Supplement to the

Summary Prospectus, Prospectus and
Statement of Additional Information dated August 31, 2026, of the
Dan IVES Wedbush AI Power & Infrastructure ETF (the "Fund")

September 29, 2026

Capitalized terms not defined herein have the same meaning as in the Fund's prospectus.

Yorkville & Ives Co., LLC has received the necessary regulatory approvals for Dan Ives, Partner and Senior Managing Director, Analyst, to resume compiling the AI Power Report, which has been licensed for use with respect to the Fund. The Equity Research team of Wedbush Securities Inc. will no longer play a role in compiling the AI Power Report. Accordingly, the Prospectus is revised as follows.

The second paragraph of the section of the Prospectus titled "Principal Investment Strategies of the Fund" is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

The Index is comprised exclusively of equity securities (or corresponding American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs")) of companies included in the Dan Ives AI Power & Infrastructure 30 Research Report (the "AI Power Report"). The AI Power Report was originally created by Dan Ives while he was employed at Wedbush Securities Inc. ("Wedbush"). Dan Ives continues to compile the AI Power Report in his role as Partner and Senior Managing Director, Analyst at Yorkville Ives & Co., LLC. The AI Power Report is a publicly available research report, comprised of companies that have been identified as contributing to the infrastructure supporting artificial intelligence ("AI") through the development, production or operation of power generation and fuel supply technologies (i.e., nuclear baseload, natural gas generation and fuel transmission), grid infrastructure and data centers (being able to locate and operate data centers where there is reliable access to power), equipment and power management (managing power, cooling and equipment to run AI data centers) and materials and enabling technologies (materials and technologies that facilitate the operation of AI data centers and the supply of power to those centers). The AI Power Report is released on a semi-annual basis, but may be released more frequently in the event there are material developments in any of the sectors from which companies included in the AI Power Report are identified.

The fifth paragraph of the section of the Prospectus titled "DISCLAIMERS AND LICENSES" is hereby deleted and replaced with the following:

Dan Ives is a Partner and Senior Managing Director, Analyst at Yorkville & Ives Co., LLC ("Yorkville"). The Adviser has entered into a Research License and Coordination Agreement (the "License Agreement") with Yorkville, pursuant to which Yorkville has agreed to license to the Adviser the use of the AI Power Report. In addition, the Adviser has licensed the use of the name "Dan Ives" and "Ives," pursuant to a Sublicense Agreement dated June 2, 2025, as amended, between Wedbush and the Adviser (the "Sub-License Agreement"). Under the License Agreement, the Adviser will pay Yorkville a fee at a fixed rate based on a percentage of the Fund's assets. Under the Sub-License Agreement, the Adviser will pay Wedbush a fee at a fixed rate based on a percentage of the Fund's assets. Dan Ives will not receive separate compensation under either the License Agreement or the Sub-License Agreement. None of Wedbush, Yorkville or Dan Ives: (i) is affiliated with the Distributor, Solactive AG or any of their respective affiliates; (ii) makes investment decisions, provides investment advice, or otherwise acts in the capacity of an investment adviser to the Fund; or (iii) is involved in the maintenance of the Index or acts in the capacity of an index provider.

Please retain this Supplement with your Summary Prospectus, Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information for future reference.

Wedbush Series Trust

Dan IVES Wedbush AI Power & Infrastructure ETF (IVEP)

Listed on NYSE ARCA

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

August 31, 2026

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a Prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the current Prospectus, as may be revised from time to time ("Prospectus"), for the exchange traded fund ("ETF") listed above (the "Fund"), a series of the Wedbush Series Trust (the "Trust"). The current Prospectus for the Fund is dated August 31, 2026. Capitalized terms used herein that are not defined have the same meaning as in the Prospectus, unless otherwise noted. A copy of the Prospectus for the Fund may be obtained, without charge, by calling (866) 597-9452, visiting *www.wedbushfunds.com/funds/ivep*, or writing to Wedbush Series Trust, 225 S Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST AND THE FUND	1
INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS	1
GENERAL RISKS	1
NON-DIVERSIFICATION	3
SPECIFIC INVESTMENT STRATEGIES	4
INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS	15
PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS DISCLOSURE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	16
CONTINUOUS OFFERING	17
MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST	17
INVESTMENT ADVISER	23
THE SUB-ADMINISTRATOR, TRANSFER AGENT, AND CUSTODIAN	26
THE DISTRIBUTOR	26
LEGAL COUNSEL	28
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	28
BROKERAGE TRANSACTIONS	28
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRUST	30
LIMITATION OF TRUSTEES' LIABILITY	31
PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES IN CREATION UNITS	31
DETERMINATION OF NAV	37
DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS	38
U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES	38
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	46
APPENDIX A	A-1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST AND THE FUND

The Trust was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on November 13, 2024 and is authorized to issue multiple series or portfolios. The Trust is an open-end, non-diversified, management investment company, registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The offering of the Trust's shares is registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). The Fund's ticker symbol is IVEP. This SAI relates only to the Fund.

The Fund described in this SAI seeks to track the total return performance, before fees and expenses, of the Solactive Wedbush AI Power & Infrastructure Index (the "Index").

Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser") serves as the investment adviser. Foreside Fund Services, LLC is the distributor (the "Distributor") of the shares of the Fund (the "Shares").

The Fund issues and redeems Shares at net asset value per share ("NAV") only in large blocks of Shares ("Creation Units" or "Creation Unit Aggregations"). Currently, Creation Units generally consist of 20,000 Shares, though these amounts may change from time to time. These transactions are usually in exchange for a basket of securities and an amount of cash. As a practical matter, only institutions or large investors (authorized participants ("APs")) who have entered into agreements with the Trust's distributor can purchase or redeem Creation Units. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, Shares of the Fund are not redeemable securities.

Shares of the Fund are listed on a national securities exchange, NYSE Arca (the "Exchange"), as indicated on the cover of this SAI, and trade throughout the day on the Exchange and other secondary markets at market prices that may differ from NAV. As in the case of other publicly traded securities, brokers' commissions on transactions will be based on negotiated commission rates at customary levels.

The Trust reserves the right to adjust the prices of Shares in the future to maintain convenient trading ranges for investors. Any adjustments would be accomplished through stock splits or reverse stock splits, which would have no effect on the net assets of the Fund.

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

The Fund's investment objective, principal investment strategies, and associated risks are described in the Fund's Prospectus. The sections below supplement these principal investment strategies and risks and describe the Fund's additional investment policies and the different types of investments that may be made by the Fund as a part of its non-principal investment strategies. With respect to the Fund's investments, unless otherwise noted, if a percentage limitation on investment is adhered to at the time of investment or contract, a subsequent increase or decrease as a result of market movement or redemption will not result in a violation of such investment limitation.

The Fund intends to qualify each year as a regulated investment company (a "RIC") under subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), so that it will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on income and gains that are timely distributed to Fund shareholders. The Fund will invest its assets, and otherwise conduct its operations, in a manner that is intended to satisfy the qualifying income, diversification, and distribution requirements necessary to establish and maintain RIC qualification under subchapter M of the Code.

GENERAL RISKS

An investment in the Fund should be made with an understanding that the value of the Fund's portfolio securities may fluctuate in accordance with changes in the financial condition of an issuer or counterparty, changes in specific economic or political conditions that affect a particular security or issuer, and changes in general economic or political conditions. An investor in the Fund could lose money over short or long periods of time.

An investment in the Fund should also be made with an understanding of the risks inherent in an investment in equity securities, including the risk that the financial condition of issuers may become impaired or that the general condition of the stock market may deteriorate (either of which may cause a decrease in the value of the Fund's portfolio securities and therefore a decrease in the value of Shares of the Fund). Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence and perceptions change. These investor perceptions are based on various and unpredictable factors, including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary, and fiscal policies; inflation and interest rates; economic expansion or contraction; and global or regional political, economic, or banking crises.

Holders of common stocks incur more risk than holders of preferred stocks and debt obligations because common stockholders, as owners of the issuer, generally have inferior rights to receive payments from the issuer in comparison with the rights of creditors or holders of debt obligations or preferred stocks. Further, unlike debt securities, which typically have a stated principal amount payable at maturity (whose value, however, is subject to market fluctuations prior thereto), or preferred stocks, which typically have a liquidation preference and which may have stated optional or mandatory redemption provisions, common stocks have neither a fixed principal amount nor a maturity. Common stock values are subject to market fluctuations as long as the common stock remains outstanding.

Although all of the equity securities in the Index are listed on major U.S. and non-U.S. stock exchanges, there can be no guarantee that a liquid market for such securities will be maintained. The existence of a liquid trading market for certain securities may depend on whether dealers will make a market in such securities. There can be no assurance that a market will be made or maintained or that any such market will be or remain liquid. The price at which securities may be sold and the value of the Fund's Shares will be adversely affected if trading markets for the Fund's portfolio securities are limited or absent, or if bid/ask spreads are wide.

Recent Events. Beginning in the first quarter of 2020, financial markets in the United States and around the world experienced extreme and, in many cases, unprecedented volatility and severe losses due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, a novel coronavirus. The pandemic resulted in a wide range of social and economic disruptions, including closed borders, voluntary or compelled quarantines of large populations, stressed healthcare systems, reduced or prohibited domestic or international travel, and supply chain disruptions affecting the United States and many other countries. Some sectors of the economy and individual issuers experienced particularly large losses as a result of these disruptions. Although the immediate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have dissipated, global markets and economies continue to contend with the ongoing and long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant market volatility and economic disruptions. It is unknown how long events related to the pandemic will persist, whether they will reoccur in the future, whether efforts to support the economy and financial markets will be successful, and what additional implications may follow from the pandemic. The impact of these events and other epidemics or pandemics in the future could adversely affect Fund performance.

Geopolitical tensions introduce uncertainty into global markets. Russia's military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the resulting responses by the United States and other countries, and the potential for wider conflict could increase volatility and uncertainty in the financial markets and adversely affect regional and global economies. The United States and other countries have imposed broad-ranging economic sanctions on Russia, certain Russian individuals, banking entities and corporations, and Belarus as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and may impose sanctions on other countries that provide military or economic support to Russia. The sanctions restrict companies from doing business with Russia and Russian companies, prohibit transactions with the Russian central bank, and other key Russian financial institutions and entities, ban Russian airlines and ships from using many other countries' airspace and ports, respectively, and place a freeze on certain Russian assets. The sanctions also removed some Russian banks from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT), the electronic network that connects banks globally to facilitate cross-border payments. In addition, the United States and the United Kingdom have banned oil and other energy imports from Russia, and the European Union has banned most Russian crude oil imports and refined petroleum products, with limited exceptions. The extent and duration of Russia's military actions and the repercussions of such actions (including any retaliatory actions or countermeasures that may be taken by those subject to sanctions, including cyberattacks) are impossible to predict, but could result in significant market disruptions, including in certain industries or sectors, such as the oil and natural gas markets, and may negatively affect global supply chains, inflation, and global growth. These and any related events could significantly impact the Fund's performance and the value of an investment in the Fund, even if the Fund does not have direct exposure to Russian issuers or issuers in other countries affected by the invasion.

Similarly, escalations beginning in October 2023 of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict present a potential risk for wider conflict that could negatively affect financial markets due to a myriad of interconnected factors. The conflict could disrupt regional trade and supply chains, potentially affecting U.S. businesses with exposure to the region. For example, the Red Sea crisis has led to disruption of international maritime trade and the global supply chain, which has had a direct impact on countries and regions that rely on such routes for the supply of energy and/or food and companies that typically ship goods or receive components by way of the Red Sea. Additionally, the Middle East plays a pivotal role in the global energy sector, and prolonged instability could impact oil prices, leading to increased costs for businesses and consumers. The armed conflict involving Iran that commenced in 2026 has introduced significant geopolitical uncertainty across the Middle East and broader global markets. Military hostilities, the threat

of escalation involving regional or global powers, and the disruption of critical trade routes — including the Strait of Hormuz — may materially and adversely affect the companies in which the Fund invests, the industries in which those companies operate, and the broader macroeconomic environment in which the Fund conducts its investment activities. There can be no assurance that such hostilities will not escalate, broaden in geographic scope, or persist for an extended period, any of which could have a prolonged adverse effect on global financial markets and the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

The U.S.'s diplomatic ties and commitments in the region mean that it might become even more directly involved, either diplomatically or militarily, diverting attention and resources. These and any related events could significantly impact the Fund's performance and the value of an investment in the Fund, even if the Fund does not have direct exposure.

In addition, the foreign policy agenda of the U.S. administration, which includes the imposition of significant tariffs on foreign countries, including China and long-time U.S. allies, may have a substantial impact on both the U.S. and global economy. In particular, the imposition of increased tariffs by the United States could lead to retaliatory tariffs by foreign countries, increased and prolonged market volatility, and sector-specific downturns in industries reliant on international trade. These efforts may adversely affect the growth of the global economy and, in turn, have a negative impact on the Fund.

A discussion of some of the other risks associated with investments in the Fund is contained in the Fund's Prospectus.

Absence of a Prior Active Market. Although the Fund's Shares are listed on a national securities exchange, there can be no assurance that an active trading market will be maintained for Fund Shares. There can be no assurance that the Fund will grow to or maintain an economically viable size, in which case the Fund may experience greater tracking error to its Index than it otherwise would at higher asset levels or the Fund may ultimately liquidate.

Index

The Index is constructed and maintained by Solactive AG (the "Index Provider"). The Index was created by Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser") together with the Index Provider, and is licensed for use by the Fund.

NON-DIVERSIFICATION

The Fund is classified as a non-diversified investment company under the 1940 Act. A "non-diversified" classification means that the Fund is not limited by the 1940 Act with regard to the percentage of its assets that may be invested in the securities of a single issuer. This means that the Fund may invest a greater portion of its assets in the securities of a single issuer or a small number of issuers than if it was a diversified fund. The securities of a particular issuer may constitute a greater portion of the Index and, therefore, those securities may constitute a greater portion of the Fund's portfolio. This may have an adverse effect on the Fund's performance or subject the Fund's Shares to greater price volatility than more diversified investment companies. Moreover, in pursuing its objective, the Fund may hold the securities of a single issuer in an amount exceeding 10% of the value of the outstanding securities of the issuer, subject to restrictions imposed by the Code. In particular, as the Fund's size grows and its assets increase, it will be more likely to hold more than 10% of the securities of a single issuer if the issuer has a relatively small public float as compared to other components in the Index.

Although the Fund is non-diversified for purposes of the 1940 Act, the Fund intends to maintain the required level of diversification and otherwise conduct its operations so as to qualify as a RIC for purposes of the Code, and to relieve the Fund of any liability for U.S. federal income tax to the extent that its earnings are distributed to shareholders. Compliance with the diversification requirements of the Code may limit the investment flexibility of the Fund and may make it less likely that the Fund will meet its investment objectives. See "U.S. Federal Income Taxes" in this SAI for further discussion.

Cyber Security Risk

As the use of technology has become more prevalent in the course of business, the Fund may be more susceptible to operational and financial risks associated with cyber security, including: theft, loss, misuse, improper release, corruption and destruction of, or unauthorized access to, confidential or highly restricted data relating to the Fund and its shareholders; and compromises or failures to systems, networks, devices, and applications relating to the operations

of the Fund and its service providers. Cyber security risks may result in financial losses to the Fund and its shareholders; the inability of the Fund to transact business with its shareholders; delays or mistakes in the calculation of the Fund's NAV or other materials provided to shareholders; the inability to process transactions with shareholders or other parties; violations of privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties and reputational damage; and compliance and remediation costs, legal fees, and other expenses. The Fund's service providers (including, but not limited to, its investment adviser, its sub-adviser, administrator, sub-administrator transfer agent, and custodian or their agents), financial intermediaries, companies in which the Fund invests, and parties with which the Fund engages in portfolio or other transactions also may be adversely impacted by cyber security risks in their own businesses, which could result in losses to the Fund or its shareholders. While measures have been developed which are designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security, there is no guarantee that those measures will be effective, particularly since the Fund does not directly control the cyber security defenses or plans of its service providers, financial intermediaries, and companies in which it invests or with which it does business.

SPECIFIC INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

The following are descriptions of the Fund's permitted investments and investment practices and the associated risk factors. The Fund will only invest in any of the following instruments or engage in any of the following investment practices if such investment or activity is consistent with the Fund's investment objective and permitted by the Fund's stated investment policies.

BORROWING. While the Fund does not intend to borrow for investment purposes, the Fund reserves the right to do so. Borrowing for investment purposes is a form of leverage. Leveraging investments, by purchasing securities with borrowed money, is a speculative technique that increases investment risk, but also increases investment opportunity. The Fund also may enter into certain transactions, including reverse repurchase agreements, which can be viewed as constituting a form of leveraging by the Fund. Leveraging will exaggerate the effect on the NAV of the Fund of any increase or decrease in the market value of the Fund's portfolio. Because substantially all of the Fund's assets will fluctuate in value, whereas the interest obligations on borrowings may be fixed, the NAV of the Fund will increase more when the Fund's portfolio assets increase in value and decrease more when the Fund's portfolio assets decrease in value than would otherwise be the case. Moreover, interest costs on borrowings may fluctuate with changing market rates of interest and may partially offset or exceed the returns on the borrowed funds. Under adverse conditions, the Fund might have to sell portfolio securities to meet interest or principal payments at a time when investment considerations would not favor such sales. Generally, the Fund would use this form of leverage during periods when the Adviser believes that the Fund's investment objective would be furthered.

The Fund also may borrow money to facilitate management of the Fund's portfolio by enabling the Fund to meet redemption requests when the liquidation of portfolio instruments would be inconvenient or disadvantageous. Such borrowing is not for investment purposes and will be repaid by the Fund promptly. As required by the 1940 Act, the Fund must maintain continuous asset coverage (total assets, including assets acquired with borrowed funds, less liabilities exclusive of borrowings) of 300% of all amounts borrowed. If, at any time, the value of the Fund's assets should fail to meet this 300% coverage test, the Fund, within three days (not including Sundays and holidays), will reduce the amount of the Fund's borrowings to the extent necessary to meet this 300% coverage requirement. Maintenance of this percentage limitation may result in the sale of portfolio securities at a time when investment considerations otherwise indicate that it would be disadvantageous to do so.

In addition to the foregoing, the Fund is authorized to borrow money as a temporary measure for extraordinary or emergency purposes in amounts not in excess of 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets. Borrowings for extraordinary or emergency purposes are not subject to the foregoing 300% asset coverage requirement. While the Fund does not anticipate doing so, the Fund is authorized to pledge (*i.e.*, transfer a security interest in) portfolio securities in an amount up to one-third of the value of the Fund's total assets in connection with any borrowing.

COMMERCIAL PAPER. The Fund may invest in high-quality, short-term commercial paper. Commercial paper is the term used to designate unsecured, short-term promissory notes issued by corporations and other entities. Maturities on these issues vary from a few days up to 270 days. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in commercial paper.

CONCENTRATION. The Fund may concentrate its investments in a particular industry or group of industries, as described in the Prospectus. The securities of issuers in particular industries may dominate the Index and consequently the Fund's portfolio. This may adversely affect the Fund's performance or subject its shares to greater price volatility than that experienced by less concentrated investment companies.

DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS. To the extent the Fund invests in stocks of foreign corporations, the Fund's investment in such stocks may be in the form of Depositary Receipts or other similar securities convertible into securities of foreign issuers. Depositary Receipts may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the underlying securities into which they may be converted. American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") are receipts typically issued by an American bank or trust company that evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign corporation. European Depositary Receipts ("EDRs") are receipts issued in Europe that evidence a similar ownership arrangement. Global Depositary Receipts ("GDRs") are receipts issued throughout the world that evidence a similar arrangement. Non-Voting Depository Receipts ("NVDRs") are receipts issued in Thailand that evidence a similar arrangement. Generally, ADRs, in registered form, are designed for use in the U.S. securities markets, and EDRs, in bearer form, are designed for use in European securities markets. GDRs are tradable both in the United States and in Europe and are designed for use throughout the world. NVDRs are tradable on the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

The Fund's investments may also include ADRs and GDRs that are not purchased in the public markets and are restricted securities that can be offered and sold only to "qualified institutional buyers" under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). The Adviser will determine the liquidity of these investments pursuant to guidelines established by the Board. If a particular investment in ADRs or GDRs is deemed illiquid, that investment will be included within the Fund's limitation on investment in illiquid securities. Moreover, if adverse market conditions were to develop during the period between the Fund's decision to sell these types of ADRs or GDRs and the point at which the Fund is permitted or able to sell the security, the Fund might obtain a price less favorable than the price that prevailed when it decided to sell. In addition, all Depositary Receipts generally must be sponsored; however, the Fund may invest in unsponsored Depositary Receipts under certain limited circumstances. For example, if the Index were to list a holding that is in a foreign market that is not accessible to the Fund, it may be necessary to gain exposure through a Depositary Receipt. If a Depositary Receipt does not exist for that issuer and they are unwilling to support the creation of the Depositary Receipt, the Registrant may seek the support of a bank in order to gain this exposure. The issuers of unsponsored Depositary Receipts are not obligated to disclose material information in the United States, and, therefore, there may be less information available regarding such issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the market value of the Depositary Receipts. The use of Depositary Receipts may increase tracking error relative to the Index.

EQUITY SECURITIES. Equity securities, such as common stock, represent ownership interests in a company. In the event an issuer is liquidated or declares bankruptcy, the claims of owners of bonds and preferred stock take precedence over the claims of those who own common stock. Investments in equity securities are subject to market risks, which may cause their prices to fluctuate over time. Further, fluctuations in the value of equity securities in which the Fund invests will cause the NAV of the Fund to fluctuate.

While investing in stocks allows investors to participate in the benefits of owning a company, such investors must accept the risks of ownership. Unlike bondholders, who have preference to a company's earnings and cash flow, preferred stockholders, followed by common stockholders in order of priority, are entitled only to the residual amount after a company meets its other obligations. For this reason, the value of a company's stock will usually react more strongly to actual or perceived changes in the company's financial condition or prospects than its debt obligations. Stockholders of a company that fares poorly can lose money.

Stock markets tend to move in cycles with short or extended periods of rising and falling stock prices. The value of a company's stock may fall because of:

- Factors that directly relate to that company, such as decisions made by its management or lower demand for the company's products or services;
- Factors affecting an entire industry, such as increases in production costs; and
- Changes in general financial market conditions that are relatively unrelated to the company or its industry, such as changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates, or inflation rates.

When-Issued Securities — A when-issued security is one whose terms are available and for which a market exists, but which has not been issued. When the Fund engages in when-issued transactions, it relies on the other party to consummate the sale. If the other party fails to complete the sale, the Fund may miss the opportunity to obtain the security at a favorable price or yield.

When purchasing a security on a when-issued basis, the Fund assumes the rights and risks of ownership of the security, including the risk of price and yield changes. At the time of settlement, the value of the security may be more or less than the purchase price. The yield available in the market when the delivery takes place also may be higher than those obtained in the transaction itself. Because the Fund does not pay for the security until the delivery date, these risks are in addition to the risks associated with its other investments.

Decisions to enter into "when-issued" transactions will be considered on a case-by-case basis when necessary to maintain continuity in a company's index membership.

Types of Equity Securities:

Common Stocks — Common stocks represent units of ownership in a company. Common stocks usually carry voting rights and earn dividends. Unlike preferred stocks, which are described below, dividends on common stocks are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of the company's board of directors.

Preferred Stocks — Preferred stocks are also units of ownership in a company. Preferred stocks normally have preference over common stock in the payment of dividends and the liquidation of the company. However, in all other respects, preferred stocks are subordinated to the liabilities of the issuer. Unlike common stocks, preferred stocks are generally not entitled to vote on corporate matters. Types of preferred stocks include adjustable-rate preferred stock, fixed dividend preferred stock, perpetual preferred stock, and sinking fund preferred stock.

Generally, the market values of preferred stock with a fixed dividend rate and no conversion element vary inversely with interest rates and perceived credit risk.

Rights and Warrants — A right is a privilege granted to existing shareholders of a corporation to subscribe to shares of a new issue of common stock before it is issued. Rights normally have a short life of usually two to four weeks, are freely transferable and entitle the holder to buy the new common stock at a lower price than the public offering price. Warrants are securities that are usually issued together with a debt security or preferred stock and that give the holder the right to buy a proportionate amount of common stock at a specified price. Warrants are freely transferable and are traded on major exchanges. Unlike rights, warrants normally have a life that is measured in years and entitles the holder to buy common stock of a company at a price that is usually higher than the market price at the time the warrant is issued. Corporations often issue warrants to make the accompanying debt security more attractive.

An investment in warrants and rights may entail greater risks than certain other types of investments. Generally, rights and warrants do not carry the right to receive dividends or exercise voting rights with respect to the underlying securities, and they do not represent any rights in the assets of the issuer. In addition, their value does not necessarily change with the value of the underlying securities, and they cease to have value if they are not exercised on or before their expiration date. Investing in rights and warrants increases the potential profit or loss to be realized from the investment as compared with investing the same amount in the underlying securities.

Smaller Companies — The securities of small- and mid-capitalization companies may be more vulnerable to adverse issuer, market, political, or economic developments than securities of larger-capitalization companies. The securities of small- and mid-capitalization companies generally trade in lower volumes and are subject to greater and more unpredictable price changes than larger capitalization stocks or the stock market as a whole. Some small- or mid-capitalization companies have limited product lines, markets, and financial and managerial resources and tend to concentrate on fewer geographical markets relative to larger capitalization companies. There is typically less publicly available information concerning small- and mid-capitalization companies than for larger, more established companies. Small- and mid-capitalization companies also may be particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates, government regulation, borrowing costs, and earnings.

ETFs. ETFs are pooled investment vehicles whose ownership interests are purchased and sold on a securities exchange. ETFs may be structured investment companies, depositary receipts, or other pooled investment vehicles. As a shareholder of an ETF, the Fund will bear its pro rata portion of any fees and expenses of the ETF. Although shares of ETFs are traded on an exchange, shares of certain ETFs may not be redeemable to the ETF. In addition, ETFs may trade at a price below their NAV (also known as a discount).

The Fund may use ETFs to help replicate the Index. By way of example, ETFs may be structured as broad-based ETFs that invest in a broad group of stocks from different industries and market sectors; select sectors; or market ETFs that invest in debt securities from a select sector of the economy (*e.g.*, Treasury securities), a single industry, or related industries; other types of ETFs continue to be developed and the Fund may invest in them to the extent consistent with its investment objectives, policies, and restrictions. The ETFs in which the Fund invests are subject to the risks applicable to the types of securities and investments used by the ETFs.

ETFs may be actively managed or index based. Actively managed ETFs are subject to management risk and may not achieve their objective if the ETF's manager's expectations regarding particular securities or markets are not met. An index-based ETF's objective is to track the performance of a specified index. Index-based ETFs invest in a securities portfolio that includes substantially all of the securities in substantially the same amount as the securities included in the designated index. Because passively managed ETFs are designed to track an index, securities may be purchased, retained, and sold at times when an actively managed ETF would not do so. As a result, shareholders of the Fund that invest in such an ETF can expect greater risk of loss (and a correspondingly greater prospect of gain) from changes in the value of securities that are heavily weighted in the index than would be the case if the ETF were not fully invested in such securities. This risk is increased if a few component securities represent a highly concentrated weighting in the designated index.

Unless permitted by the 1940 Act or an order or rule issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") (see "Investment Companies" below for more information), the Fund's investments in unaffiliated ETFs that are structured as investment companies as defined in the 1940 Act are subject to certain percentage limitations of the 1940 Act regarding investments in other investment companies. As a general matter, these percentage limitations currently require the Fund to limit its investments in any one issue of ETFs to 5% of the Fund's total assets and 3% of the outstanding voting securities of the ETF issue. Moreover, the Fund's investments in all ETFs may not currently exceed 10% of the Fund's total assets under the 1940 Act, when aggregated with all other investments in investment companies. ETFs that are not structured as investment companies as defined in the 1940 Act are not subject to these percentage limitations.

FIXED-INCOME SECURITIES. The Fund may invest in fixed-income securities. Even though interest-bearing securities are investments that promise a stable stream of income, the prices of such securities are affected by changes in interest rates. In general, fixed-income security prices rise when interest rates fall and fall when interest rates rise. Securities with shorter maturities, while offering lower yields, generally provide greater price stability than longer term securities and are less affected by changes in interest rates. The values of fixed-income securities also may be affected by changes in the credit rating or financial condition of the issuing entities. Once the rating of a portfolio security has been changed, the Fund will consider all circumstances deemed relevant in determining whether to continue to hold the security.

Fixed-income investments bear certain risks, including credit risk, or the ability of an issuer to pay interest and principal as they become due. Generally, higher yielding bonds are subject to more credit risk than lower yielding bonds. Interest rate risk refers to the fluctuations in value of fixed-income securities resulting from the inverse relationship between the market value of outstanding fixed-income securities and changes in interest rates. An increase in interest rates will generally reduce the market value of fixed-income investments and a decline in interest rates will tend to increase their value.

Call risk is the risk that an issuer will pay principal on an obligation earlier than scheduled or expected, which would accelerate cash flows from, and shorten the average life of, the security. Bonds are typically called when interest rates have declined because the issuer can refinance at a lower rate, similar to a homeowner refinancing a mortgage. In the event of a bond being called, the Adviser may have to reinvest the proceeds in lower yielding securities to the detriment of the Fund.

Extension risk is the risk that an issuer may pay principal on an obligation slower than expected, having the effect of extending the average life and duration of the obligation. This typically happens when interest rates have increased.

Duration is a calculation that seeks to measure the price sensitivity of a debt security, or the Fund that invests in debt securities, to changes in interest rates. It measures sensitivity more accurately than maturity because it takes into account the time value of cash flows generated over the life of a debt security. Future interest payments and principal payments are discounted to reflect their present value and then are multiplied by the number of years they will be received to produce a value expressed in years — the duration. Effective duration takes into account call features and sinking Fund prepayments that may shorten the life of a debt security. A number of factors, including changes in a central bank's monetary policies or general improvements in the economy, may cause interest rates to rise. Fixed-income securities with longer durations are more sensitive to interest rate changes than securities with shorter durations, making them more volatile. This means their prices are more likely to experience a considerable reduction in response to a rise in interest rates.

When investing in fixed-income securities, the Fund may purchase securities regardless of their rating, including fixed-income securities rated below investment grade — securities rated below investment grade are often referred to as high yield securities or "junk bonds". High yield securities, or "junk bonds," are usually issued by smaller, less credit-worthy and/or highly leveraged (indebted companies) and involve special risks in addition to the risks associated with investments in higher rated fixed income securities. While offering a greater potential opportunity for capital appreciation and higher yields, high yield securities may be subject to greater levels of interest rate, credit, and liquidity risk, may entail greater potential price volatility, and may be less liquid than higher rated fixed income securities. High yield securities may be regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to meet principal and interest payments. They may also be more susceptible to real or perceived adverse economic and competitive industry conditions than higher rated securities. Fixed-income securities rated in the lowest investment grade categories by the rating agencies may also possess speculative characteristics. If securities are in default with respect to the payment of interest or the repayment of principal, or present an imminent risk of default with respect to such payments, the issuer of such securities may fail to resume principal or interest payments, in which case the Fund may lose its entire investment in the high yield security. In addition, to the extent that there is no established retail secondary market, there may be thin trading of high yield securities, and this may have an impact on the Fund's ability to accurately value high yield securities and the Fund's assets and on the Fund's ability to dispose of the securities. Adverse publicity and investor perception, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the values and liquidity of high yield securities, especially in a thinly traded market.

FIXED-INCOME SECURITIES RATINGS. Nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (each, a "rating agency") publish ratings based upon their assessment of the relative creditworthiness of rated fixed-income securities. Generally, a lower rating indicates higher credit risk, and higher yields are ordinarily available from fixed-income securities in the lower rating categories to compensate investors for the increased credit risk. Any use of credit ratings in evaluating fixed-income securities can involve certain risks. For example, ratings assigned by the rating agencies are based upon an analysis completed at the time of the rating of the obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal, typically relying to a large extent on historical data. Rating agencies typically rely to a large extent on historical data, which may not accurately represent present or future circumstances. Ratings do not purport to reflect the risk of fluctuations in market value of the fixed-income security and are not absolute standards of quality and only express the rating agency's current opinion of an obligor's overall financial capacity to pay its financial obligations. A credit rating is not a statement of fact or a recommendation to purchase, sell, or hold a fixed-income obligation. Also, credit quality can change suddenly and unexpectedly, and credit ratings may not reflect the issuer's current financial condition or events since the security was last rated. Rating agencies may have a financial interest in generating business, including the arranger or issuer of the security that normally pays for that rating, and a low rating might affect future business. While rating agencies have policies and procedures to address this potential conflict of interest, there is a risk that these policies will fail to prevent a conflict of interest from impacting the rating. Additionally, legislation has been enacted in an effort to reform rating agencies. The SEC has also adopted rules to require rating agencies to provide additional disclosure and reduce conflicts of interest, and further reform has been proposed. It is uncertain how such legislation or additional regulation might impact the ratings agencies' business and the Adviser's investment process.

Prepayment risk occurs when a fixed-income investment held by the Fund may be repaid in whole or in part prior to its maturity. The amount of prepayable obligations the Fund invests in from time to time may be affected by general business conditions, market interest rates, borrowers' financial conditions, and competitive conditions among lenders. In a period of declining interest rates, borrowers may repay investments more quickly than anticipated, reducing the yield to maturity and the average life of the relevant investment. Moreover, when the Fund reinvests the proceeds of a prepayment in these circumstances, it will likely receive a rate of interest that is lower than the rate on the security that was prepaid. To the extent that the Fund purchases a relevant investment at a premium, prepayments may result

in a loss to the extent of the premium paid. If the Fund buys such investments at a discount, both scheduled payments and unscheduled prepayments will increase current and total returns and unscheduled prepayments will also accelerate the recognition of income. In a period of rising interest rates, prepayments of investments may occur at a slower than expected rate, creating maturity extension risk. This particular risk may effectively change an investment that was considered short- or intermediate-term at the time of purchase into a longer-term investment. Since the value of longer-term investments generally fluctuates more widely in response to changes in interest rates than short-term investments, maturity extension risk could increase the volatility of the Fund. When interest rates decline, the value of an investment with prepayment features may not increase as much as that of other fixed-income securities and, as noted above, changes in market rates of interest may accelerate or delay prepayments and thus affect maturities.

ILLIQUID INVESTMENTS. The Fund may invest up to an aggregate amount of 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments, as such term is defined by Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act. The Fund may not invest in illiquid investments if, as a result of such investment, more than 15% of the Fund's net assets would be invested in illiquid investments. Illiquid investments include securities subject to contractual or other restrictions on resale and other instruments that lack readily available markets. The inability of the Fund to dispose of illiquid or not readily marketable investments readily or at a reasonable price could impair the Fund's ability to raise cash for redemptions or other purposes. The liquidity of securities purchased by the Fund which are eligible for resale pursuant to Rule 144A, except for certain 144A bonds, will be monitored by the Fund on an ongoing basis. In the event that more than 15% of the Fund's net assets are invested in illiquid investments, the Fund, in accordance with Rule 22e-4(b)(1)(iv), will report the occurrence to both the Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board") and the SEC and seek to reduce its holdings of illiquid investments within a reasonable period of time. Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, the Fund has adopted a liquidity risk management program to assess and manage its liquidity risk. This program is intended to reduce liquidity risk but may not achieve the desired results. Analyses and judgments made under the program may be incorrect, and changes in market conditions, which may be rapid and unexpected, may adversely affect the program.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES. The Fund may invest in the securities of other investment companies, including money market funds and ETFs, subject to applicable limitations under Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act and Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act. Investing in another pooled vehicle exposes the Fund to all the risks of that pooled vehicle. Pursuant to Section 12(d)(1), the Fund may invest in the securities of another investment company (the "acquired company") provided that the Fund, immediately after such purchase or acquisition, does not own in the aggregate: (i) more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of the acquired company; (ii) securities issued by the acquired company having an aggregate value in excess of 5% of the value of the total assets of the Fund; or (iii) securities issued by the acquired company and all other investment companies (other than treasury stock of the Fund) having an aggregate value in excess of 10% of the value of the total assets of the Fund. To the extent allowed by law or regulation, the Fund may invest its assets in securities of investment companies that are money market funds in excess of the limits discussed above.

If the Fund invests in and, thus, is a shareholder of, another investment company, the Fund's shareholders will indirectly bear the Fund's proportionate share of the fees and expenses paid by such other investment company, including advisory fees, in addition to both the management fees payable directly by the Fund to the Fund's own investment adviser and the other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with the Fund's own operations.

Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act restricts investments by registered investment companies in securities of other registered investment companies, including the Fund. The acquisition of Shares by registered investment companies is subject to the restrictions of Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act, except as may be permitted by exemptive rules under the 1940 Act or as may be permitted by an exemptive order that permits registered investment companies to invest in the Fund beyond the limits of Section 12(d)(1), subject to certain terms and conditions, including that the registered investment company enter into an agreement with the Fund regarding the terms of the investment.

The Fund may rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) of the 1940 Act and Rule 12d1-3 under the 1940 Act, which provide an exemption from Section 12(d)(1) that allows the Fund to invest all of its assets in other registered funds, including ETFs, if, among other conditions: (a) the Fund, together with its affiliates, acquires no more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of any acquired fund, and (b) the sales load charged on Shares is no greater than the limits set forth in Rule 2341 of the Rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). Additionally, the Fund may rely on Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act to invest in such other funds in excess of the limits of Section 12(d)(1) if the Fund complies with the terms and conditions of the rule.

LENDING PORTFOLIO SECURITIES. The Fund may lend portfolio securities to certain creditworthy borrowers in U.S. and non-U.S. markets in an amount not to exceed one third (33 1/3%) of the value of its total assets. The borrowers provide collateral that is maintained in an amount at least equal to the current value of the securities loaned. The Fund may terminate a loan at any time and obtain the return of the securities loaned. The Fund receives the value of any interest or cash or non-cash distributions paid on the loaned securities. Distributions received on loaned securities in lieu of dividend payments (*i.e.*, substitute payments) would not be considered qualified dividend income.

With respect to loans that are collateralized by cash, the borrower will be entitled to receive a fee based on the amount of cash collateral. The Fund is compensated by the difference between the amount earned on the reinvestment of cash collateral and the fee paid to the borrower. In the case of collateral other than cash, the Fund is compensated by a fee paid by the borrower equal to a percentage of the value of the loaned securities. Any cash collateral may be reinvested in certain short-term instruments either directly on behalf of the lending fund or through one or more joint accounts, money market funds, or other investment companies (including ETFs) which may include those managed by the Adviser.

The Fund may pay a portion of the interest or fees earned from securities lending to a borrower as described above, and to one or more securities lending agents approved by the Board who administer the lending program for the Fund in accordance with guidelines approved by the Board. In such capacity, the lending agent causes the delivery of loaned securities from the Fund to borrowers, arranges for the return of loaned securities to the Fund at the termination of a loan, requests deposit of collateral, monitors the daily value of the loaned securities and collateral, requests that borrowers add to the collateral when required by the loan agreements, and provides recordkeeping and accounting services necessary for the operation of the program.

Securities lending involves exposure to certain risks, including operational risk (*i.e.*, the risk of losses resulting from problems in the settlement and accounting process), "gap" risk (*i.e.*, the risk of a mismatch between the return on cash collateral reinvestments and the fees the Fund has agreed to pay a borrower), and credit, legal, counterparty, and market risk. In the event a borrower does not return the Fund's securities as agreed, the Fund may experience losses if the proceeds received from liquidating the collateral do not at least equal the value of the loaned security at the time the collateral is liquidated plus the transaction costs incurred in purchasing replacement securities.

The Fund will generally seek to recall securities on loan to vote on matters if the result of the vote may materially affect the investment. However, in some circumstances, the Fund may be unable to recall the securities in time to vote or may determine that the benefits to the Fund of voting are outweighed by the direct or indirect costs of such a recall. In these circumstances, loaned securities may be voted or not voted in a manner adverse to the best interests of the Fund.

MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS. The Fund may invest a portion of its assets in high-quality money market instruments or in money market mutual funds on an ongoing basis to provide liquidity or for other reasons. The instruments in which the Fund or money market mutual fund may invest include: (i) short-term obligations issued by the U.S. Government; (ii) negotiable certificates of deposit ("CDs"), fixed time deposits, and bankers' acceptances of U.S. and foreign banks and similar institutions; (iii) commercial paper rated at the date of purchase "Prime-1" by Moody's or "A-1+" or "A-1" by Standard & Poor's ("S&P") or, if unrated, of comparable quality as determined by the Fund; and (iv) repurchase agreements. CDs are short-term negotiable obligations of commercial banks. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in banking institutions for specified periods of time at stated interest rates. Banker's acceptances are time drafts drawn on commercial banks by borrowers, usually in connection with international transactions.

NON-U.S. SECURITIES. Investments in non-U.S. equity securities involve certain risks that may not be present in investments in U.S. securities. For example, non-U.S. securities may be subject to currency risks or to foreign government taxes. There may be less information publicly available about a non-U.S. issuer than about a U.S. issuer, and a foreign issuer may or may not be subject to uniform accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards and practices comparable to those in the U.S. Other risks of investing in such securities include political or economic instability in the country involved, the difficulty of predicting international trade patterns, and the possibility of imposition of exchange controls. The prices of such securities may be more volatile than those of domestic securities. With respect to certain foreign countries, there is a possibility of expropriation of assets or nationalization, imposition of withholding taxes on dividend or interest payments, difficulty in obtaining and enforcing judgments against foreign entities or diplomatic developments which could affect investment in these countries. Losses and other expenses may be incurred in converting between various currencies in connection with purchases and sales of foreign securities.

Non-U.S. stock markets may not be as developed or efficient as, and may be more volatile than, those in the U.S. While the volume of shares traded on non-U.S. stock markets generally has been growing, such markets usually have substantially less volume than U.S. markets. Therefore, the Fund's investment in non-U.S. equity securities may be less liquid and subject to more rapid and erratic price movements than comparable securities listed for trading on U.S. exchanges. Non-U.S. equity securities may trade at price/earnings multiples higher than comparable U.S. securities, and such levels may not be sustainable. There may be less government supervision and regulation of foreign stock exchanges, brokers, banks, and listed companies abroad than in the U.S. Moreover, settlement practices for transactions in foreign markets may differ from those in U.S. markets. Such differences may include delays beyond periods customary in the U.S. and practices, such as delivery of securities prior to receipt of payment, that increase the likelihood of a failed settlement, which can result in losses to the Fund. The value of non-U.S. investments and the investment income derived from them may also be affected unfavorably by changes in currency exchange control regulations. Foreign brokerage commissions, custodial expenses, and other fees are also generally higher than for securities traded in the U.S. This may cause the Fund to incur higher portfolio transaction costs than domestic equity funds. Fluctuations in exchange rates may also affect the earning power and asset value of the foreign entity issuing a security, even one denominated in U.S. dollars. Dividend and interest payments may be repatriated based on the exchange rate at the time of disbursement, and restrictions on capital flows may be imposed.

Investing in emerging markets (i.e. those that generally are in the early stages of their industrial cycles) can have more risk than investing in developed foreign markets. The risks of investing in these markets may be exacerbated relative to investments in foreign markets. Governments of developing and emerging market countries may be more unstable as compared to more developed countries. Developing and emerging market countries may have less developed securities markets or exchanges and legal and accounting systems. It may be more difficult to sell securities at acceptable prices and security prices may be more volatile than in countries with more mature markets. Currency values may fluctuate more in developing or emerging markets. Developing or emerging market countries may be more likely to impose government restrictions, including confiscatory taxation, expropriation, or nationalization of a company's assets, and restrictions on foreign ownership of local companies. In addition, emerging markets may impose restrictions on the Fund's ability to repatriate investment income or capital and thus may adversely affect the operations of the Fund. Certain emerging markets may impose constraints on currency exchange, and some currencies in emerging markets may have been devalued significantly against the U.S. dollar. For these and other reasons, the prices of securities in emerging markets can fluctuate more significantly than the prices of securities of companies in developed countries. The less developed the country, the greater effect these risks may have on the Fund.

- **China Risk.** Because the Fund may invest in securities of Chinese companies, the Fund may be exposed to special risks and considerations. Investments in securities of Chinese issuers involve risks associated with investments in foreign markets as well as special considerations not typically associated with investments in the U.S. securities markets. For example, the Chinese government has historically exercised substantial control over virtually every sector of the Chinese economy through administrative regulation and/or state ownership, and actions of the Chinese central and local government authorities continue to have a substantial effect on economic conditions in China. In addition, the Chinese government has taken actions that influenced the prices at which certain goods may be sold, encouraged companies to invest or concentrate in particular industries, induced mergers between companies in certain industries, and induced private companies to publicly offer their securities. Investments in China involve risk of a total loss due to government action or inaction or other adverse circumstances. Additionally, the Chinese economy is export-driven and highly reliant on trade. Adverse changes to the economic conditions, trading policies, and taxation of imports of its primary trading partners, such as the United States, Japan, and South Korea, would adversely impact the Chinese economy and the Fund's investments. Moreover, a slowdown in other significant economies of the world, such as the United States, the European Union, and certain Asian countries, may adversely affect economic growth or the value of investments in China. An economic downturn in China would adversely impact the Fund's investments. In addition, certain securities are, or may in the future become, restricted and/or sanctioned by the U.S. government or other governments, and the Fund may be forced to sell or unable to purchase or sell such restricted securities and incur a loss as a result.

  Recent developments in relations between the U.S., other trading partners, and China have heightened concerns of increased tariffs and restrictions on trade between the two countries. For example, the U.S. has imposed sanctions on senior Chinese officials and certain employees of Chinese technology companies and placed restrictions on U.S. investments in such companies. An increase in tariffs or trade restrictions (and threats thereof) could lead to a significant reduction in international trade, which could have a negative impact on China's export industry, Chinese issuers, the liquidity or price of a Fund's direct or indirect

investments in China, and, therefore, the Fund. In addition, the adoption or continuation of protectionist trade policies by one or more countries could lead to a decrease in demand for Chinese products and reduced flows of foreign capital to these economies.

These and other developments, including government actions, may result in significant illiquidity risk or forced disposition for Chinese investments. The Chinese securities markets are emerging markets characterized by a relatively small number of equity issues and relatively low trading volume, resulting in decreased liquidity, greater price volatility (caused by, among other things, military, diplomatic, or trade conflicts), and potentially fewer investment opportunities for the Fund. The Fund's investments in Chinese securities are also subject to additional risks associated with differing regulatory and audit requirements across the Chinese and U.S. securities markets. Ongoing political tension between the People's Republic of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region may have impacts on the economy of Hong Kong, and these impacts remain uncertain.

- **Israel Risk.** Because the Fund may invest in securities of Israeli companies, the Fund may be exposed to special risks and considerations. There may be less information concerning the securities of Israeli companies available to the public than the securities of U.S. companies. There is also potential difficulty in obtaining or enforcing a court judgment, and the unique characteristics of securities of Israeli companies and the Israel stock market may have a negative impact on the Fund. Any major hostilities involving Israel, including hostilities with neighboring countries, or the interruption or curtailment of trade between Israel and its present trading partners, could have a negative impact on the Fund. Shares and dividends of Israeli companies are often Israeli new shekel ("ILS") denominated. Changes in the relationship of the ILS to the U.S. dollar and other currencies could have a negative impact on the Fund. The government of Israel may change the way in which Israeli companies are taxed or may impose taxes on foreign investment. Such actions could have an adverse impact on the overall market for securities of Israeli companies and on the Fund.

- **Taiwan Risk.** Investments in Taiwanese issuers involve risks that are specific to Taiwan, including legal, regulatory, political, currency, and economic risks. Political and economic developments of Taiwan's neighbors may have an adverse effect on Taiwan's economy. Specifically, Taiwan's geographic proximity and history of political contention with China have resulted in ongoing tensions, which may materially affect the Taiwanese economy and its securities market. Investments in securities of Taiwanese companies are subject to Taiwan's heavy dependence on exports. Reductions in spending on Taiwanese products and services, labor shortages, institution of tariffs or other trade barriers, or a downturn in any of the economies of Taiwan's key trading partners, including the United States, may have an adverse impact on the Taiwanese economy and the values of Taiwanese companies. In addition, Taiwan is in a seismically active region, making companies operating there vulnerable to earthquakes and other natural disasters.

- **Europe Risk.** The economies and markets of European countries are often closely connected and interdependent, and events in one country in Europe can have an adverse impact on other European countries. The Fund may invest in securities of issuers that are domiciled in, or have significant operations in, member countries of the European Union (the "EU") that are subject to economic and monetary controls that can adversely affect the Fund's investments. The European financial markets have experienced volatility and adverse trends in recent years, and these events have adversely affected the exchange rate of the euro and may continue to significantly affect other European countries. Decreasing imports or exports, changes in governmental or EU regulations on trade, changes in the exchange rate of the euro, the default or threat of default by an EU member country on its sovereign debt, and/or an economic recession in an EU member country may have a significant adverse effect on the economies of EU member countries and their trading partners, including some or all of the European countries in which the Fund invests.

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS. A REIT is a corporation or business trust (that would otherwise be taxed as a corporation) which meets the definitional requirements of the Code. The Code permits a qualifying REIT to deduct from its taxable income the dividends it paid, thereby effectively eliminating U.S. federal income tax. To meet the definitional requirements of the Code, a REIT must, among other things: invest substantially all of its assets in interests in real estate (including mortgages and other REITs), cash and government securities; derive most of its income from rents from real property or interest on loans secured by mortgages on real property; and, in general, distribute annually 90% or more of its taxable income (other than net capital gains) to shareholders.

REITs are sometimes informally characterized as Equity REITs and Mortgage REITs. An Equity REIT invests primarily in the fee ownership or leasehold ownership of land and buildings (e.g., commercial equity REITs and residential equity REITs); a Mortgage REIT invests primarily in mortgages on real property, which may secure construction, development, or long-term loans.

REITs may be affected by changes in underlying real estate values, which may have an exaggerated effect to the extent that REITs in which the Fund invests may concentrate investments in particular geographic regions or property types. Additionally, rising interest rates may cause investors in REITs to demand a higher annual yield from future distributions, which may in turn decrease market prices for equity securities issued by REITs. Rising interest rates also generally increase the costs of obtaining financing, which could cause the value of the Fund's investments to decline. During periods of declining interest rates, certain Mortgage REITs may hold mortgages that the mortgagors elect to prepay, which prepayment may diminish the yield on securities issued by such Mortgage REITs. In addition, Mortgage REITs may be affected by the ability of borrowers to repay when due the debt extended by the REIT, and Equity REITs may be affected by the ability of tenants to pay rent.

Certain REITs have relatively small market capitalization, which may tend to increase the volatility of the market price of securities issued by such REITs. Furthermore, REITs are dependent upon specialized management skills, have limited diversification, and are, therefore, subject to risks inherent in operating and financing a limited number of projects. By investing in REITs indirectly through the Fund, a shareholder will bear not only his or her proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund, but also, indirectly, similar expenses of the REITs. REITs depend generally on their ability to generate cashflow to make distributions to shareholders.

In addition to these risks, Equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the trusts, while Mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of any credit extended. Further, Equity and Mortgage REITs are dependent upon management skills and generally may not be diversified. Equity and Mortgage REITs are also subject to heavy cashflow dependency defaults by borrowers and self-liquidation. In addition, Equity and Mortgage REITs could possibly fail to qualify for the favorable U.S. federal income tax treatment generally available to REITs under the Code or fail to maintain their exemptions from registration under the 1940 Act. The above factors may also adversely affect a borrower's or a lessee's ability to meet its obligations to the REIT. In the event of default by a borrower or lessee, the REIT may experience delays in enforcing its rights as a mortgagee or lessor and may incur substantial costs associated with protecting its investments.

REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with counterparties that are deemed to present acceptable credit risks. A repurchase agreement is a transaction in which the Fund purchases securities or other obligations from a bank or securities dealer (or its affiliate) and simultaneously commits to resell them to a counterparty at an agreed-upon date or upon demand and at a price reflecting a market rate of interest unrelated to the coupon rate or maturity of the purchased obligations. The Fund maintains custody of the underlying obligations prior to their repurchase, either through its regular custodian or through a special "tri-party" custodian or sub-custodian that maintains separate accounts for both the Fund and its counterparty. Thus, the obligation of the counterparty to pay the repurchase price on the date agreed to or upon demand is, in effect, secured by such obligations.

Repurchase agreements carry certain risks not associated with direct investments in securities, including a possible decline in the market value of the underlying obligations. If their value becomes less than the repurchase price, plus any agreed-upon additional amount, the counterparty must provide additional collateral so that at all times the collateral is at least equal to the repurchase price plus any agreed-upon additional amount. The difference between the total amount to be received upon repurchase of the obligations and the price that was paid by the Fund upon acquisition is accrued as interest and included in its net investment income. Repurchase agreements involving obligations other than U.S. Government securities (such as commercial paper and corporate bonds) may be subject to special risks and may not have the benefit of certain protections in the event of the counterparty's insolvency. If the seller or guarantor becomes insolvent, the Fund may suffer delays, costs, and possible losses in connection with the disposition of collateral.

TRACKING STOCKS. The Fund may invest in tracking stocks. A tracking stock is a separate class of common stock whose value is linked to a specific business unit or operating division within a larger company and which is designed to "track" the performance of such business unit or division. The tracking stock may pay dividends to shareholders independent of the parent company. The parent company, rather than the business unit or division, generally is the issuer of tracking stock. However, holders of the tracking stock may not have the same rights as holders of the company's common stock.

U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. The Fund may invest in U.S. government securities to the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies. Not all U.S. government obligations carry the same credit support. Although many U.S. government securities in which the fund may invest, such as those issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac"), may be chartered or sponsored by Acts of Congress, their securities are neither issued nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury and, therefore, are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Some, such as those of Ginnie Mae, are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury. Other obligations, such as those of the Federal Home Loan Banks, are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury; and others are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase the agency's obligations. Still others are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality or sponsored enterprise. The maximum potential liability of the issuers of some U.S. government securities held by the fund may greatly exceed their current resources, including their legal right to support from the U.S. Treasury. It is possible that these issuers will not have the funds to meet their payment obligations in the future. No assurance can be given that the U.S. government would provide financial support to its agencies, instrumentalities, or sponsored enterprises if it is not obligated to do so by law.

An agency of the U.S. government has placed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into conservatorship, a statutory process with the objective of returning the entities to normal business operations. It is unclear what effect this conservatorship will have on the securities issued or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. As a result, these securities are subject to more credit risk than U.S. government securities that are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States (*e.g.*, U.S. Treasury bonds).

To the extent the Fund invests in debt instruments or securities of non-U.S. government entities that are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, there is a possibility that such guarantee may be discontinued or modified at a later date.

On September 7, 2008, the U.S. Treasury announced a federal takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, placing the two federal instrumentalities in conservatorship. Under the takeover, the U.S. Treasury agreed to acquire $1 billion of senior preferred stock of each instrumentality and obtained warrants for the purchase of common stock of each instrumentality (the "Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreement" or "Agreement"). Under the Agreement, the U.S. Treasury pledged to provide up to $200 billion per instrumentality as needed, including the contribution of cash capital to the instrumentalities in the event their liabilities exceed their assets. This was intended to ensure that the instrumentalities maintain a positive net worth and meet their financial obligations, preventing mandatory triggering of receivership. On December 24, 2009, the U.S. Treasury announced that it was amending the Agreement to allow the $200 billion cap on the U.S. Treasury's funding commitment to increase as necessary to accommodate any cumulative reduction in net worth over the next three years. As a result of this Agreement, the investments of holders, including the Fund, of mortgage-backed securities and other obligations issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are protected.

The total public debt of the United States as a percentage of gross domestic product has grown rapidly since the beginning of the 2008-2009 financial downturn. Although high debt levels do not necessarily indicate or cause economic problems, they may create certain systemic risks if sound debt management practices are not implemented. A high national debt can raise concerns that the U.S. government will not be able to make principal or interest payments when they are due. In August 2011, S&P lowered its long-term sovereign credit rating on the U.S. In explaining the downgrade at that time, S&P cited, among other reasons, controversy over raising the statutory debt limit and growth in public spending. In August 2023, Fitch Ratings also downgraded its U.S. debt rating from AAA to AA+, citing expected fiscal deterioration over the next three years and repeated down-to-the-wire debt ceiling negotiations. In May 2025, Moody's Ratings downgraded the long-term sovereign credit rating of the United States from Aaa to Aa1 and assigned a stable outlook.

An increase in national debt levels also may necessitate the need for the U.S. Congress to negotiate adjustments to the statutory debt ceiling to increase the cap on the amount the U.S. government is permitted to borrow to meet its existing obligations and finance current budget deficits. Future downgrades could increase volatility in domestic and foreign financial markets, result in higher interest rates, lower prices of U.S. Treasury securities, and increase the costs of different kinds of debt. Any controversy or ongoing uncertainty regarding the statutory debt ceiling negotiations may impact the U.S. long-term sovereign credit rating and may cause market uncertainty. As a result, market prices and yields of securities supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government may be adversely affected.

Risk of Investing in the United States. Certain changes in the U.S. economy, such as when the U.S. economy weakens or when its financial markets decline, may have an adverse effect on the securities to which the Fund has exposure. A decrease in imports or exports, changes in trade regulations, and/or an economic recession in the United States may have a material adverse effect on the U.S. economy and the securities listed on U.S. exchanges. Proposed and adopted policy and legislative changes in the United States are changing many aspects of financial and other regulation and may have a significant effect on the U.S. markets generally, as well as on the value of certain securities. In addition, a continued rise in the U.S. public debt level or the imposition of U.S. austerity measures may adversely affect U.S. economic growth and the securities to which the Fund has exposure. The United States has developed increasingly strained relations with a number of foreign countries. If relations with certain countries continue to worsen, it could adversely affect U.S. issuers as well as non-U.S. issuers that rely on the United States for trade. The United States has also experienced increased internal unrest and discord. If this trend were to continue, it may have an adverse impact on the U.S. economy and the issuers in which the Fund invests.

Tracking Risk. When the Fund uses a representative sampling approach, the Fund may not be as well correlated with the return of the Index as when the Fund purchases all of the securities in the Index in the proportions in which they are represented in the Index.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. The Board may, in the future, authorize the Fund to invest in securities contracts and investments other than those listed in this SAI and in the Fund's Prospectus, provided they are consistent with the Fund's investment objective and do not violate any investment restrictions or policies.

INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS

The Trust has adopted the following investment restrictions as fundamental policies with respect to the Fund. These restrictions cannot be changed with respect to the Fund without the approval of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities. For the purposes of the 1940 Act, a "majority of outstanding shares" means the vote of the lesser of: (1) 67% or more of the voting securities of the Fund present at the meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding voting securities are present or represented by proxy; or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

Except with the approval of a majority of the outstanding voting securities, the Fund may not:

1. Concentrate its investments (*i.e.*, hold more than 25% of its total assets) in any industry or group of related industries, except that the Fund will concentrate to approximately the same extent that its underlying index concentrates in the securities of such particular industry or group of related industries. For purposes of this limitation, securities of the U.S. government (including its agencies and instrumentalities), repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities, and tax-exempt securities of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are not considered to be issued by members of any industry.

2. Borrow money or issue senior securities (as defined under the 1940 Act), except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

3. Lend any security or make any other loan, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, or any exemption therefrom, as such statute, rules, or regulations may be amended or interpreted from time to time.

4. Purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act. This shall not prevent the Fund from investing in securities or other instruments backed by real estate, real estate investment trusts, or securities of companies engaged in the real estate business.

5. Purchase or sell physical commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act. This shall not prevent the Fund from purchasing or selling options and futures contracts or from investing in securities or other instruments backed by physical commodities.

6. Underwrite securities issued by other persons, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

In addition to the investment restrictions adopted as fundamental policies as set forth above, the Fund observes the following non-fundamental restriction, which may be changed without a shareholder vote.

1. Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets (plus borrowings for investment purposes) in AI Power Companies (as defined in the Prospectus). Prior to any change in this 80% investment policy, the Fund will provide shareholders with 60 days' written notice.

If a percentage limitation is adhered to at the time of investment or contract, a later increase or decrease in percentage resulting from any change in value or total or net assets will not result in a violation of such restriction, except with respect to the borrowing of money. With respect to the limitation on borrowing, in the event that a subsequent change in net assets or other circumstances causes the Fund to exceed its limitation, the Fund will take steps to bring the aggregate amount of borrowing back within the limitations within three days thereafter (not including Sundays and holidays).

