

FORM 8-A

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Virginia
(State of incorporation or
organization)

54-0135270
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

245 Main Street, Bassett, Virginia
(Address of principal executive offices)

24055
(Zip Code)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class
to be so registered

Name of each exchange on which
each class is to be registered

None

None

If this Form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant
to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General
Instruction A.(c), please check the following box. []

If this Form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant
to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General
Instruction A.(d), please check the following box. [X]

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates:
N/A

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Rights to Purchase Common Stock, par value
\$5.00 per share

(Title of Class)

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

On June 23, 1998, the Board of Directors of Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated, a Virginia corporation (the "Company"), declared a dividend of one common stock purchase right (a "Right") for each outstanding share of common stock, \$5.00 par value (the "Common Stock"), of the Company. The distribution is payable on July 6, 1998, to shareholders of record at the close of business on that date.

Each Right will entitle the holder to purchase from the Company one one-half of a share of the Company's Common Stock at an initial price of \$60 per one one-half of a share of Common Stock (the "Purchase Price"). The description and terms of the Rights are set forth in the Rights Agreement dated as of June 23, 1998 (the "Rights Agreement"), between the Company and First Union National Bank, as rights agent (the "Rights Agent").

The Rights are not exercisable, and are not transferable apart from the Common Stock, until the "Distribution Date" which is the earlier of (i) the tenth day after a public announcement that a Person (which term as used in this summary means an individual or any business entity, other than the Company and certain related entities) or group of affiliated or associated Persons has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 20% or more of the outstanding Common Stock, thereby becoming an "Acquiring Person," or (ii) the tenth business day after the date of the commencement of, or first public announcement of the intent of any Person to commence, a tender or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in such Person becoming an Acquiring Person.

After the Distribution Date, the Rights are exercisable and separately transferable.

Before the Distribution Date, a holder of Common Stock will be the owner of one Right for each share of Common Stock he holds, but the Rights will be evidenced by one or more certificates (a "Rights Certificate" or the "Rights Certificates") held by the Rights Agent. After the Distribution Date, separate Rights Certificates will be mailed to holders of record of the Common Stock at the close of business on the Distribution Date.

Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a shareholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends. While the distribution of the Rights will not be taxable to shareholders or to the Company, shareholders may, depending upon the circumstances, recognize taxable income in the event that the Rights become exercisable. The Purchase Price payable, and the number of shares of Common Stock or other securities or property issuable upon exercise of the Rights, as well as the number of Rights outstanding, are subject to adjustment from time to time upon the occurrence of certain dilutive events.

Any additional shares of Common Stock issued before the Distribution Date will also have Rights issued in respect thereof and shares of Common Stock issued after the Distribution

Date will be issued with Rights if such shares are issued in respect of stock options, employee benefit plans or convertible securities which were granted, established or issued before the Distribution Date.

The Rights will expire at the close of business on June 23, 2008, unless earlier exercised or redeemed by the Company.

No fractional shares of Common Stock will be issued when a Right is exercised and, in lieu thereof, an adjustment in cash will be made based on the market price of the Common Stock on the last trading date prior to the date of exercise.

Each holder of a Right will have the right to receive, upon exercise of a Right, Common Stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of the Company) having a value equal to two times the purchase price for the Rights then in effect if a Person or group of affiliated or associated Persons acquires beneficial ownership of 20% or more of the outstanding Common Stock (which event is popularly termed a flip-in event). Notwithstanding the foregoing, following the occurrence of the event set forth in this paragraph, all Rights that are, or (under certain circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement) were, beneficially owned by any Acquiring Person will be null and void.

For example, if the Purchase Price is \$60 per Right, each Right not owned by an Acquiring Person (or certain related parties) following an event described in the preceding paragraph would entitle its holder to purchase \$120 worth of Common Stock (or other securities or assets, as noted above) for \$60. Assuming that the Common Stock had a per share price of \$30 at such time, the holder of each valid Right would be entitled to purchase four shares of Common Stock for \$60.

Each holder of a Right will have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock (or equivalent securities) of the acquiring entity having a value equal to two times the Purchase Price then in effect, if after it is announced that a Person or group has become an Acquiring Person, (i) the Company is acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction and is not the surviving or continuing corporation, (ii) the Company is the surviving or continuing corporation in a merger or other business combination and the Common Stock is changed or exchanged for securities of another Person, (iii) the Company is party to a statutory share exchange with any other Person after which the Company becomes a Subsidiary of any other Person or (iv) 50% or more of the assets or earning power of the Company is sold or transferred (each of which events is popularly termed a flip-over event).

If the Company is not able to issue the Common Stock because of the absence of any necessary regulatory approval, restrictions contained in the Company's Articles of Incorporation or for any other reason, a person exercising Rights will be entitled to receive a combination of cash or property or other securities having a value equal to the value of the Common Stock which would otherwise have been issued upon exercise of the Rights. For Rights exercised

before any Triggering Event occurs, the Company may defer issuance of the Common Stock for up to 90 days to obtain any necessary regulatory approval. If unable to obtain such approval, the Company may substitute cash, assets or other property for the Common Stock which would otherwise have been issued in accordance with the Rights Agreement.

At any time until ten days after the announcement that a Person or group has become an Acquiring Person, the Company may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$.01 per Right, payable in cash or securities. Upon certain circumstances set forth in the Rights Agreement, the decision to redeem will require the concurrence of a majority of the Continuing Directors. When the Board of Directors (with, where required, the concurrence of a majority of Continuing Directors) orders a redemption of the Rights, the Rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the redemption price. The Continuing Directors are (i) members of the Board who were also directors on the earlier of the announcement that a Person or group has become an Acquiring Person and the Distribution Date or (ii) directors elected or nominated by a majority of the Continuing Directors in office on the date of such election or nomination.

After a Person becomes an Acquiring Person and before the Acquiring Person acquires 50% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock, the Company, with the concurrence of a majority of Continuing Directors, may require a holder to exchange all or any portion of his Rights for one share of Common Stock per Right.

Certain provisions relating to the principal economic terms of the Rights may not be amended at any time. Other provisions of the Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board of Directors of the Company prior to the Distribution Date. Thereafter these other provisions of the Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board (under certain circumstances only with the concurrence of a majority of the Continuing Directors) in order to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency, to make changes which do not adversely affect the interests of holders of Rights (excluding the interests of any Acquiring Person), or to shorten or lengthen any time period under the Rights Agreement (including the time period for redeeming the Rights); provided, however, that no amendment to adjust the time period governing redemption may be made if the Rights are not redeemable at the time of the amendment; and that the Board may not lengthen any other time period except for the purpose of protecting or clarifying the rights of the Rights holders (excluding any Acquiring Person or its Affiliates or Associates).

This summary description of the Rights does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Rights Agreement, which is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 1 filed with this Registration Statement.

Item 2. Exhibits.

1. Rights Agreement dated as of June 23, 1998 between Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated and First Union National Bank, as Rights Agent, including Exhibits A and B thereto.
2. Company's Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended, filed with the Commission as an Exhibit to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 28, 1994 (File No. 0-209).
3. Company's Bylaws, as amended, filed with the Commission as an Exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 30, 1997 (File No. 0-209).
4. Form of Rights Certificate for rights attached to the Company's Common Stock, filed as Exhibit A to the Rights Agreement filed as Exhibit 1 to this Registration Statement.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

By: /s/ DOUGLAS W. MILLER

Douglas W. Miller,
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date: July 6, 1998

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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2. Company's Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended, filed with the Commission as an Exhibit to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly year ended February 28, 1994 (File No. 0-209), are incorporated herein by reference.
3. Company's Bylaws, as amended, filed with the Commission as an Exhibit to Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 30, 1997 (File No. 0-209), are incorporated herein by reference.
4. Form of Rights Certificate for rights attached to the Company's Common Stock, filed as Exhibit A to the Rights Agreement filed as Exhibit 1 to this Registration Statement, is incorporated herein by reference.

* Filed herewith.

Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated

and

First Union National Bank

Rights Agent

Rights Agreement

Dated as of June 23, 1998

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RIGHTS AGREEMENT

This Rights Agreement, dated as of June 23, 1998 (the "Agreement"), between BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED, a Virginia corporation (the "Company"), and FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK (the "Rights Agent"), provides as follows:

W I T N E S S E T H

WHEREAS, on June 23, 1998 (the "Rights Dividend Declaration Date"), the Board of Directors of the Company authorized and declared a dividend distribution of one Right (as hereinafter defined) for each share of common stock, par value \$5.00 per share, of the Company (the "Common Stock") outstanding at the close of business on July 6, 1998 (the "Record Date"), and has authorized the issuance of one Right for each share of Common Stock issued (i) between the Record Date and the earlier of the Distribution Date and the Expiration Date (as such terms are defined in Section 1 hereof), or (ii) after the Distribution Date but before the Expiration Date, if such share of Common Stock became outstanding (A) upon the exercise of a stock option, (B) pursuant to any employee plan or arrangement, or (C) upon the conversion or exchange of a security, which option, plan, arrangement or security was granted, established or issued, as the case may be, by the Company before the Distribution Date. Each Right initially represents the right (a "Right") to purchase one one-half of a share of the Common Stock, upon the terms and subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual agreements herein set forth, the parties hereby agree as follows:

Section 1. Certain Definitions. For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

(a) "Acquiring Person" shall mean any Person (as hereinafter defined) who or which, together with all Affiliates and Associates (as hereinafter defined) of such Person (as hereinafter defined), shall at any time become the Beneficial Owner (as hereinafter defined) of 20% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding, but shall not include the Company, any Subsidiary (as hereinafter defined) of the Company, any employee benefit plan of the Company or of any Subsidiary of the Company, or any Person or entity organized, appointed or established by the Company for or pursuant to the terms of any such plan.

(b) "Affiliate" and "Associate" shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in Rule 12b-2 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and as in effect on the date of this Agreement (the "Exchange Act").

(c) A Person shall be deemed the "Beneficial Owner" of, and shall be deemed to "beneficially own," any securities:

(i) that such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates owns, directly or indirectly;

(ii) that such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates, directly or indirectly, has the right to acquire (whether such right is exercisable immediately or only after the passage of time) pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding (whether or not in writing) or upon the exercise of conversion rights, exchange rights, rights, warrants or options, or otherwise; provided, however, that a Person shall not be deemed to be the "Beneficial Owner" of, or to "beneficially own," (A) securities tendered pursuant to a tender or exchange offer made by such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates until such tendered securities are accepted for purchase or exchange or (B) at any time prior to the occurrence of a Triggering Event, securities issuable upon exercise of the Rights, or (C) from and after the occurrence of a Triggering Event, securities issuable upon exercise of Rights which were acquired by such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates prior to the Distribution Date or pursuant to Section 3(a) or Section 22 hereof (the "Original Rights") or pursuant to Section 11(i) hereof in connection with an adjustment made with respect to any Original Rights.

(iii) that such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates, directly or indirectly, has the right to vote, including pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding, whether or not in writing; provided, however, that a Person shall not be deemed the "Beneficial Owner" of, or to "beneficially own," any security under this subparagraph (iii) as a result of an agreement, arrangement or understanding to vote such security if such agreement, arrangement or understanding: (A) arises solely from a revocable proxy given in response to a public proxy solicitation made pursuant to, and in accordance with, the applicable provisions of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act, and (B) is not also then reportable by such Person on Schedule 13D under the Exchange Act (or any comparable or successor report); or

(iv) that are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by any other Person (or any Affiliate or Associate thereof) with which such Person (or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates) has any agreement, arrangement or understanding (whether or not in writing), for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting (except pursuant to a revocable proxy as described in the proviso to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph (c)) or disposing of any voting securities of the Company; provided, however, that notwithstanding any provision of this Section 1(c) to the contrary, any Person engaged in business as an underwriter of securities who acquires any securities of the Company through such Person's participation in good faith in a firm commitment underwriting registered under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act"), shall not be deemed the "Beneficial Owner" of, or to "beneficially own," such securities until the expiration of forty days after the date of acquisition; and provided, further, that in no case shall an officer or director of the Company be deemed (x) the beneficial owner of any securities beneficially

owned by another officer or director of the Company solely by reason of actions undertaken by such persons in their capacity as officers or directors of the Company; or (y) the beneficial owner of securities held of record by the trustee of any employee benefit plan of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company for the benefit of any employee of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company, other than the officer or director, by reason of any influence that such officer or director may have over the voting of the securities held in the plan.

(d) "Business Day" shall mean any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in the State of New York or in the state in which the principal office of the Rights Agent is located are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

(e) "Close of business" on any given date shall mean 5:00 P.M., New York City time, on such date; provided, however, that if such date is not a Business Day it shall mean 5:00 P.M., New York City time, on the next succeeding Business Day.

(f) "Common Stock" shall mean the common stock, par value \$5.00 per share, of the Company, except that "Common Stock" when used with reference to any Person other than the Company shall mean the capital stock of such Person with the greatest voting power, or the equity securities or other equity interest having power to control or direct the management, of such Person.

(g) "Continuing Director" shall mean any member of the Board of Directors of the Company, while a member of the Board, (i) who was a member of the Board on the earlier of the Stock Acquisition Date and the Distribution Date, or (ii) whose subsequent nomination for election or election to the Board was recommended or approved by a majority of the Continuing Directors.

(h) "Distribution Date" shall mean the earlier of (i) the close of business on the tenth day after the Stock Acquisition Date (as hereinafter defined) (or, if the tenth day after the Stock Acquisition Date occurs before the Record Date, the close of business on the Record Date), or (ii) the close of business on the tenth business day after the date of the commencement of, or first public announcement of the intent of any Person (other than the Company, any Subsidiary of the Company, any employee benefit plan of the Company or of any Subsidiary of the Company, or any Person or entity organized, appointed or established by the Company for or pursuant to the terms of any such plan) to commence, a tender or exchange offer, if upon consummation thereof, such Person would become the Beneficial Owner of 20% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding.

(i) "Equivalent Shares" shall mean shares of any class or series of capital stock of the Company that is entitled to participate in dividends and other distributions, including distributions upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, on a proportional basis with the Common Stock. In calculating the number of any class or series of Equivalent Shares for

purposes of Section 11 hereof, the number of shares, or fractions of a share, of such class or series of capital stock that is entitled to the same dividend or distribution as a whole share of Common Stock shall be deemed to be one share.

(j) "Exchange Date" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 7(a).

(k) "Expiration Date" shall mean the earlier of (i) the close of business on the Final Expiration Date, or (ii) the time at which the Rights are redeemed as provided in Section 23 hereof.

(l) "Final Expiration Date" shall mean June 23, 2008.

(m) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, partnership or other entity.

(n) "Section 11(a)(ii) Event" shall mean the event described in Section 11(a)(ii) hereof.

(o) "Section 13 Event" shall mean any event described in clause (w), (x), (y) or (z) of Section 13(a) hereof.

(p) "Stock Acquisition Date" shall mean the first date of public announcement (which, for purposes of this definition, shall include, without limitation, a report filed pursuant to Section 13(d) under the Exchange Act) by the Company or an Acquiring Person that an Acquiring Person has become such.

(q) "Subsidiary" shall mean, with reference to any Person, any corporation or other entity of which an amount of voting securities sufficient to elect a majority of the directors or Persons having similar authority of such corporation or other entity is beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by such Person, or otherwise controlled by such Person.

(r) "Triggering Event" shall mean a Section 11(a)(ii) Event or any Section 13 Event.

Section 2. Appointment of Rights Agent. The Company hereby appoints the Rights Agent to act as agent for the Company and the holders of the Rights (who, in accordance with Section 3 hereof, shall prior to the Distribution Date also be holders of Common Stock) in accordance with the terms and conditions hereof, and the Rights Agent hereby accepts such appointment. The Company may from time to time approach such Co-Rights Agents as it may deem necessary or desirable.

Section 3. Issue of Rights Certificates.

(a) Until the Distribution Date, (x) the Rights shall be evidenced (subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Section 3) by the certificates for the Common Stock registered in the names of the holders of the Common Stock (which certificates for Common Stock shall be deemed also to be certificates for Rights) and not by separate certificates, and (y) the Rights shall be transferable only in connection with the transfer of the underlying shares of Common Stock (including a transfer to the Company). As soon as practicable after the Distribution Date, the Rights Agent shall send by first-class, insured, postage prepaid mail, to each such record holder of the Common Stock (except for shares subject to the restriction on transfer provided for in Section 7(e)) as of the close of business on the Distribution Date, at the address of such holder shown on the records of the Company, one or more rights certificates, in substantially the form of Exhibit A hereto (the "Rights Certificates"), evidencing one Right for each share of Common Stock so held, subject to adjustment as provided herein. As of and after the Distribution Date, the Rights shall be evidenced solely by such Rights Certificates.

(b) As promptly as practicable following the Record Date, the Company shall send a copy of a Summary of Rights, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit B (the "Summary of Rights"), by first-class, postage prepaid mail, to each record holder of the Common Stock as of the close of business on the Record Date, at the address of such holder shown on the records of the Company. With respect to certificates for the Common Stock outstanding as of the Record Date, until the Distribution Date, the Rights shall be evidenced by such certificates for the Common Stock and the registered holders of such Common Stock shall also be the registered holders of the associated Rights. Until the earlier of the Distribution Date or the Expiration Date (as such term is defined in Section 7 hereof), the transfer of any certificates representing shares of Common Stock in respect of which Rights have been issued shall also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with such shares of Common Stock.

(c) Rights shall be issued in respect of all shares of Common Stock that are (i) issued after the Record Date but prior to the earlier of the Distribution Date or the Expiration Date or (ii) issued following the Distribution Date but prior to the Expiration Date if such shares of Common Stock became outstanding (A) upon the exercise of a stock option, (B) pursuant to any employee plan or arrangement or (C) upon the conversion or exchange of a security which option, plan, arrangement or security was granted, established or issued, as the case may be, by the Company before the Distribution Date. Certificates representing such shares of Common Stock shall also be deemed to be certificates for Rights, and shall bear the following legend:

This certificate also evidences and entitles the holder hereof to certain Rights as set forth in the Rights Agreement between Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated (the "Company"), and First Union National Bank (the "Rights Agent") dated as of June 23, 1998 (the "Rights Agreement"), the terms of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference and a copy of which is on file at the

principal offices of the Company. Under certain circumstances, as set forth in the Rights Agreement, such Rights will be evidenced by separate certificates and will no longer be evidenced by this certificate. The Rights will expire at the close of business on June 23, 2008 unless exercised or redeemed prior thereto. The Company will mail to the holder of this certificate a copy of the Rights Agreement, as in effect on the date of mailing, without charge promptly after receipt of a written request therefor. Under certain circumstances set forth in the Rights Agreement, Rights issued to, or held by, any Person who is, was or becomes an Acquiring Person or any Affiliate or Associate thereof (as such terms are defined in the Rights Agreement), whether currently held by or on behalf of such Person or by any subsequent holder, may become null and void.

With respect to such certificates containing the foregoing legend, until the earlier of (i) the Distribution Date or (ii) the Expiration Date, the Rights associated with the Common Stock represented by such certificates shall be evidenced by such certificates alone and registered holders of Common Stock shall also be the registered holders of the associated Rights, and the transfer of any of such certificates shall also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with the Common Stock represented by such certificates.

Section 4. Form of Rights Certificates.

(a) The Rights Certificates (and the forms of election to purchase and of assignment to be printed on the reverse thereof) shall each be substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A hereto and may have such marks of identification or designation and such legends, summaries or endorsements printed thereon as the Company may deem appropriate and as are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement, or as may be required to comply with any applicable law or with any rule or regulation made pursuant thereto or with any rule or regulation of any stock exchange on which the Rights may from time to time be listed, or to conform to usage. Subject to the provisions of Section 11 and Section 22 hereof, the Rights Certificates, whenever distributed, shall be dated as of the Record Date (or in the case of Rights issued with respect to Common Stock issued by the Company after the Record Date, as of the date of issuance of such Common Stock), and on their face shall entitle the holders thereof to purchase such number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock as shall be set forth therein at the price set forth therein (such exercise price per one one-half of a share of Common Stock being hereinafter referred to as the "Purchase Price"), but the amount and type of securities purchasable upon the exercise of each Right and the Purchase Price thereof shall be subject to adjustment as provided herein.

(b) Any Rights Certificate issued pursuant to Section 3(a) or Section 22 hereof that represents Rights beneficially owned by: (i) an Acquiring Person or any Associate or Affiliate of an Acquiring Person, (ii) a transferee of an Acquiring Person (or of any such Associate or Affiliate) who becomes a transferee after the Acquiring Person becomes such, or (iii) a transferee of an Acquiring Person (or of any such Associate or Affiliate) who becomes a

transferee prior to or concurrently with the Acquiring Person becoming such and receives such Rights pursuant to either (A) a transfer (whether or not for consideration) from the Acquiring Person to holders of equity interests in such Acquiring Person or to any Person with whom such Acquiring Person has any continuing agreement, arrangement, or understanding regarding the transferred Rights or (B) a transfer which the Board of Directors of the Company has determined is part of a plan, arrangement or understanding which has as a primary purpose or effect the avoidance of Section 7(e) hereof, and any Rights Certificate issued pursuant to Section 6 or Section 11 hereof upon transfer, exchange, replacement or adjustment of any other Rights Certificate referred to in this sentence, shall contain (to the extent feasible) the following legend:

The Rights represented by this Rights Certificate are or were beneficially owned by a Person who was or became an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person (as such terms are defined in the Rights Agreement). Accordingly, this Rights Certificate and the Rights represented hereby may be or become null and void in the circumstances specified in Section 7(e) of the Rights Agreement.

The provisions of Section 7(e) of this Agreement shall be operative whether or not the foregoing legend is contained on any such Rights Certificates. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, no Rights Certificate shall be so issued that would represent Rights (i) which have already become void under Section 7(e) hereof or (ii) which would become void under Section 7(e) hereof upon the completion of any purported transfer with respect to which such Rights Certificate would otherwise be issued; and any Rights Certificate delivered to the Rights Agent for transfer under the circumstances to which clause (ii) of this sentence shall be applicable shall be canceled by the Rights Agent.

Section 5. Countersignature and Registration.

(a) The Rights Certificates shall be executed on behalf of the Company by its Chairman of the Board, its President, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer or the Vice President Strategic Planning, either manually or by facsimile signature, and shall have affixed thereto the Company's seal or a facsimile thereof which shall be attested by the Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, the Treasurer or any Assistant Treasurer of the Company, either manually or by facsimile signature. The Rights Certificates shall be countersigned by an authorized signatory of the Rights Agent but it shall not be necessary for the same signatory to countersign all of the Rights Certificates issued hereunder. The Rights Certificates shall be manually countersigned by the Rights Agent and shall not be valid for the purpose unless so countersigned. In case any officer of the Company who shall have signed any of the Rights Certificates shall cease to be such officer of the Company before countersignature by the Rights Agent and issuance and delivery by the Company, such Rights Certificates, nevertheless, may be countersigned by the Rights Agent and issued and delivered by the Company with the same force and effect as though the person who signed such Rights Certificates had not ceased to be such officer of the Company; and any Rights Certificates may

be signed on behalf of the Company by any person who, at the actual date of the execution of such Rights Certificate, shall be a proper officer of the Company to sign such Rights Certificate, although at the date of the execution of this Agreement any such person was not such an officer.

(b) Following the Distribution Date, the Rights Agent will keep or cause to be kept, at its principal office or offices designated as the appropriate place for surrender of Rights Certificates upon exercise or transfer, books for registration and transfer of the Rights Certificates issued hereunder. Such books shall show the names and addresses of the respective holders of the Rights Certificates, the number of Rights evidenced on its face by each of the Rights Certificates and the date of each of the Rights Certificates.

Section 6. Transfer, Split Up, Combination and Exchange of Rights Certificates; Mutilated, Destroyed, Lost or Stolen Rights Certificates.

(a) Subject to the provisions of Section 4(b), Section 7(e) and Section 14 hereof, at any time after the close of business on the Distribution Date, and at or prior to the close of business on the earlier of the Expiration Date or the Exchange Date, any Rights Certificate or Certificates may be transferred, split up, combined or exchanged for another Rights Certificate or Certificates, entitling the registered holder to purchase a like number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock (or, following a Triggering Event, other securities, cash or other assets, as the case may be) as the Rights Certificate or Certificates surrendered then entitle such holder (or former holder in the case of a transfer) to purchase. Any registered holder desiring to transfer, split up, combine or exchange any Rights Certificate or Certificates shall make such request in writing delivered to the Rights Agent, and shall surrender the Rights Certificate or Certificates to be transferred, split up, combined or exchanged at the principal office or offices of the Rights Agent designated for such purpose. Neither the Rights Agent nor the Company shall be obligated to take any action whatsoever with respect to the transfer of any such surrendered Rights Certificate until the registered holder shall have completed and signed the certificate contained in the form of assignment on the reverse side of such Rights Certificate and shall have provided such additional evidence of the identity of the Beneficial Owner (or former Beneficial Owner) or Affiliates or Associates thereof as the Company shall reasonably request. Thereupon the Rights Agent shall, subject to Section 4(b), Section 7(e) and Section 14 hereof, countersign and deliver to the Person entitled thereto a Rights Certificate or Rights Certificates, as the case may be, as so requested. The Company may require payment from the holder of the Rights of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with any transfer, split up, combination or exchange of Rights Certificates.

(b) Upon receipt by the Company and the Rights Agent of evidence reasonably satisfactory to them of the loss, theft, destruction or mutilation of a Rights Certificate, and, in case of loss, theft or destruction, of indemnity or security reasonably satisfactory to them, and reimbursement to the Company and the Rights Agent of all reasonable expenses incidental thereto, and upon surrender to the Rights Agent and cancellation of the Rights Certificate if

mutilated, the Company will execute and deliver a new Rights Certificate of like tenor to the Rights Agent for countersignature and delivery to the registered owner in lieu of the Rights Certificate so lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated.

Section 7. Exercise of Rights; Purchase Price; Expiration Date of Rights; Restriction on Transfer of Rights.

(a) Subject to Section 7(e) hereof, the registered holder of any Rights Certificate may exercise the Rights evidenced thereby (except as otherwise provided herein including, without limitation, the restrictions on exercisability set forth in Section 9(c), Section 11(a)(iii) and Section 23(a) hereof) in whole or in part at any time after the Distribution Date upon surrender of the Rights Certificate, with the form of election to purchase and the certificate on the reverse side thereof duly executed, to the Rights Agent at the principal office or offices of the Rights Agent designated for such purpose, together, except as otherwise provided in Section 11(a)(iii), with payment of the aggregate Purchase Price with respect to the total number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock (or other securities or property, as the case may be) as to which surrendered Rights are then exercisable, at or prior to the earlier of (i) the Expiration Date or (ii) the time at which Rights are exchanged for shares of Common Stock as provided in Section 24 hereof (the "Exchange Date").

(b) The Purchase Price for each one one-half of a share of Common Stock pursuant to the exercise of a Right shall initially be \$60, and shall be subject to adjustment from time to time as provided in Section 11 hereof and shall be payable in accordance with paragraph (c) below.

(c) Upon receipt of a Rights Certificate representing exercisable Rights, with the form of election to purchase and the certificate duly executed, accompanied by payment, with respect to each Right so exercised, of the Purchase Price per one one-half of a share of Common Stock (or other securities or property, as the case may be) to be purchased as set forth below and an amount equal to any applicable transfer tax, the Rights Agent shall, subject to Section 20(k) hereof, thereupon promptly, (i) requisition from any transfer agent of the shares of Common Stock (or make available, if the Rights Agent is the transfer agent for such shares) certificates for the total number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock to be purchased and the Company hereby irrevocably authorizes its transfer agent to comply with all such requests, (ii) requisition from the Company the amount of cash, if any, to be paid in lieu of fractional shares in accordance with Section 14 hereof, (iii) after receipt of such certificates, cause the same to be delivered to or upon the order of the registered holder of such Rights Certificate, registered in such name or names as may be designated by such holder, and (iv) after receipt thereof, deliver such cash, if any, to or upon the order of the registered holder of such Rights Certificate. The payment of the Purchase Price (as such amount may be reduced (including to zero) pursuant to Section 11(a)(iii) hereof) may be made in cash or by certified bank check or bank draft payable to the order of the Company. In the event that the Company is obligated to issue other securities of the Company, pay cash and/or distribute other property pursuant to Section 11(a) hereof, the

Company will make all arrangements necessary so that such other securities, cash and/or other property are available for distribution by the Rights Agent, if and when appropriate.

(d) In case the registered holder of any Rights Certificate shall exercise less than all the Rights evidenced thereby, a new Rights Certificate evidencing Rights equivalent to the Rights remaining unexercised shall be issued by the Rights Agent and delivered to, or upon the order of, the registered holder of such Rights Certificate, registered in such name or names as may be designated by such holder, subject to the provisions of Section 14 hereof.

(e) Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, from and after the first occurrence of a Section 11(a)(ii) Event, any Rights beneficially owned by (i) an Acquiring Person or any Associate or Affiliate of an Acquiring Person, (ii) a transferee of an Acquiring Person (or of any such Associate or Affiliate) who becomes a transferee after the Acquiring Person become such, or (iii) a transferee of an Acquiring Person (or of any such Associate or Affiliate) who becomes a transferee prior to or concurrently with the Acquiring Person becoming such and receives such Rights pursuant to either (A) a transfer (whether or not for consideration) from the Acquiring Person to holders of equity interests in such Acquiring Person or to any Person with whom the Acquiring Person has any continuing agreement, arrangement or understanding regarding the transferred Rights or (B) a transfer which the Board of Directors of the Company has determined is part of a plan, arrangement or understanding which has as a primary purpose or effect the avoidance of this Section 7(e), shall become null and void without any further action and no holder of such Rights shall have any rights whatsoever with respect to such Rights, whether under any provision of this Agreement or otherwise. The Company shall use all reasonable efforts to insure that the provisions of this Section 7(e) and Section 4(b) hereof are complied with, but shall have no liability to any holder of Rights Certificates or other Person as a result of its making or failure to make any determinations with respect to an Acquiring Person or its Affiliates, Associates or transferees hereunder.

(f) Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, neither the Rights Agent nor the Company shall be obligated to undertake any action with respect to a registered holder upon the occurrence of any purported exercise as set forth in this Section 7 unless such registered holder shall have (i) completed and signed the certificate contained in the form of election to purchase set forth on the reverse side of the Rights Certificate surrendered for such exercise and (ii) provided such additional evidence of the identity of the Beneficial Owner (or former Beneficial Owner) or Affiliates or Associates thereof as the Company shall reasonably request.

Section 8. Cancellation and Destruction of Rights Certificates. All Rights Certificates surrendered for the purpose of exercise, transfer, split up, combination or exchange shall, if surrendered to the Company or any of its agents, be delivered to the Rights Agent for cancellation or in canceled form, or, if surrendered to the Rights Agent, shall be canceled by it, and no Rights Certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof except as expressly permitted by any of

the provisions of this Agreement. The Company shall deliver to the Rights Agent for cancellation and retirement, and the Rights Agent shall so cancel and retire, any other Rights Certificate purchased or acquired by the Company otherwise than upon the exercise thereof. The Rights Agent shall deliver all canceled Rights Certificates to the Company, or shall, at the written request of the Company, destroy such canceled Rights Certificates, and in such case shall deliver a certificate of destruction thereof to the Company.

Section 9. Reservation and Availability of Common Stock.

(a) The Company covenants and agrees that it will cause to be reserved and kept available out of its authorized and unissued shares of Common Stock, the number of shares of Common Stock that, except as provided in Section 11(a)(iii) hereof, will be sufficient from time to time to permit the exercise in full of all outstanding Rights.

(b) If the shares of Common Stock (and, following the occurrence of a Triggering Event, any other securities) issuable and deliverable upon the exercise of the Rights are listed on any national securities exchange, the Company shall use its best efforts to cause, from and after such time as the Rights become exercisable, all shares reserved for such issuance to be listed on such exchange upon official notice of issuance upon such exercise.

(c) The Company shall use its best efforts to (i) file, as soon as practicable following the earliest date after the first occurrence of a Section 11(a)(ii) Event on which the consideration to be delivered by the Company upon exercise of the Rights has been determined in accordance with Section 11(a)(iii) hereof, or as soon as is required by law following the Distribution Date, as the case may be, a registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to the securities purchasable upon exercise of the Rights on an appropriate form, (ii) cause such registration statement to become effective as soon as practicable after such filing, and (iii) cause such registration statement to remain effective (with a prospectus at all times meeting the requirements of the Securities Act) until the earlier of (A) the date as of which the Rights are no longer exercisable for such securities, and (B) the Final Expiration Date. The Company will also take such action as may be appropriate under, or to ensure compliance with, the securities or "blue sky" laws of the various states in connection with the exercisability of the Rights. The Company may temporarily suspend, for a period of time not to exceed ninety (90) days after the date set forth in clause (i) of the first sentence of this Section 9(c), the exercisability of the Rights in order to prepare and file such registration statement and permit it to become effective or to obtain any other required regulatory approval in connection with the exercisability of the Rights. Upon any such suspension, the Company shall issue a public announcement stating, and notify the Rights Agent, that the exercisability of the Rights has been temporarily suspended. The Company shall also issue a public announcement at such time as the suspension is no longer in effect. In the event any Right is exercised prior to the occurrence of a Section 11(a)(ii) Event or a Section 13 Event, the Company may defer for up to 90 days the issuance of Common Stock upon such exercise in order to obtain any necessary regulatory approval; and if, within such 90 days, the Company is unable to obtain any required regulatory approval for the issuance of

Common Stock, or if the Company is otherwise unable to issue Common Stock under the terms of its Certificate of Incorporation or for any other reason, then the Company shall substitute for the shares of Common Stock otherwise issuable upon exercise of the Right (1) cash, (2) a reduction in the Purchase Price, (3) shares of Preferred Stock or other equity securities of the Company, except to the extent that the Company has not obtained any necessary regulatory approval for such issuance, (4) debt securities of the Company, except to the extent that the Company has not obtained any necessary regulatory approval for such issuance, (5) other assets, or (6) any combination of the foregoing, having an aggregate value equal to the current market price (as defined in Section 11(d)) of the shares of Common Stock for which such Right is exercisable, where such aggregate value has been determined by the Board of Directors of the Company based upon the advice of a nationally recognized investment banking firm selected by the Board of Directors of the Company. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, the Rights shall not be exercisable in any jurisdiction unless the requisite qualification in such jurisdiction shall have been obtained.

(d) The Company covenants and agrees that it will take all such action as may be necessary to ensure that all shares of Common Stock (or other securities, as the case may be) delivered upon exercise of Rights shall, at the time of delivery of the certificates for such shares (subject to payment of the Purchase Price), be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

(e) The Company further covenants and agrees that it will pay when due and payable any and all federal and state transfer taxes and charges that may be payable in respect of the issuance or delivery of the Rights Certificates and of any certificates for shares of Common Stock (or other securities, as the case may be) upon the exercise of Rights. The Company shall not, however, be required to pay any transfer tax that may be payable in respect of any transfer or delivery of Rights Certificates to a Person other than, or the issuance or delivery of a number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock in respect of a name other than that of, the registered holder of the Rights Certificates evidencing Rights surrendered for exercise or to issue or deliver any certificates for a number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock in a name other than that of the registered holder upon the exercise of any Rights until such tax shall have been paid (any such tax being payable by the holder of such Rights Certificate at the time of surrender) or until it has been established to the Company's satisfaction that no such tax is due.

Section 10. Common Stock Record Date. Each person in whose name any certificate for shares of Common Stock is issued upon the exercise of Rights shall for all purposes be deemed to have become the holder of record of such shares of Common Stock represented thereby on, and such certificate shall be dated, the date upon which the Rights Certificate evidencing such Rights was duly surrendered and payment of the Purchase Price (and all applicable transfer taxes) was made; provided, however, that if the date of such surrender and payment is a date upon which the Common Stock transfer books of the Company are closed, such Person shall be deemed to have become the record holder of such shares on, and such certificate shall be dated, the next succeeding Business Day on which the Common Stock

transfer books of the Company are open. Prior to the exercise of the Rights evidenced thereby, the holder of a Rights Certificate shall not be entitled to any rights of a shareholder of the Company with respect to shares for which the Rights shall be exercisable, including, without limitation, the right to vote, to receive dividends or other distributions or to exercise any preemptive rights, and shall not be entitled to receive any notice of any proceedings of the Company, except as provided herein.

Section 11. Adjustment of Purchase Price, Number and Kind of Shares or Number of Rights. The Purchase Price, and the number and kind of shares covered by each Right and the number of Rights outstanding are subject to adjustment from time to time as provided in this Section 11.

(a) (i) In the event the Company shall at any time after the date of this Agreement (A) declare a dividend on the Common Stock payable in shares of Common Stock, (B) subdivide the outstanding Common Stock, (C) combine the outstanding Common Stock into a smaller number of shares, or (D) issue any shares of its capital stock in a reclassification of the Common Stock (including any such reclassification in connection with a consolidation or merger in which the Company is the continuing or surviving corporation), except as otherwise provided in this Section 11(a) and Section 7(e) hereof, the Purchase Price in effect at the time of the record date for such dividend or of the effective date of such subdivision, combination or reclassification, and the number and kind of shares of capital stock issuable on such date, shall be proportionately adjusted so that the holder of any Right exercised after such time shall be entitled to receive, upon payment of the Purchase Price then in effect, the aggregate number and kind of shares of capital stock, that if such Right had been exercised immediately prior to such date and at a time when the Common Stock transfer books of the Company were open, he would have owned upon such exercise and been entitled to receive by virtue of such dividend, subdivision, combination or reclassification. If an event occurs that would require an adjustment under both this Section 11(a) (i) and Section 11(a) (ii) hereof, the adjustment provided for in this Section 11(a) (i) shall be in addition to, and shall be made prior to, any adjustment required pursuant to Section 11(a) (ii) hereof.

(ii) In the event any Person becomes an Acquiring Person, proper provision shall be made by the Company so that each holder of a Right (except as provided below and in Section 7(e) hereof) shall promptly thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise thereof for the Purchase Price in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, in lieu of the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock for which such Right was theretofore exercisable, such number of shares of Common Stock as shall equal the result obtained by multiplying the Purchase Price by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock for which a Right is then exercisable and the denominator of which is 50% of the current market price of shares of Common Stock on the date of the occurrence of a Section 11(a) (ii) Event (such result being hereinafter referred to as the "Adjustment Shares").

(iii) To the extent that the number of shares of Common Stock that are authorized by the Company's articles of incorporation but not outstanding or reserved for issuance for purposes other than upon exercise of the Rights is not sufficient to permit the exercise in full of the Rights in accordance with the foregoing subparagraph (ii) of this Section 11(a), and subject to any limitations contained in Section 13.1-653 of the Virginia Stock Corporation Act, the Company shall: (A) determine the excess of (1) the value of the Adjustment Shares issuable upon the exercise of a Right (the "Current Value"), over (2) the Purchase Price (such excess being hereinafter referred to as the "Spread"), and (B) with respect to each Right, make adequate provision to substitute for such unavailable Adjustment Shares, upon payment of the applicable Purchase Price, (1) cash, (2) a reduction in the Purchase Price, (3) other equity securities of the Company (including, without limitation, preferred shares, or units of preferred shares, which the Board of Directors of the Company has deemed to be substantially economically equivalent to the Common Stock (such preferred shares, "Common Stock equivalents")), (4) debt securities of the Company, (5) other assets, or (6) any combination of the foregoing, having, together with the Adjustment Shares issued upon exercise of such Right, an aggregate value equal to the Current Value, where such aggregate value has been determined by the Board of Directors of the Company based upon the advice of a nationally recognized investment banking firm selected by the Board of Directors of the Company; provided, however, if the Company shall not have made adequate provision to deliver value pursuant to clause (B) above within 30 days following the later of (a) the first occurrence of a Section 11(a) (ii) Event or (b) the date on which the Company's right of redemption pursuant to Section 23(a) expires (the later of (a) and (b) being referred to herein as the "Section 11(a) (ii) Trigger Date"), then the Company shall be obligated to deliver, upon the surrender for exercise of a Right and without requiring payment of the Purchase Price, shares of preferred stock or Common Stock (to the extent such securities are available) and then, if necessary, cash, which securities and/or assets in the aggregate are equal to the Spread. If the Board of Directors of the Company shall determine in good faith that it is likely that sufficient additional shares of Common Stock could be authorized for issuance upon exercise in full of the Rights, the 30 day period set forth above may be extended to the extent necessary, but not more than 90 days after the Section 11(a) (ii) Trigger Date, in order that the Company may seek shareholder approval for the authorization of such additional shares (such period, as it may be extended, the "Substitution Period"). To the extent that the Company determines that some action need be taken pursuant to the first and/or second sentences of this Section 11(a) (iii), the Company (x) shall provide, subject to Section 7(e) hereof, that such action shall apply uniformly to all outstanding Rights, and (y) may suspend the exercisability of the Rights until the expiration of the Substitution Period in order to seek any authorization of additional shares and/or to decide the appropriate form of distribution to be made pursuant to such first sentence and to determine the value thereof. In the event of any such suspension, the Company shall issue a public announcement stating that the exercisability of the Rights has been temporarily suspended, as well as a public announcement at such time as the suspension is no longer in effect. For purposes of this Section 11(a) (iii), the value of the Common Stock shall be the current market price (as determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) per share of the Common Stock on the Section 11(a) (ii) Trigger Date and any "Common Stock equivalent" shall be deemed to have the same value as the Common Stock on such date.

(b) If at any time after the date of this Agreement the Company shall fix a record date for the issuance of rights (other than the Rights), options or warrants to all holders of Common Stock or of any class or series of Equivalent Shares entitling such holders (for a period expiring within 45 calendar days after such record date) to subscribe for or purchase Common Stock or Equivalent Shares (or securities convertible into Common Stock or Equivalent Shares) at a price per share (or having a conversion price per share, if a security convertible into Common Stock or Equivalent Shares) less than the current market price (as determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) of such Common Stock or Equivalent Shares on such record date, then, in each such case, the Purchase Price to be in effect after such record date shall be determined by multiplying the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to such record date by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the total number of shares of Common Stock and Equivalent Shares (if any) outstanding on such record date plus the number of shares of Common Stock or Equivalent Shares, as the case may be, which the aggregate offering price of the total number of shares of Common Stock or Equivalent Shares, as the case may be, so to be offered (and/or the aggregate initial conversion price of the convertible securities so to be offered) would purchase at such current market price and the denominator of which shall be the total number of shares of Common Stock and Equivalent Shares (if any) outstanding on such record date plus the number of additional shares of Common Stock or Equivalent Shares, as the case may be, to be offered for subscription or purchase (or into which the convertible securities so to be offered are initially convertible). In case such subscription price may be paid in a consideration, part or all of which shall be in a form other than cash, the value of such consideration shall be as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the Company, whose determination shall be described in a statement filed with the Rights Agent. Common Stock and Equivalent Shares owned by or held for the account of the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company shall not be deemed outstanding for the purpose of any such computation. Such adjustment shall be made successively whenever such a record date is fixed; and in the event that such rights, options or warrants are not so issued, the Purchase Price shall be adjusted to be the Purchase Price which would then be in effect if such record date had not been fixed.

(c) If at any time after the date of this Agreement the Company shall fix a record date for the making of a distribution to all holders of Common Stock or of any class or series of Equivalent Shares (including any such distribution made in connection with a consolidation or merger in which the Company is the continuing or surviving corporation) of cash (other than a regular quarterly cash dividend of the Company in compliance with Section 13.1-653 of the Virginia Stock Corporation Act), evidences of indebtedness, assets, securities (other than Common Stock) or subscription rights, options or warrants (excluding those referred to in Section 11(b)), then, in each such case, the Purchase Price to be in effect after such record date shall be determined by multiplying the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to such record date by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the current market price (as determined in Section 11(d) hereof) of a share of Common Stock or an Equivalent Share on such record date less the fair market value (as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the Company, whose determination shall be described in a statement filed with the Rights Agent) of the portion of the cash, evidences of indebtedness, assets or securities so to be distributed or

of such subscription rights, options or warrants applicable to a share of Common Stock or an Equivalent Share, as the case may be, and the denominator of which shall be the current market price (as determined in Section 11(d) hereof) of a share of Common Stock or an Equivalent Share on the record date. Such adjustments shall be made successively whenever such a record date is fixed; and in the event that such distribution is not so made, the Purchase Price shall be adjusted to be the Purchase Price that would have been in effect if such record date had not been fixed.

(d) For the purpose of any computation hereunder, other than computations made pursuant to Section 11(a)(iii) hereof, the "current market price" per share of Common Stock on any date shall be deemed to be the average of the daily closing prices per share of such Common Stock for the 30 consecutive Trading Days (as such term is hereinafter defined) immediately prior to such date, and for purposes of computations made pursuant to Section 11(a)(iii) hereof, the "current market price" per share of Common Stock on any date shall be deemed to be the average of the daily closing prices per share of such Common Stock for the ten consecutive Trading Days immediately following such date; provided, however, that in the event that the current market price per share of the Common Stock is determined during a period following the announcement by the issuer of such Common Stock of (A) a dividend or distribution on such Common Stock payable in shares of such Common Stock or securities convertible into shares of such Common Stock (other than the Rights), or (B) any subdivision, combination or reclassification of such Common Stock, and prior to the expiration of the requisite 30 Trading Day or ten Trading Day period, as set forth above, after the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution, or the record date for such subdivision, combination or reclassification, then, and in each such case, the "current market price" shall be properly adjusted to take into account ex-dividend trading. The closing price for each day shall be the last sale price, regular way, or, in case no such sale takes place on such day, the average of the closing bid and asked prices, regular way, in either case as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange or, if the shares of Common Stock are not listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange, as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed on the principal national securities exchange on which the shares of Common Stock are listed or admitted to trading or, if the shares of Common Stock are not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, the last quoted price or, if not so quoted, the average of the high bid and low asked prices in the over-the-counter market, as reported by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Automated Quotation System ("NASDAQ") or such other system then in use, or, if on any such date the shares of Common Stock are not quoted by any such organization, the average of the closing bid and asked prices as furnished by a professional market maker making a market in the Common Stock selected by the Board of Directors of the Company. If on any such date no market maker is making a market in the Common Stock, the fair value of such shares on such date as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the Company shall be used. The term "Trading Day" shall mean a day on which the principal national securities exchange on which the shares of Common Stock are listed or admitted to trading is open for the transaction of business or, if the shares of Common Stock

are not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, a Business Day. If the Common Stock is not publicly held or not so listed or traded, "current market price" per share shall mean the fair value per share as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the Company, whose determination shall be described in a statement filed with the Rights Agent and shall be conclusive for all purposes.

(e) Anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding, no adjustment in the Purchase Price shall be required unless such adjustment would require an increase or decrease of at least one percent (1%) in the Purchase Price; provided, however, that any adjustments which by reason of this Section 11(e) are not required to be made shall be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment. All calculations under this Section 11 shall be made to the nearest cent or to the nearest ten-thousandth of a share of Common Stock or other share. Notwithstanding the first sentence of this Section 11(e), any adjustment required by this Section 11 shall be made no later than the earlier of (i) three (3) years from the date of the transaction that mandates such adjustment, or (ii) the Expiration Date.

(f) If as a result of an adjustment made pursuant to Section 11(a) or 13(a) hereof, the holder of any Right thereafter exercised shall become entitled to receive any shares of capital stock other than Common Stock, thereafter the number of such other shares so receivable upon exercise of any Right and, if required, the Purchase Price thereof shall be subject to adjustment from time to time in a manner and on terms as nearly equivalent as practicable to the provisions with respect to the Common Stock otherwise issuable upon exercise of the Rights contained in Section 11(a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (m), and the provisions of Sections 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 hereof with respect to the Common Stock otherwise issuable upon exercise of the Rights shall apply on like terms to any such other shares.

(g) All Rights originally issued by the Company subsequent to any adjustment made to the Purchase Price hereunder shall evidence the right to purchase, at the adjusted Purchase Price, the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock purchasable from time to time hereunder upon exercise of the Rights, all subject to further adjustment as provided herein.

(h) Unless the Company shall have exercised its election as provided in Section 11(i), upon each adjustment of the Purchase Price as a result of the calculations made in Sections 11(b) and (c), each Right outstanding immediately prior to the making of such adjustment shall thereafter evidence the right to purchase, at the adjusted Purchase Price, that number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock (calculated to the nearest one ten-thousandth) obtained by (i) multiplying (x) the number of one one-halves of a share covered by a Right immediately prior to this adjustment, by (y) the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to such adjustment of the Purchase Price, and (ii) dividing the product so obtained by the Purchase Price in effect immediately after such adjustment of the Purchase Price.

(i) The Company may elect on or after the date of any adjustment of the Purchase Price to adjust the number of Rights, in lieu of any adjustment in the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock purchasable upon the exercise of a Right. Each of the Rights outstanding after the adjustment in the number of Rights shall be exercisable for the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock for which a Right was exercisable immediately prior to such adjustment. Each Right held of record prior to such adjustment of the number of Rights shall become that number of Rights (calculated to the nearest one-ten-thousandth) obtained by dividing the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to adjustment of the Purchase Price by the Purchase Price in effect immediately after adjustment of the Purchase Price. The Company shall make a public announcement of its election to adjust the number of Rights, indicating the record date for the adjustment, and, if known at the time, the amount of the adjustment to be made. This record date may be the date on which the Purchase Price is adjusted or any day thereafter, but, if the Rights Certificates have been issued, shall be at least ten days later than the date of the public announcement. If Rights Certificates have been issued, upon each adjustment of the number of Rights pursuant to this Section 11(i), the Company shall, as promptly as practicable, cause to be distributed to holders of record of Rights Certificates on such record date Rights Certificates evidencing, subject to Section 14 hereof, the additional Rights to which such holders shall be entitled as a result of such adjustment, or, at the option of the Company, shall cause to be distributed to such holders of record in substitution and replacement for the Rights Certificates held by such holders prior to the date of adjustment, and upon surrender thereof, if required by the Company, new Rights Certificates evidencing all the Rights to which such holders shall be entitled after such adjustment. Rights Certificates so to be distributed shall be issued, executed and countersigned in the manner provided for herein (and may bear, at the option of the Company, the adjusted Purchase Price) and shall be registered in the names of the holders of record of Rights Certificates on the record date specified in the public announcement.

(j) Irrespective of any adjustment or change in the Purchase Price or the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of the Rights, the Rights Certificates theretofore and thereafter issued may continue to express the Purchase Price per one one-half of a share and the number of one one-halves of a share that were expressed in the initial Rights Certificates issued hereunder.

(k) Before taking any action that would cause an adjustment reducing the Purchase Price below the then stated value, if any, of the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of the Rights, the Company shall take any corporate action that may, in the opinion of its counsel, be necessary in order that the Company may validly and legally issue fully paid and nonassessable such number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock at such adjusted Purchase Price.

(l) In any case in which this Section 11 shall require that an adjustment be made effective as of a record date for a specified event, the Company may elect to defer until the occurrence of such event the issuance to the holder of any Right exercised after such record date

the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock and other capital stock or securities of the Company, if any, issuable upon such exercise over and above the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock and other capital stock or securities of the Company, if any, issuable upon such exercise before giving effect to such adjustment; provided, however, that the Company shall deliver to such holder a due bill or other appropriate instrument evidencing such holder's right to receive such additional shares (fractional or otherwise) or securities upon the occurrence of the event requiring such adjustment.

(m) Anything in this Section 11 to the contrary notwithstanding, the Company shall be entitled to make such reductions in the Purchase Price, in addition to those adjustments expressly required by this Section 11, as and to the extent that in its good faith judgment the Board of Directors of the Company shall determine to be advisable in order that any (i) consolidation or subdivision of the Common Stock, (ii) issuance wholly for cash of any shares of Common Stock at less than the current market price, (iii) issuance wholly for cash of shares of Common Stock or securities that by their terms are convertible into or exchangeable for shares of Common Stock, (iv) stock dividend or (v) issuance of rights, options or warrants referred to in this Section 11, hereafter made by the Company to holders of its Common Stock shall not be taxable to such shareholders.

(n) The Company covenants and agrees that it shall not, at any time after the Distribution Date, (i) consolidate with any other Person (other than a Subsidiary of the Company in a transaction that complies with Section 11(o) hereof), (ii) merge with or into any other Person (other than a Subsidiary of the Company in a transaction that complies with Section 11(o) hereof), (iii) effect a statutory share exchange with any Person (other than a Subsidiary of the Company in a transaction that complies with Section 11(o) hereof), or (iv) sell or transfer (or permit any Subsidiary to sell or transfer), in one transaction or a series of related transactions, assets or earning power aggregating more than 50% of the assets or earning power of the Company and its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole) to any other Person or Persons (other than the Company and/or any of its Subsidiaries in one transaction or a series of related transactions each of which complies with Section 11(o) hereof), if (x) at the time of or immediately after such consolidation, merger, statutory share exchange or sale there are any rights, warrants or other instruments or securities outstanding or agreements in effect that would substantially diminish or otherwise eliminate the benefits intended to be afforded by the Rights or (y) prior to, simultaneously with or immediately after such consolidation, merger or sale, the shareholders of the Person who constitutes, or would constitute, the "Principal Party" for purposes of Section 13(a) hereof shall have received a distribution of Rights previously owned by such Person or any of its Affiliates and Associates.

(o) The Company covenants and agrees that, after the Distribution Date, it will not, except as permitted by Section 23 or Section 27 hereof, take (or permit any Subsidiary to take) any action if at the time such action is taken it is reasonably foreseeable that such action will diminish substantially or otherwise eliminate the benefits intended to be afforded by the Rights.

Section 12. Certificates of Adjusted Purchase Price or Number of Shares. Whenever an adjustment is made as provided in Section 11 or Section 13 hereof, the Company shall (a) promptly prepare a certificate setting forth such adjustment and a brief statement of the facts accounting for such adjustment, (b) promptly file with the Rights Agent, and with each transfer agent for the Common Stock, a copy of such certificate, and (c) mail a brief summary thereof to each holder of a Rights Certificate in accordance with Section 26 hereof. The Rights Agent shall be fully protected in relying on any such certificate and on any adjustment therein contained and shall not be deemed to have knowledge of any such adjustment unless and until it shall have received such a certificate.

Section 13. Consolidation, Merger or Sale or Transfer of Assets or Earning Power.

(a) In the event that, following the Stock Acquisition Date, directly or indirectly, (w) the Company shall consolidate with, or merge with and into, any other Person (other than a Subsidiary of the Company in a transaction that complies with Section 11(o) hereof), and the Company shall not be the continuing or surviving corporation of such consolidation or merger, (x) any Person (other than a Subsidiary of the Company in a transaction that complies with Section 11(o) hereof) shall consolidate with, or merge with and into, the Company, and the Company shall be the continuing or surviving corporation of such consolidation or merger and, in connection with such consolidation or merger, all or part of the outstanding shares of Common Stock shall be changed into or exchanged for stock or other securities of any other Person or cash or any other property, (y) the Company shall be a party to a statutory share exchange with any other Person (other than a Subsidiary of the Company in a transaction that complies with Section 11(o) hereof) after which the Company is a Subsidiary of any other Person, or (z) the Company shall sell or otherwise transfer (or one or more of its Subsidiaries shall sell or otherwise transfer), in one transaction or a series of related transactions, assets or earning power aggregating more than 50% of the assets or earning power of the Company and its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole) to any Person or Persons (other than the Company or any Subsidiary of the Company in one or more transactions each of which complies with Section 11(o) hereof), then, and in each such case, proper provision shall be made so that: (i) each holder of a Right, except as provided in Section 7(e) hereof, shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise thereof at the then current Purchase Price in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, such number of validly authorized and issued, fully paid, nonassessable and freely tradeable shares of Common Stock of the Principal Party (as such term is hereinafter defined), not subject to any liens, encumbrances, rights of first refusal or other adverse claims, as shall be equal to the result obtained by (1) multiplying the then current Purchase Price by the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock for which a Right is exercisable immediately prior to the first occurrence of a Section 13 Event (or, if a Section 11(a)(ii) Event has occurred prior to the first occurrence of a Section 13 Event, multiplying the number of such one one-halves of a share for which a Right was exercisable immediately prior to the first occurrence of a Section 11(a)(ii) Event by the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to such first occurrence), and (2) dividing that product (which, following the first occurrence of a Section 13 Event, shall be referred to as the "Purchase Price" for each Right for all purposes of

this Agreement) by 50% of the current market price (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) per share of the Common Stock of such Principal Party on the date of consummation of such Section 13 Event; and (ii) such Principal Party shall thereafter be liable for, and shall assume, by virtue of such Section 13 Event, all the obligations and duties of the Company pursuant to this Agreement; (iii) the term "Company" shall thereafter be deemed to refer to such Principal Party, it being specifically intended that the provisions of Section 11 hereof shall apply only to such Principal Party following the first occurrence of a Section 13 Event; (iv) such Principal Party shall take such steps (including, but not limited to, the reservation of a sufficient number of shares of its Common Stock) in connection with the consummation of any such transaction as may be necessary to ensure that the provisions hereof shall thereafter be applicable, as nearly as reasonably may be, in relation to its shares of Common Stock thereafter deliverable upon the exercise of the Rights; and (v) the provisions of Section 11(a)(ii) hereof shall be of no effect following the first occurrence of any Section 13 Event.

(b) "Principal Party" shall mean

(i) in the case of any transaction described in clause (w), (x), (y) or (z) of the first sentence of Section 13(a), the Person that is the issuer of any securities into which shares of Common Stock of the Company are converted in such merger, consolidation or statutory share exchange, and if no securities are so issued, the Person that is the other party to such merger, consolidation or statutory share exchange; and

(ii) in the case of any transaction described in clause (z) of the first sentence of Section 13(a), the Person that is the party receiving the greatest portion of the assets or earning power transferred pursuant to such transaction or transactions;

provided, however, that in any such case, (1) if the Common Stock of such Person is not at such time and has not been continuously over the preceding twelve (12) month period registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, and such Person is a direct or indirect Subsidiary of another Person the Common Stock of which is and has been so registered, "Principal Party" shall refer to such other Person; (2) in case such Person is a Subsidiary, directly or indirectly, of more than one Person, the Common Stocks of two or more of which are and have been so registered, "Principal Party" shall refer to whichever of such Persons is the issuer of the Common Stock having the greatest aggregate market value; and (3) in case such Person is owned, directly or indirectly, by a joint venture formed by two or more persons that are not owned, directly or indirectly, by the same Person, the rules set forth in (1) and (2) above shall apply to each of the chains of ownership having an interest in such joint venture as if such party were a "Subsidiary" of both or all of such joint ventures and the Principal Parties in each such chain shall bear the obligations set forth in this Section 13 in the same ratio as their direct or indirect interests in such Person bear to the total of such interests.

(c) The Company shall not consummate any such consolidation, merger, statutory share exchange, sale or transfer unless the Principal Party shall have a sufficient number of authorized shares of its Common Stock that have not been issued or reserved for issuance to permit the exercise in full of the Rights in accordance with this Section 13 and unless prior thereto the Company and such Principal Party shall have executed and delivered to the Rights Agent a supplemental agreement providing for the terms set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Section 13 and further providing that, as soon as practicable after the date of any consolidation, merger, statutory share exchange or sale of assets mentioned in paragraph (a) of this Section 13, the Principal Party will

(i) prepare and file a registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to the Rights and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the Rights on an appropriate form, and will use its best efforts to cause such registration statement to (A) become effective as soon as practicable after such filing and (B) remain effective (with a prospectus at all times meeting the requirements of the Securities Act) until the Expiration Date; and

(ii) deliver to holders of the Rights historical financial statements for the Principal Party and each of its Affiliates that comply in all respects with the requirements for registration on Form 10 under the Exchange Act.

The provisions of this Section 13 shall similarly apply to successive mergers or consolidations or statutory share exchanges or sales or other transfers. In the event that a Section 13 Event shall occur at any time after the occurrence of a Section 11(a)(ii) Event, the Rights that have not theretofore been exercised shall thereafter become exercisable in the manner described in Section 13(a).

Section 14. Fractional Rights and Fractional Shares.

(a) The Company shall not be required to issue fractions of Rights or to distribute Rights Certificates that evidence fractional Rights. In lieu of such fractional Rights, there shall be paid to the registered holders of the Rights Certificates with regard to which such fractional Rights would otherwise be issuable, an amount in cash equal to the same fraction of the current market value of a whole Right. For purposes of this Section 14(a), the current market value of a whole Right shall be the closing price of the Rights for the Trading Day immediately prior to the date on which such fractional Rights would have been otherwise issuable. The closing price of the Rights for any day shall be the last sale price, regular way, or, in case no such sale takes place on such day, the average of the closing bid and asked prices, regular way, in either case as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange or, if the Rights are not listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange, as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed on the principal national securities exchange on which the Rights are listed or admitted to trading, or if the Rights are not

listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, the last quoted price, or, if not so quoted, the average of the high bid and low asked prices in the over-the-counter market, as reported by NASDAQ or such other system then in use or, if on any such date the Rights are not quoted by any such organization, the average of the closing bid and asked prices as furnished by a professional market maker making a market in the Rights selected by the Board of Directors of the Company. If on any such date no such market maker is making a market in the Rights, the fair value of the Rights on such date as determined in good faith by the Board of Directors of the Company shall be used.

(b) The Company shall not be required to issue fractions of shares of Common Stock upon exercise of the Rights or to distribute certificates that evidence fractional shares of Common Stock. In lieu of fractional shares of Common Stock, the Company may pay to the registered holders of Rights Certificates at the time such Rights are exercised as herein provided an amount in cash equal to the same fraction of the current market value of one share of Common Stock. For purposes of this Section 14(b), the current market value of one share of Common Stock shall be the closing price of a share of Common Stock (as determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) for the Trading Day immediately prior to the date of such exercise.

(c) The holder of a Right by the acceptance of the Right expressly waives his right to receive any fractional Right or any fractional shares upon exercise of a Right, except as permitted by this Section 14.

Section 15. Rights of Action. All rights of action in respect of this Agreement are vested in the respective registered holders of the Rights Certificates (and, prior to the Distribution Date, the registered holders of the Common Stock in respect of which Rights have been issued); and any registered holder of any Rights Certificate (or, prior to the Distribution Date, of such Common Stock), without the consent of the Rights Agent or of the holder of any other Rights Certificate (or, prior to the Distribution Date, of such Common Stock), may, in his own behalf and for his own benefit, enforce, and may institute and maintain any suit, action or proceeding against the Company to enforce, or otherwise act in respect of, his right to exercise the Rights evidenced by such Rights Certificate in the manner provided in such Rights Certificate and in this Agreement. Without limiting the foregoing or any remedies available to the holders of Rights, it is specifically acknowledged that the holders of Rights would not have an adequate remedy at law for any breach of this Agreement and shall be entitled to specific performance of the obligations hereunder and injunctive relief against actual or threatened violations of the obligations hereunder of any Person subject to this Agreement.

Section 16. Agreement of Rights Holders. Every holder of a Right by accepting the same consents and agrees with the Company and the Rights Agent and with every other holder of a Right that:

(a) prior to the Distribution Date, the Rights will be transferable only in connection with the transfer of Common Stock;

(b) after the Distribution Date, the Rights Certificates are transferable only on the registry books of the Rights Agent if surrendered at the principal office or offices of the Rights Agent designated for such purposes, duly endorsed or accompanied by a proper instrument of transfer and with the appropriate forms and certificates fully executed;

(c) any restriction on transfer imposed or deemed to be imposed by this Agreement is valid and enforceable against the holder and any transferee of the holder in accordance with Section 13.1-649 of the Virginia Stock Corporation Act; and

(d) subject to Section 6(a) and Section 7(f) hereof, the Company and the Rights Agent may deem and treat the person in whose name a Rights Certificate (or, prior to the Distribution Date, the associated Common Stock certificate) is registered as the absolute owner thereof and of the Rights evidenced thereby (notwithstanding any notations of ownership or writing on the Rights Certificate or the associated Common Stock certificate made by anyone other than the Company or the Rights Agent) for all purposes whatsoever, and neither the Company, subject to the last sentence of Section 7(e) hereof, nor the Rights Agent shall be required to be affected by any notice to the contrary.

(e) notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, neither the Company nor the Rights Agent shall have any liability to any holder of a Right or other Person as a result of its inability to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement by reason of any preliminary or permanent injunction or other order, decree or ruling issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or by a governmental, regulatory or administrative agency or commission, or any statute, rule, regulation or executive order promulgated or enacted by any governmental authority, prohibiting or otherwise restraining performance of such obligation; provided, however, the Company must use its best efforts to have any such order, decree or ruling lifted or otherwise overturned as soon as possible.

Section 17. Rights Certificate Holder Not Deemed a Shareholder. No holder, as such, of any Rights Certificate shall be entitled to vote, receive dividends or be deemed for any purpose the holder of the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock or any other securities of the Company that may at any time be issuable on the exercise of the Rights represented thereby, nor shall anything contained herein or in any Rights Certificate be construed to confer upon the holder of any Rights Certificate, as such, any of the rights of a shareholder of the Company or any right to vote for the election of directors or upon any matter submitted to shareholders at any meeting thereof, or to give or withhold consent to any corporate action, or to receive notice of meetings or other actions affecting shareholders (except as provided in Section 25 hereof), or to receive dividends or subscription rights, or otherwise, until the Right or Rights evidenced by such Rights Certificate shall have been exercised in accordance with the provisions hereof.

Section 18. Concerning the Rights Agent.

(a) The Company agrees to pay to the Rights Agent reasonable compensation for all services rendered by it hereunder and, from time to time, on demand of the Rights Agent, its reasonable expenses and counsel fees and disbursements and other disbursements incurred in the administration and execution of this Agreement and the exercise and performance of its duties hereunder. The Company also agrees to indemnify the Rights Agent, its directors, officers, employees and agents for, and to hold each of them harmless against, any loss, liability, or expense incurred without gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct on the part of the Rights Agent or such Person, for anything done or omitted by the Rights Agent or such other indemnified parties in connection with the acceptance and administration of this Agreement or the exercise or performance of its duties hereunder, including, the costs and expenses of defending against any claim of liability in the premises.

(b) The Rights Agent shall be protected and shall incur no liability for or in respect of any action taken, suffered or omitted by it in connection with its administration of this Agreement or the exercise or performance of its duties hereunder in reliance upon any Rights Certificate or certificate for Common Stock or for other securities of the Company, instrument of assignment or transfer, power of attorney, endorsement, affidavit, letter, notice, direction, instruction, consent, certificate, statement, or other paper or document believed by it to be genuine and to be signed, executed and, where necessary, verified or acknowledged, by the proper Person or Persons.

(c) The indemnity provided in this Section 18 shall survive the expiration of the Rights and the termination of this Agreement.

Section 19. Merger or Consolidation or Change of Name of Rights Agent.

(a) Any corporation into which the Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent may be merged or with which it may be consolidated, or any corporation resulting from any merger or consolidation to which the Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent shall be a party, or any corporation succeeding to the corporate trust business of the Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent, shall be the successor to the Rights Agent under this Agreement without the execution or filing of any paper or any further act on the part of any of the parties hereto; provided, however, that such corporation would be eligible for appointment as a successor Rights Agent under the provisions of Section 21 hereof. In case at the time such successor Rights Agent shall succeed to the agency created by this Agreement, any of the Rights Certificates shall have been countersigned but not delivered, any such successor Rights Agent may adopt the counter-signature of a predecessor Rights Agent and deliver such Rights Certificates so countersigned; and in case at that time any of the Rights Certificates shall not have been countersigned, any successor Rights Agent may countersign such Rights Certificates either in the name of the predecessor or in the name of the successor Rights Agent; and in all such cases such Rights Certificates shall have the full force provided in the Rights Certificates and in this Agreement.

(b) In case at any time the name of the Rights Agent shall be changed and at such time any of the Rights Certificates shall have been countersigned but not delivered, the Rights Agent may adopt the countersignature under its prior name and deliver Rights Certificates so countersigned; and in case at that time any of the Rights Certificates shall not have been countersigned, the Rights Agent may countersign such Rights Certificates either in its prior name or in its changed name; and in all such cases such Rights Certificates shall have the full force provided in the Rights Certificates and in this Agreement.

Section 20. Duties of Rights Agent. The Rights Agent undertakes the duties and obligations imposed by this Agreement upon the following terms and conditions, by all of which the Company and the holders of Rights Certificates, by their acceptance thereof, shall be bound:

(a) The Rights Agent may consult with legal counsel (who may be legal counsel for the Company), and the advice or opinion of such counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection to the Rights Agent as to any action taken or omitted by it in good faith and in accordance with such advice or opinion.

(b) Whenever in the performance of its duties under this Agreement the Rights Agent shall deem it necessary or desirable that any fact or matter (including, without limitation, the identity of any Acquiring Person and the determination of "current market price") be proved or established by the Company prior to taking or suffering any action hereunder, such fact or matter (unless other evidence in respect thereof be herein specifically prescribed) may be deemed to be conclusively proved and established by a certificate signed by any person reasonably believed by the Rights Agent to be one of the Chairman of the Board, the President, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer or the Vice President Strategic Planning of the Company and delivered to the Rights Agent; and such certificate shall be full authorization to the Rights Agent for any action taken or suffered in good faith by it under the provisions of this Agreement in reliance upon such certificate.

(c) The Rights Agent shall be liable hereunder only for its own gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct.

(d) The Rights Agent shall not be liable for or by reason of any of the statements of fact or recitals contained in this Agreement or in the Rights Certificates or be required to verify the same (except as to its countersignature on such Rights Certificates), but all such statements and recitals are and shall be deemed to have been made by the Company only.

(e) The Rights Agent shall not be under any responsibility in respect of the validity of any provision of this Agreement or the execution and delivery hereof (except the due execution hereof by the Rights Agent) or in respect of the validity or execution of any Rights Certificate (except its countersignature thereof); nor shall it be responsible for any breach by the Company of any covenant or condition contained in this Agreement or in any Rights Certificate;

nor shall it be responsible for any adjustment required hereunder or responsible for the manner, method or amount of any such adjustment or the ascertaining of the existence of facts that would require any such adjustment (except with respect to the exercise of Rights evidenced by Rights Certificates after actual notice of any such adjustment); nor shall it by any act hereunder be deemed to make any representation or warranty as to the authorization or reservation of any shares of Common Stock to be issued pursuant to this Agreement or any Rights Certificate or as to whether any shares of Common Stock will, when so issued, be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

(f) The Company agrees that it will perform, execute, acknowledge and deliver or cause to be performed, executed, acknowledged and delivered all such further and other acts, instruments and assurances as may reasonably be required by the Rights Agent for the carrying out or performing by the Rights Agent of the provisions of this Agreement.

(g) The Rights Agent is hereby authorized and directed to accept instructions with respect to the performance of its duties hereunder from any person reasonably believed by the Rights Agent to be the Chairman of the Board, the President, any Senior Vice President, the Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, the Treasurer or any Assistant Treasurer of the Company, and to apply to such officers for advice or instructions in connection with its duties, and it shall not be liable for any action taken or suffered to be taken by it in good faith in accordance with instructions of any such officer or for any delay in acting while awaiting instructions. At any time the Rights Agent may apply to the Company for written instructions with respect to any matter arising in connection with the Rights Agent's duties and obligations arising under this Agreement. Such application by the Rights Agent for written instructions from the Company may, at the option of the Rights Agent, set forth in writing any action proposed to be taken or omitted by the Rights Agent with respect to its duties or obligations under this Agreement and the date on and/or after which such action shall be taken and the Rights Agent shall not be liable for any action taken or omitted in accordance with a proposal included in any such application on or after the date specified therein (which date shall be not less than one business day after the Company receives such application, without the Company's consent) unless, prior to taking or initiating any such action, the Rights Agent has received written instructions in response to such application specifying the action to be taken or omitted.

(h) The Rights Agent and any shareholder, director, officer or employee of the Rights Agent may buy, sell or deal in any of the Rights or other securities of the Company or become pecuniarily interested in any transaction in which the Company may be interested, or contract with or lend money to the Company or otherwise act as fully and freely as though it were not Rights Agent under this Agreement. Nothing herein shall preclude the Rights Agent from acting in any other capacity for the Company.

(i) The Rights Agent may execute and exercise any of the rights or powers hereby vested in it or perform any duty hereunder either itself or by or through its attorneys or agents, and the Rights Agent shall not be answerable or accountable for any act, default, neglect

or misconduct of any such attorneys or agents or for any loss to the Company resulting from any such act, default, neglect or misconduct; provided, however, that the Rights Agent was not grossly negligent in the selection and continued employment thereof.

(j) No provision of this Agreement shall require the Rights Agent to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of any of its duties hereunder or in the exercise of its rights if there shall be reasonable grounds for believing that repayment of such funds or adequate indemnification against such risk or liability is not reasonably assured to it.

(k) If, with respect to any Rights Certificate surrendered to the Rights Agent for exercise or transfer, the certificate attached to the form of assignment or form of election to purchase, as the case may be, has either not been completed or indicates an affirmative response to clause 1 and/or 2 thereof, the Rights Agent shall not take any further action with respect to such requested exercise of transfer without first consulting with the Company.

(l) The Rights Agent undertakes only the express duties and obligations imposed on it by this Agreement and no implied duties or obligations shall be read into this Agreement against the Rights Agent.

Section 21. Change of Rights Agent. The Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent may resign and be discharged from its duties under this Agreement upon 30 days notice in writing mailed to the Company, and to the transfer agent of the Common Stock, by registered or certified mail. The Company may remove the Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent upon 30 days notice in writing, mailed to the Rights Agent or successor Rights Agent, as the case may be, and to the transfer agent of the Common Stock, by registered or certified mail, and to the holders of the Rights Certificates by first-class mail. If the Rights Agent shall resign or be removed or shall otherwise become incapable of acting, the Company shall appoint a successor to the Rights Agent. If the Company shall fail to make such appointment within a period of 30 days after giving notice of such removal or after it has been notified in writing of such resignation or incapacity by the resigning or incapacitated Rights Agent or by the holder of a Rights Certificate (who shall, with such notice, submit his Rights Certificate for inspection by the Company), then any registered holder of any Rights Certificate may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a new Rights Agent. Any successor Rights Agent, whether appointed by the Company or by such a court, shall be a corporation organized and doing business under the laws of the United States or of the State of New York or of the Commonwealth of Virginia (or of any other state of the United States so long as such corporation is authorized to do business as a banking institution in the State of New York or the Commonwealth of Virginia), in good standing, having a principal office in the State of New York or the Commonwealth of Virginia, which is authorized under such laws to exercise corporate trust powers and is subject to supervision or examination by federal or state authority and which has at the time of its appointment as Rights Agent a combined capital and surplus of at least \$100,000,000. After appointment, the successor Rights Agent shall be vested with the same powers, rights, duties and

responsibilities as if it had been originally named as Rights Agent without further act or deed; but the predecessor Rights Agent shall deliver and transfer to the successor Rights Agent any property at the time held by it hereunder, and execute and deliver any further assurance, conveyance, act or deed necessary for the purpose. Not later than the effective date of any such appointment, the Company shall file notice thereof in writing with the predecessor Rights Agent and the transfer agent of the Common Stock, and mail a notice thereof in writing to the registered holders of the Rights Certificates. Failure to give any notice provided for in this Section 21, however, or any defect therein, shall not affect the legality or validity of the resignation or removal of the Rights Agent or the appointment of the successor Rights Agent, as the case may be.

Section 22. Issuance of New Rights Certificates. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Agreement or of the Rights to the contrary, the Company may, at its option, issue new Rights Certificates evidencing Rights in such form as may be approved by its Board of Directors to reflect any adjustment or change in the Purchase Price and the number or kind or class of shares or other securities or property purchasable under the Rights Certificates made in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. In addition, in connection with the issuance or sale of Common Stock following the Distribution Date and prior to the Expiration Date, the Company (a) shall, with respect to Common Stock so issued or sold pursuant to the exercise of stock options or under any employee benefit plan or arrangement (so long as such options, plan or arrangement were granted or established, as the case may be, prior to the Distribution Date), or upon the exercise, conversion or exchange of securities issued by the Company before the Distribution Date, and (b) may, in any other case, if deemed necessary or appropriate by the Board of Directors of the Company, issue Rights Certificates representing the appropriate number of Rights in connection with such issuance or sale; provided, however, that (i) no such Rights Certificate shall be issued if, and to the extent that, appropriate adjustment shall otherwise have been made in lieu of the issuance thereof and (ii) in the case of issuances described in clause (b) of this sentence, no such Rights Certificate shall be issued if, and to the extent that, the Company shall be advised by counsel that such issuance would create a significant risk of material adverse tax consequences to the Company or the Person to whom such Rights Certificate would be issued.

Section 23. Redemption and Termination.

(a) The Board of Directors of the Company may, at its option, at any time prior to the earlier of (A) the close of business on the tenth day following the Stock Acquisition Date (or, if the Stock Acquisition Date shall have occurred prior to the Record Date, the close of business on the tenth day following the Record Date), or (B) the Final Expiration Date, redeem all but not less than all the then outstanding Rights at a redemption price of \$.01 per Right, as such amount shall be appropriately adjusted to reflect any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction occurring after the date hereof (such redemption price being hereinafter referred to as the "Redemption Price"); and the Company may, at its option, pay the Redemption Price either in cash or securities or both having a current market price, as of a date determined by the Board of

Directors, of \$.01; provided, however, if the Board of Directors of the Company authorizes redemption of the Rights on or after the earlier of the Stock Acquisition Date and the Distribution Date, then there must be Continuing Directors then in office and such authorization shall require the concurrence of a majority of such Continuing Directors. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, the Rights shall not be exercisable after the first occurrence of a Triggering Event until such time as the Company's right of redemption hereunder is not exercisable.

(b) Immediately upon the action of the Board of Directors of the Company ordering the redemption of the Rights, evidence of which shall have been filed with the Rights Agent and without any further action and without any notice, the right to exercise the Rights shall terminate and the only right thereafter of the holders of Rights shall be to receive the Redemption Price for each Right so held. Promptly after the action of the Board of Directors ordering the redemption of the Rights, the Company shall give notice of such redemption to the Rights Agent and the holders of the then outstanding Rights by mailing such notice to all such holders at each holder's last address as it appears upon the registry books of the Rights Agent or, prior to the Distribution Date, on the registry books of the transfer agent for the Common Stock. Any notice that is mailed in the manner herein provided shall be deemed given, whether or not the holder receives the notice. Each such notice of redemption shall state the method by which the payment of the Redemption Price will be made.

Section 24. Exchange.

(a) If there are Continuing Directors then in office, the Board of Directors of the Company (with the concurrence of a majority of the Continuing Directors) may, at its option, at any time after any Person becomes an Acquiring Person, exchange all or part of the then outstanding and exercisable Rights (which shall not include Rights that have become void pursuant to the provisions of Section 7(e) hereof) for shares of Common Stock at an exchange ratio of one share of Common Stock per Right, appropriately adjusted to reflect any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction occurring after the date hereof (such exchange ratio being hereinafter referred to as the "Exchange Ratio"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company shall not be empowered to effect such exchange at any time after any Person (other than the Company, any Subsidiary of the Company, any employee benefit plan of the Company or any such Subsidiary, or any entity holding shares of Common Stock for or pursuant to the terms of any such plan), together with all Affiliates and Associates of such Person, becomes the Beneficial Owner of 50% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding.

