No. (2) of Exhibit E to which this Certificate is attached.

EXECUTED, on this the 5th day of May, 2026.

HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC.

By:   
Steven L. Howard  
CFO

ATTEST:

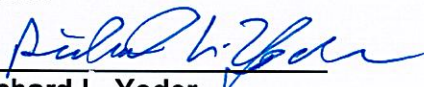
By:   
Richard L. Yoder  
Assistant Secretary

EXHIBIT E TO IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT  
NO. 48000833-00-000 ISSUED BY  
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

RE: \$2,600,000.00 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI (THE "CITY") MBIA BOND (HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. PROJECT) SERIES 2008 DATED AS OF MARCH 5, 2008, ISSUED PURSUANT TO A BOND RESOLUTION OF THE CITY DATED JANUARY 25, 2008, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WERE LOANED BY THE CITY TO HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. PURSUANT TO A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC, DATED AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2008 (THE "LEASE AGREEMENT")

THE UNDERSIGNED, DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF THE CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI (THE "CITY") HEREBY CERTIFIES TO PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (THE "BANK"), WITH REFERENCE TO IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT NO. 48000833-00-000 (THE "LETTER OF CREDIT"), ISSUED BY THE BANK IN FAVOR OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT (CAPITALIZED TERMS NOT OTHERWISE USED HEREIN AS DEFINED IN THE "LEASE AGREEMENT"), THAT:

- (1) THE CITY IS THE BENEFICIARY UNDER THE LETTER OF CREDIT AND HAS LOANED THE PROCEEDS OF THE BOND TO THE COMPANY PURSUANT TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT.
- (2) THE CITY RECEIVED A PAYMENT FROM HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. OF USD \$180,150.00 (THE "PAYMENT") ON THE DATE OF JANUARY 21, 2026.
- (3) THE CITY HAS RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE FROM HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC., A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO, WHICH STATES THAT NO ACT OF BANKRUPTCY SHALL HAVE OCCURRED AND NO PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY CODE ARE PENDING WITH RESPECT TO THE COMPANY AT THE EXPIRATION OF A NINETY-FIVE (95) DAY PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE DATE OF THE PAYMENT REFERRED TO IN (2) ABOVE.
- (4) AS A RESULT OF THE PAYMENT REFERRED TO IN (2) ABOVE, THE AMOUNT OF THE BOND HAS BEEN REDUCED TO USD \$340,000.00.
- (5) THE STATED AMOUNT (AS DEFINED IN THE LETTER OF CREDIT) OF THE LETTER OF CREDIT IS CORRESPONDINGLY HEREBY INSTRUCTED TO BE REDUCED TO USD \$340,000.00.
- (6) THE UNDERSIGNED ARE DULY ELECTED (OR APPOINTED) AND INCUMBENT OFFICERS OF THE CITY AND ARE DULY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER THIS CERTIFICATE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AND YOU MAY CONCLUSIVELY RELY ON THIS CERTIFICATE.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

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

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK