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(54) Title: DOWNHOLE TOOL WITH LOAD DIVERTING SYSTEM AND METHOD

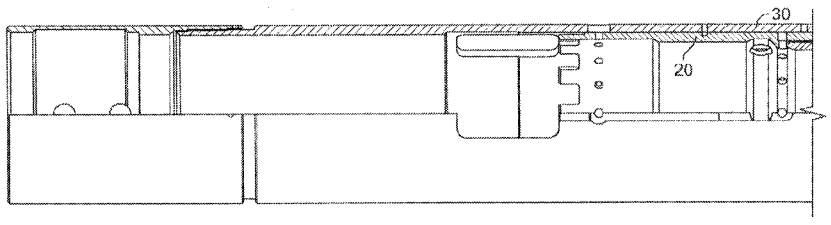


FIG. 2A

(57) Abstract: A downhole tool (10) for providing a seal downhole within a wellbore for reducing loading experienced by a sealing member (250) of the downhole tool is disclosed. The downhole tool (10) may include a pair of directional locking members (50, 290), at least one of which is operable to transfer a loading experienced by the downhole tool (10) through rigid components of the downhole tool, thereby bypassing the sealing member (250).

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