(b) Immediately upon the action of the Board of Directors of the Company ordering the exchange of the Rights pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section 24 and without any further action and without any notice, the right to exercise the Rights will terminate and the only right thereafter of a holder of such Rights shall be to receive that number of shares of Common Stock equal to the number of Rights held by such holder multiplied by the Exchange Ratio. The Company shall promptly give public notice of any such exchange; provided, however, that the

failure to give, or any defect in, such notice shall not affect the validity of such exchange. Promptly after such action of the Board of Directors ordering the exchange of the Rights pursuant to Section 24(a), the Company shall give notice of exchange to the holders of such Rights by mailing such notice to all such holders at their last addresses as they appear upon the registry books of the Rights Agent. Any notice that is mailed in the manner herein provided shall be deemed given, whether or not the holder receives the notice. Each such notice of exchange will state the method by which the exchange of the shares of Common Stock for Rights will be effected.

(c) In the event that there shall not be sufficient shares of Common Stock authorized but unissued to permit the exchange in full of such Rights in accordance with this Section 24, the Company shall take all such action as may be necessary to authorize additional shares of Common Stock for issuance upon exchange of the Rights.

(d) The Company shall not be required to issue fractions of shares of Common Stock or to distribute certificates that evidence fractional shares of Common Stock. In lieu of such fractional shares of Common Stock, there shall be paid to the registered holders of the Right Certificates with regard to which such fractional shares of Common Stock would otherwise be issuable, an amount in cash equal to the same fraction of the current market value of a whole share of Common Stock. For the purposes of this subsection (d), the current market value of a whole share of Common Stock shall be the closing price of a share of Common Stock (as determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) for the Trading Day immediately prior to the Exchange Date.

Section 25. Notice of Certain Events.

(a) In case the Company shall propose, at any time after the Distribution Date, (i) to pay any dividend payable in stock of any class to the holders of Common Stock or to make any other distribution to the holders of Common Stock (other than a regular quarterly cash dividend of the Company in compliance with Section 13.1-653 of the Virginia Stock Corporation Act), or (ii) to offer to the holders of Common Stock rights or warrants to subscribe for or to purchase any additional shares of Common Stock or shares of stock of any class or any other securities, rights or options, or (iii) to effect any reclassification of its Common Stock (other than a reclassification involving only the subdivision of outstanding shares of Common Stock), or (iv) to effect any consolidation or merger into or with any other Person (other than a Subsidiary of the Company in a transaction that complies with Section 11(o) hereof), or to effect a statutory share exchange with any Person (other than a Subsidiary of the Company in a transaction that complies with Section 11(o) hereof), or to effect any sale or other transfer (or to permit one or more of its Subsidiaries to effect any sale or other transfer), in one transaction or a series of related transactions, of more than 50% of the assets or earning power of the Company and its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole) to any other Person or Persons (other than the Company and/or any of its Subsidiaries in one or more transactions each of which complies with Section 11(o) hereof), or (v) to effect the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, then, in each such case, the

Company shall give to each holder of a Rights Certificate, to the extent feasible and in accordance with Section 26 hereof, a notice of such proposed action, which shall specify the record date for the purposes of such stock dividend, distribution of rights or warrants, or the date on which such reclassification, consolidation, merger, statutory share exchange, sale, transfer, liquidation, dissolution, or winding up is to take place and the date of participation therein by the holders of the shares of Common Stock, if any such date is to be fixed, and such notice shall be so given in the case of any action covered by clause (i) or (ii) above at least 20 days prior to the record date for determining holders of the shares of Common Stock for purposes of such action, and in the case of any such other action, at least 20 days prior to the date of the taking of such proposed action or the date of participation therein by the holders of the shares of Common Stock, whichever shall be the earlier.

(b) In case a Section 11(a)(ii) Event shall occur, then (i) the Company shall as soon as practicable thereafter give to each holder of a Rights Certificate, to the extent feasible and in accordance with Section 26 hereof, a notice of the occurrence of such event, which shall specify the event and the consequences of the event to holders of Rights under Section 11(a)(ii) hereof, and (ii) all references in the preceding paragraph to Common Stock shall be deemed thereafter to refer, if appropriate, not only to Common Stock, but also to other securities, if appropriate.

Section 26. Notices. Notices or demands authorized by this Agreement to be given or made by the Rights Agent or by the holder of any Rights Certificate to or on the Company shall be sufficiently given or made if sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed (until another address is filed in writing with the Rights Agent) as follows:

Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated
 245 Main Street
 Bassett, Virginia 24055
 Attn: Chief Financial Officer

Subject to the provisions of Section 21, any notice or demand authorized by this Agreement to be given or made by the Company or by the holder of any Rights Certificate to or on the Rights Agent shall be sufficiently given or made if sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed (until another address is filed in writing with the Company) as follows:

First Union National Bank
 1525 West W. T. Harris Boulevard
 Charlotte, North Carolina 28288-1153, C3C
 Attention: Shareholder Services Group

Notices or demands authorized by this Agreement to be given or made by the Company or the Rights Agent to the holder of any Rights Certificate (or, if prior to the Distribution Date, to the holder of certificates representing shares of Common Stock) shall be sufficiently given or made if

sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to such holder at the address of such holder as shown on the registry books of the Company.

Section 27. Supplements and Amendments. Prior to the Distribution Date and subject to the penultimate sentence of this Section 27, the Company and the Rights Agent shall, if the Company so directs, supplement or amend any provision of this Agreement without the approval of any holders of certificates representing shares of Common Stock. From and after the Distribution Date and subject to the penultimate sentence of this Section 27, the Company and the Rights Agent shall, if the Company so directs, supplement or amend this Agreement without the approval of any holders of Rights Certificates in order (i) to cure any ambiguity, (ii) to correct or supplement any provision contained herein that may be defective or inconsistent with any other provisions herein, (iii) to shorten or lengthen any time period hereunder (which lengthening or shortening shall be effective only if there are Continuing Directors then in office and shall require the concurrence of a majority of such Continuing Directors), or (iv) to change or supplement the provisions hereunder in any manner that the Company may deem necessary or desirable and that shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of Rights Certificates (other than an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person); provided, this Agreement may not be supplemented or amended to lengthen, pursuant to clause (iii) of this sentence, (A) a time period relating to when the Rights may be redeemed at such time as the Rights are not then redeemable, or (B) any other time period unless such lengthening is for the purpose of protecting, enhancing or clarifying the rights of, and/or the benefits, to the holders of Rights (other than an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person). Upon the delivery of a certificate from an appropriate officer of the Company that states that the proposed supplement or amendment is in compliance with the terms of this Section 27, the Rights Agent shall execute such supplement or amendment. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, no supplement or amendment that changes the rights or duties of the Rights Agent under this Agreement shall be effective without the consent of the Rights Agent. No supplement or amendment shall be made that changes the Redemption Price, the Final Expiration Date, the Purchase Price or the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock for which a Right is exercisable. Prior to the Distribution Date, the interests of the holders of Rights shall be deemed coincident with the interests of the holders of Common Stock.

Section 28. Successors. All the covenants and provisions of this Agreement by or for the benefit of the Company or the Rights Agent shall bind and inure to the benefit of their respective successors and assigns hereunder.

Section 29. Determinations and Actions by the Board of Directors, etc. For all purposes of this Agreement, any calculation of the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding at any particular time, including for purposes of determining the particular percentage of such outstanding shares of Common Stock of which any Person is the Beneficial Owner, shall be made in accordance with the last sentence of Rule 13d-3(d)(1)(i) of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act. The Board of Directors of the Company (with, where specifically provided for herein, the concurrence of a majority of the Continuing Directors) shall

have the exclusive power and authority to administer this Agreement and to exercise all rights and powers specifically granted to the Board, or the Company, or as may be necessary or advisable in the administration of this Agreement, including, without limitation, the right and power to (i) interpret the provisions of this Agreement, and (ii) make all determinations deemed necessary or advisable for the administration of this Agreement (including a determination to redeem or not to redeem the Rights or to amend the Agreement). All such actions, calculations, interpretations and determinations (including, for purposes of clause (y) below, all omissions with respect to the foregoing) that are done or made by the Board (with, where specifically provided for herein, the concurrence of a majority of the Continuing Directors) in good faith, shall (x) be final, conclusive and binding on the Company, the Rights Agent, the holders of the Rights Certificates and all other parties, and (y) not subject the Board or the Continuing Directors to any liability to the holders of the Rights.

Section 30. Benefits of this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to give to any Person other than the Company, the Rights Agent and the registered holders of the Rights Certificates (and, prior to the Distribution Date, registered holders of the Common Stock) any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under this Agreement; but this Agreement shall be for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Company, the Rights Agent and the registered holders of the Rights Certificates (and, prior to the Distribution Date, registered holders of the Common Stock).

Section 31. Severability. If any term, provision, covenant or restriction of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction or other authority to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the terms, provisions, covenants and restrictions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated; provided, however, that notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, if any such term, provision, covenant or restriction is held by such court or authority to be invalid, void or unenforceable and the Board of Directors of the Company determines in its good faith judgment that severing the invalid language from this Agreement would adversely affect the purpose or effect of this Agreement, the right of redemption set forth in Section 23 hereof shall be reinstated and shall not expire until the close of business on the tenth day following the date of such determination by the Board of Directors.

Section 32. Governing Law. This Agreement, each Right and each Rights Certificate issued hereunder shall be deemed to be a contract made under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and for all purposes shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of such Commonwealth applicable to contracts made and to be performed entirely within such Commonwealth.

Section 33. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and each of such counterparts shall for all purposes be deemed to be an original, and all such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument.

Section 34. Descriptive Headings. Descriptive headings of the several Sections of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not control or affect the meaning or construction of any of the provisions hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed, all as of the day and year first above written.

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES,
INCORPORATED

By /s/ G. S. Elliott

Name: G. S. Elliott
Title: Vice President/Strategic Planning

FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK

By /s/ Patrick J. Edwards

Name: Patrick J. Edwards
Title: Vice President

[Form of Rights Certificate]

Certificate No. R-

_____ Rights

NOT EXERCISABLE [BEFORE THE DISTRIBUTION DATE (AS SUCH TERM IS DEFINED IN THE RIGHTS AGREEMENT) OR] (1) AFTER JUNE 23, 2008 OR EARLIER IF NOTICE OF REDEMPTION IS GIVEN. THE RIGHTS ARE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION AT \$.01 PER RIGHT ON THE TERMS SET FORTH IN THE RIGHTS AGREEMENT. UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, RIGHTS BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY AN ACQUIRING PERSON OR AN AFFILIATE OR ASSOCIATE OF AN ACQUIRING PERSON (AS SUCH TERMS ARE DEFINED IN THE RIGHTS AGREEMENT) AND ANY SUBSEQUENT HOLDER OF SUCH RIGHTS MAY BECOME NULL AND VOID. [THE RIGHTS REPRESENTED BY THIS RIGHTS CERTIFICATE ARE OR WERE BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY A PERSON WHO WAS OR BECAME AN ACQUIRING PERSON OR AN AFFILIATE OR ASSOCIATE OF AN ACQUIRING PERSON (AS SUCH TERMS ARE DEFINED IN THE RIGHTS AGREEMENT)]. ACCORDINGLY, THIS RIGHTS CERTIFICATE AND THE RIGHTS REPRESENTED HEREBY MAY BE OR BECOME NULL AND VOID IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SPECIFIED IN SECTION 7(e) OF THE RIGHTS AGREEMENT.] (2)

Rights Certificate

This certifies that _____, or registered assigns, is the registered holder of the number of Rights set forth above, each of which entitles the owner thereof, subject to the terms, provisions and conditions of the Rights Agreement dated as of June 23, 1998 (as amended from time to time, the "Rights Agreement"), between Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated, a Virginia corporation (the "Company"), and First Union National Bank (the "Rights Agent"), to purchase from the Company at any time after the Distribution Date (as such term is defined in the Rights Agreement) and prior to 5:00 P.M. (New York City time) on June 23, 2008 (the "Final Expiration Date") at the principal office or offices of the Rights Agent

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(1) This portion of the legend in brackets shall be inserted only upon the Rights Certificates delivered to the Rights Agent prior to the Distribution Date.

(2) This portion of the legend in brackets shall be inserted only if applicable and shall replace the preceding sentence.

designated for such purpose, or its successors as Rights Agents, one one-half of a fully paid nonassessable share of common stock, par value \$5.00 per share (the "Common Stock"), of the Company, at a purchase price of \$___ per one one-half of a share of Common Stock (the "Purchase Price"), upon presentation and surrender of this Rights Certificate with the Form of Election to Purchase set forth on the reverse hereof and the Certificate contained therein both duly executed. The Purchase Price shall be paid in cash or by certified bank check or bank draft payable to the order of the Company. The number of Rights evidenced by this Rights Certificate (and the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock which may be purchased upon exercise thereof) set forth above, and the Purchase Price per one one-half of a share of Common Stock set forth above, are the number of Rights, number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock, and Purchase Price as of _____, _____, based on the shares of Common Stock as constituted at such date.

Upon the occurrence of a Section 11(a)(ii) Event (as such term is defined in the Rights Agreement), if the Rights evidenced by this Rights Certificate are beneficially owned by (i) an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of any such Acquiring Person (as such terms are defined in the Rights Agreement), (ii) a transferee of any such Acquiring Person, Associate or Affiliate, or (iii) under certain circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement, a transferee of a person who, concurrently with or after such transfer, became an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person, such Rights shall become null and void and no holder hereof shall have any right with respect to such Rights from and after the occurrence of such Section 11(a)(ii) Event.

As provided in the Rights Agreement, the Purchase Price, the number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock and the kind of securities which may be purchased upon the exercise of the Rights evidenced by this Rights Certificate are subject to modification and adjustment upon the happening of certain events, including any Triggering Event (as such term is defined in the Rights Agreement).

This Rights Certificate is subject to all of the terms, provisions and conditions of the Rights Agreement, which terms, provisions and conditions are hereby incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof and to which Rights Agreement reference is hereby made for a full description of the rights, limitations of rights, obligations, duties and immunities hereunder of the Rights Agent, the Company and the holders of the Rights Certificates, which limitations of rights include the temporary suspension of the exercisability of such Rights, under the specific circumstances set forth in the Rights Agreement. Copies of the Rights Agreement are on file at the principal offices of the Company and are also available upon written request to the Company.

This Rights Certificate, with or without other Rights Certificates, upon surrender at the office or offices of the Rights Agent designated for such purpose, may be exchanged for another Rights Certificate or Rights Certificates of like tenor and date evidencing Rights entitling the holder to purchase a like aggregate number of one one-halves of a share of Common Stock as the Rights evidenced by the Rights Certificate or Rights Certificates surrendered shall have entitled such holder to purchase. If this Rights Certificate shall be

exercised in part, the holder shall be entitled to receive upon surrender hereof another Rights Certificate or Rights Certificates for the number of whole Rights not exercised.

Subject to the provisions of the Rights Agreement, the Rights evidenced by this Certificate may be redeemed by the Company at its option (under certain circumstances, with the concurrence of a majority of the Continuing Directors (as such term is defined in the Rights Agreement)) at a redemption price of \$.01 per Right, payable, at the option of the Company, in cash or securities, at any time prior to the earlier of the close of business on (i) the tenth day (as such time period may be extended or shortened pursuant to the Rights Agreement) following the Stock Acquisition Date (as such term is defined in the Rights Agreement), or (ii) the Final Expiration Date.

No fractional shares of Common Stock will be issued upon the exercise of any Right or Rights evidenced hereby, but in lieu thereof a cash payment will be made, as provided in the Rights Agreement.

No holder of this Rights Certificate shall be entitled to vote or receive dividends or be deemed for any purpose the holder of the shares of Common Stock or of any other securities of the Company which may at any time be issuable on the exercise hereof, nor shall anything contained in the Rights Agreement or herein be construed to confer upon the holder hereof, as such, any of the rights of a shareholder of the Company or any right to vote for the election of directors or upon any matter submitted to shareholders at any meeting thereof, or to give or withhold consent to any corporate action, or, to receive notice of meetings or other actions affecting shareholders (except as provided in the Rights Agreement), or to receive dividends or subscription rights, or otherwise, until the Right or Rights evidenced by this Rights Certificate shall have been exercised as provided in the Rights Agreement.

This Rights Certificate shall not be valid or obligatory for any purpose until it shall have been countersigned by the Rights Agent.

WITNESS the facsimile signatures of the proper officers of the Company and its corporate seal. Dated as of: _____, [19][20]__.

ATTEST:

BASSETT FURNITURE
INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Title:

By: _____
Title:

Countersigned:

FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK

By _____
Authorized Signature

[Form of Reverse Side of Rights Certificate]

FORM OF ASSIGNMENT

(To be executed by the registered holder if such holder desires to transfer the Rights Certificate.)

FOR VALUE RECEIVED _____ hereby sells, assigns and transfers unto

(Please print name and address of transferee)

this Rights Certificate, together with all right, title and interest therein, and does hereby irrevocably constitute and appoint _____ Attorney, to transfer the within-named Rights Certificate on the books of the within-named Company, with full power of substitution.

Dated: _____ [19][20]__ -----
Signature

Signature Guaranteed:

Signatures must be guaranteed by a member firm of a registered national securities exchange, a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or a commercial bank or trust company having an office or correspondent in the United States.

Certificate

The undersigned hereby certifies by checking the appropriate boxes that:

(1) after due inquiry and to the best knowledge of the undersigned, this Rights Certificate [] is [] is not being sold, assigned or transferred by or on behalf of a Person who is or will become as a result of the transfer of Common Stock related to the Rights, directly or indirectly, an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of any such Acquiring Person (as such terms are defined pursuant to the Rights Agreement);

(2) after due inquiry and to the best knowledge of the undersigned, he [] did [] did not acquire the Rights evidenced by this Rights Certificate from any Person who is, was or subsequently became an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person.

Dated: _____, [19][20]__

Signature

Signature Guaranteed:

Notices

The signatures to the foregoing Assignment and Certificate must correspond to the name as written upon the face of this Rights Certificate in every particular, without alteration or enlargement or any change whatsoever.

[Form of Reverse Side of Rights Certificate -- continued]

FORM OF ELECTION TO PURCHASE

(To be executed if the registered holder desires to exercise Rights represented by the Rights Certificate.)

To: Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated

The undersigned hereby irrevocably elects to exercise _____ Rights represented by this Rights Certificate to purchase the Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of the Rights (or such other securities of the Company or of any other person which may be issuable upon the exercise of the Rights) and requests that certificates for such shares be issued in the name of and delivered to:

Please insert social security or other identifying number

(Please print name and address)

If such number of Rights shall not be all the Rights evidenced by this Rights Certificate, a new Rights Certificate for the balance of such Rights shall be registered in the name of and delivered to:

Please insert social security or other identifying number

(Please print name and address)

Dated: _____, [19][20]__

Signature

(Signature must conform in all respects to name of the holder as specified on the face of this Rights Certificate in every particular, without alteration or enlargement or any change whatsoever)

Signature Guaranteed:

Signatures must be guaranteed by a member firm of a registered national securities exchange, a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., or a commercial bank or trust company having an office or correspondent in the United States.

Dated: _____, [19][20]__ -----
Signature

Certificate

The undersigned hereby certifies by checking the appropriate boxes that:

(1) the Rights evidenced by this Rights Certificate [] are [] are not being exercised by or on behalf of a Person who is or was an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person (as such terms are defined in the Rights Agreement);

(2) after due inquiry and to the best knowledge of the undersigned, he [] did [] did not acquire the Rights evidenced by this Rights Certificate from any Person who is, was or subsequently became an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person.

Dated: _____, [19][20]__ -----
Signature

Notice

The signatures to the foregoing Election to Purchase and Certificate must correspond to the name as written upon the face of this Rights Certificate in every particular, without alteration or enlargement or any change whatsoever.

EXHIBIT B

SUMMARY OF RIGHTS TO PURCHASE COMMON STOCK

On June 23, 1998, the Board of Directors of Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated, a Virginia corporation (the "Company"), declared a dividend of one common stock purchase right (a "Right") for each outstanding share of common stock, \$5.00 par value (the "Common Stock"), of the Company. The distribution is payable on July 6, 1998, to shareholders of record at the close of business on that date.

Each Right will entitle the holder to purchase from the Company one one-half of a share of the Company's Common Stock at an initial price of \$60 per one one-half of a share of Common Stock (the "Purchase Price"). The description and terms of the Rights are set forth in the Rights Agreement dated as of June 23, 1998 (the "Rights Agreement"), between the Company and First Union National Bank, as rights agent (the "Rights Agent").

The Rights are not exercisable, and are not transferable apart from the Common Stock, until the "Distribution Date" which is the earlier of (i) the tenth day after a public announcement that a Person (which term as used in this summary means an individual or any business entity, other than the Company and certain related entities) or group of affiliated or associated Persons has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of 20% or more of the outstanding Common Stock, thereby becoming an "Acquiring Person," or (ii) the tenth business day after the date of the commencement of, or first public announcement of the intent of any Person to commence, a tender or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in such Person becoming an Acquiring Person.

After the Distribution Date, the Rights are exercisable and separately transferable.

Before the Distribution Date, a holder of Common Stock will be the owner of one Right for each share of Common Stock he holds, but the Rights will be evidenced by one or more certificates (a "Rights Certificate" or the "Rights Certificates") held by the Rights Agent. After the Distribution Date, separate Rights Certificates will be mailed to holders of record of the Common Stock at the close of business on the Distribution Date.

Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a shareholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends. While the distribution of the Rights will not be taxable to shareholders or to the Company, shareholders may, depending upon the circumstances, recognize taxable income in the event that the Rights become exercisable. The Purchase Price payable, and the number of shares of Common Stock or other securities or property issuable upon exercise of the Rights, as well as the number of Rights outstanding, are subject to adjustment from time to time upon the occurrence of certain dilutive events.

Any additional shares of Common Stock issued before the Distribution Date will also have Rights issued in respect thereof and shares of Common Stock issued after the Distribution Date will be issued with Rights if such shares are issued in respect of stock options, employee benefit plans or convertible securities which were granted, established or issued before the Distribution Date.

The Rights will expire at the close of business on June 23, 2008, unless earlier exercised or redeemed by the Company.

No fractional shares of Common Stock will be issued when a Right is exercised and, in lieu thereof, an adjustment in cash will be made based on the market price of the Common Stock on the last trading date prior to the date of exercise.

Each holder of a Right will have the right to receive, upon exercise of a Right, Common Stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of the Company) having a value equal to two times the purchase price for the Rights then in effect if a Person or group of affiliated or associated Persons acquires beneficial ownership of 20% or more of the outstanding Common Stock (which event is popularly termed a flip-in event). Notwithstanding the foregoing, following the occurrence of the event set forth in this paragraph, all Rights that are, or (under certain circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement) were, beneficially owned by any Acquiring Person will be null and void.

For example, if the Purchase Price is \$60 per Right, each Right not owned by an Acquiring Person (or certain related parties) following an event described in the preceding paragraph would entitle its holder to purchase \$120 worth of Common Stock (or other securities or assets, as noted above) for \$60. Assuming that the Common Stock had a per share price of \$30 at such time, the holder of each valid Right would be entitled to purchase four shares of Common Stock for \$60.

Each holder of a Right will have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock (or equivalent securities) of the acquiring entity having a value equal to two times the Purchase Price then in effect, if after it is announced that a Person or group has become an Acquiring Person, (i) the Company is acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction and is not the surviving or continuing corporation, (ii) the Company is the surviving or continuing corporation in a merger or other business combination and the Common Stock is changed or exchanged for securities of another Person, (iii) the Company is party to a statutory share exchange with any other Person after which the Company becomes a Subsidiary of any other Person or (iv) 50% or more of the assets or earning power of the Company is sold or transferred (each of which events is popularly termed a flip-over event).

If the Company is not able to issue the Common Stock because of the absence of any necessary regulatory approval, restrictions contained in the Company's Articles of Incorporation or for any other reason, a person exercising Rights will be entitled to receive a combination of

cash or property or other securities having a value equal to the value of the Common Stock which would otherwise have been issued upon exercise of the Rights. For Rights exercised before any Triggering Event occurs, the Company may defer issuance of the Common Stock for up to 90 days to obtain any necessary regulatory approval. If unable to obtain such approval, the Company may substitute cash, assets or other property for the Common Stock which would otherwise have been issued in accordance with the Rights Agreement.

At any time until ten days after the announcement that a Person or group has become an Acquiring Person, the Company may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$.01 per Right, payable in cash or securities. Upon certain circumstances set forth in the Rights Agreement, the decision to redeem will require the concurrence of a majority of the Continuing Directors. When the Board of Directors (with, where required, the concurrence of a majority of Continuing Directors) orders a redemption of the Rights, the Rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the redemption price. The Continuing Directors are (i) members of the Board who were also directors on the earlier of the announcement that a Person or group has become an Acquiring Person and the Distribution Date or (ii) directors elected or nominated by a majority of the Continuing Directors in office on the date of such election or nomination.

After a Person becomes an Acquiring Person and before the Acquiring Person acquires 50% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock, the Company, with the concurrence of a majority of Continuing Directors, may require a holder to exchange all or any portion of his Rights for one share of Common Stock per Right.

Certain provisions relating to the principal economic terms of the Rights may not be amended at any time. Other provisions of the Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board of Directors of the Company prior to the Distribution Date. Thereafter these other provisions of the Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board (under certain circumstances only with the concurrence of a majority of the Continuing Directors) in order to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency, to make changes which do not adversely affect the interests of holders of Rights (excluding the interests of any Acquiring Person), or to shorten or lengthen any time period under the Rights Agreement (including the time period for redeeming the Rights); provided, however, that no amendment to adjust the time period governing redemption may be made if the Rights are not redeemable at the time of the amendment; and that the Board may not lengthen any other time period except for the purpose of protecting or clarifying the rights of the Rights holders (excluding any Acquiring Person or its Affiliates or Associates).

A copy of the Rights Agreement is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an Exhibit to a Registration Statement of the Company on Form 8-A. A copy of the Rights Agreement is available free of charge from the Company upon written request therefor. This summary description of the Rights does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Rights Agreement, which is incorporated herein by reference.