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS DISCLOSURE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board has adopted a policy on disclosure of portfolio holdings, which it believes is in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders. The policy requires that the Fund's portfolio holdings be disclosed in a manner that: (i) is consistent with applicable legal requirements and is in the best interests of the Fund's shareholders; (ii) does not put the interests of the Adviser or the Distributor, or any affiliated person of the Adviser or the Distributor, above those of the Fund's shareholders; (iii) does not advantage any current or prospective Fund shareholder over any other current or prospective Fund shareholder, except to the extent that certain entities (as described below) may receive portfolio holdings information not available to other current or prospective Fund shareholders in connection with the dissemination of information necessary for transactions in Creation Units; and (iv) does not provide selective access to portfolio holdings information except pursuant to the procedures outlined below and, to the extent appropriate, confidentiality arrangements limiting the use of such information are in effect.

The "entities" referred to in sub-section (iii) above are generally limited to National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") members and subscribers to various fee-based subscription services, including APs, and other institutional market participants and entities that provide information services.

Each business day, portfolio holdings information will be provided to the Fund's transfer agent or other agent for dissemination through the facilities of the NSCC and/or other fee-based subscription services to NSCC members and/or subscribers to those other fee-based subscription services, including APs, and to entities that publish and/or analyze such information in connection with the process of purchasing or redeeming Creation Units or trading shares of the Fund in the secondary market. Information with respect to a Fund's portfolio holdings is also disseminated daily on the Fund's website.

The transfer agent may also make available portfolio holdings information to other institutional market participants and entities that provide information services. This information typically reflects the Fund's anticipated holdings on the following business day. Other than portfolio holdings information made available in connection with the creation/redemption process, as discussed above, portfolio holdings information that is not filed with the SEC or posted on the publicly available website may be provided to third parties only in limited circumstances, as described above.

Disclosure to providers of auditing, custody, proxy voting, liquidity risk management, and other similar services for the Fund, broker-dealers that are involved in executing portfolio transactions on behalf of the Fund, as well as rating and ranking organizations, will generally be permitted; however, information may be disclosed to other third parties (including, without limitation, individuals, institutional investors, and APs that sell shares of the Fund) only upon approval by the Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"). The recipients who may receive non-public portfolio holdings information are as follows: the Adviser and its affiliates, the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm, the Fund's distributor, administrator, sub-administrator, and custodian, the Fund's legal counsel, the Fund's financial printer, and the Fund's proxy voting service. These entities are obligated to keep such information confidential. Third-party providers of custodial or accounting services to the Fund may release non-public portfolio holdings information of the Fund only with the permission of the CCO.

The Fund will disclose its complete portfolio holdings in public filings with the SEC on a quarterly basis within 60 days of the end of the quarter, and will provide that information to shareholders, as required by federal securities laws and regulations thereunder. These filings are available, free of charge, on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at *http://www.sec.gov*. Under the policy, the Board is to receive information, on a quarterly basis, regarding any other disclosures of non-public portfolio holdings information that were permitted during the preceding quarter.

In no event shall the Fund, the Adviser, or any other party receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio holdings.

CONTINUOUS OFFERING

The method by which Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares are issued and sold on an ongoing basis, a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act, may occur at any point. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner which could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery requirement and liability provisions of the Securities Act.

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Unit Aggregations after placing an order with the Distributor, breaks them down into constituent Shares, and sells such Shares directly to customers, or if it chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new Shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for Shares. A determination of whether one is an underwriter for purposes of the Securities Act must take into account all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the activities of the broker-dealer or its client in the particular case, and the examples mentioned above should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a categorization as an underwriter.

Broker-dealer firms should also note that dealers who are not "underwriters" but are effecting transactions in Shares, whether or not participating in the distribution of Shares, generally are required to deliver a prospectus. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. Firms that incur a prospectus delivery obligation with respect to Shares of the Fund are reminded that, pursuant to Rule 153 under the Securities Act, a prospectus delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Act owed to an exchange member in connection with the sale on the Exchange is satisfied by the fact that the prospectus is available at the Exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is only available with respect to transactions on an exchange.

MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST

Board Responsibilities. The management and affairs of the Trust and its series are overseen by the Board. The Board elects the officers of the Trust who are responsible for administering the day-to-day operations of the Trust and the Fund. The Board has approved contracts, as described below, under which certain companies provide essential services to the Trust.

Like most ETFs, the day-to-day business of the Trust, including the management of risk, is performed by third-party service providers, such as the Adviser, the Distributor, and the administrator. The Board is responsible for overseeing the Trust's service providers and, thus, has oversight responsibility with respect to risk management performed by those service providers. Risk management seeks to identify and address risks, *i.e.*, events or circumstances that could have material adverse effects on the business, operations, shareholder services, investment performance or reputation, of the Fund. The Fund and its service providers employ a variety of processes, procedures, and controls to identify various of those possible events or circumstances, to lessen the probability of their occurrence, and/or to mitigate the effects of such events or circumstances if they do occur. Each service provider is responsible for one or more discrete aspects of the Trust's business (*e.g.*, the Adviser is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio investments) and, consequently, for managing the risks associated with that business. The Board has emphasized to the Fund's service providers the importance of maintaining vigorous risk management.

The Board's role in risk oversight begins before the inception of the Fund, at which time certain of the Fund's service providers present the Board with information concerning the investment objectives, strategies, and risks of the Fund as well as proposed investment limitations for the Fund. Additionally, the Adviser provides the Board with an overview of, among other things, its investment philosophy, brokerage practices, and compliance infrastructure. Thereafter, the Board continues its oversight function as various personnel, including the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"), and other service providers such as the Fund's independent accountants, make periodic reports to the Audit Committee of the Board (the "Audit Committee") or to the Board with respect to various aspects of risk management. The Board and the Audit Committee oversee efforts by management and service providers to manage risks to which the Fund may be exposed.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the nature, extent, and quality of the services provided to the Fund by the Adviser and receives information about those services at its regular meetings. In addition, on an annual basis, in connection with its consideration of whether to renew the Investment Advisory Agreement with the Adviser, the Board meets with the Adviser to review such services. Among other things, the Board regularly considers the Adviser's adherence to the Fund's investment restrictions and compliance with various Fund policies and procedures and with applicable securities regulations. The Board also reviews information about the Fund's performance and the Fund's investments, including, for example, portfolio holdings schedules.

The Trust's CCO reports regularly to the Board to review and discuss compliance issues and Fund and Adviser risk assessments. At least annually, the Trust's CCO provides the Board with a report reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of the Trust's policies and procedures and those of its service providers, including the Adviser. The report addresses the operation of the policies and procedures of the Trust and each service provider since the date of the last report; any material changes to the policies and procedures since the date of the last report; any recommendations for material changes to the policies and procedures; and any material compliance matters since the date of the last report.

The Board receives reports from the Fund's service providers regarding operational risks and risks related to the valuation and liquidity of portfolio securities. Annually, the independent registered public accounting firm reviews with the Audit Committee its audit of the Fund's financial statements, focusing on major areas of risk encountered by the Fund and noting any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in the Fund's internal controls. Additionally, in connection with its oversight function, the Board oversees Fund management's implementation of disclosure controls and procedures, which are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Trust in its periodic reports with the SEC is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the required time periods. The Board also oversees the Trust's internal controls over financial reporting, which comprise policies and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of the Trust's financial reporting and the preparation of the Trust's financial statements.

From their review of these reports and discussions with the Adviser, the CCO, the independent registered public accounting firm and other service providers, the Board, and the Audit Committee learn in detail about the material risks of the Fund, thereby facilitating a dialogue about how management and service providers identify and mitigate those risks.

The Board recognizes that not all risks that may affect the Fund can be identified and/or quantified, that it may not be practical or cost-effective to eliminate or mitigate certain risks, that it may be necessary to bear certain risks (such as investment-related risks) to achieve the Fund's goals, and that the processes, procedures, and controls employed to address certain risks may be limited in their effectiveness. Moreover, reports received by the Board as to risk management matters are typically summaries of the relevant information. Most of the Fund's investment management and business affairs are carried out by or through the Adviser, and other service providers, each of which has an independent interest in risk management but whose policies and the methods by which one or more risk management functions are carried out may differ from the Fund's and each other's in the setting of priorities, the resources available, or the effectiveness of relevant controls. As a result of the foregoing and other factors, the Board's ability to monitor and manage risk, as a practical matter, is subject to limitations.

Members of the Board and Officers of the Trust. There are 4 members of the Board, 3 of whom are not interested persons of the Trust, as that term is defined in the 1940 Act ("Independent Trustees"). John F. de Benedetti serves as Chairman of the Board. The Audit Committee is chaired by an Independent Trustee and comprised solely of Independent

Trustees. The Audit Committee chair presides at the Committee meetings, participates in formulating agendas for Committee meetings, and coordinates with management to serve as a liaison between the Independent Trustees and management on matters within the scope of responsibilities of the Committee as set forth in its Board-approved charter. The Trust has determined its leadership structure is appropriate given the specific characteristics and circumstances of the Trust. The Trust made this determination in consideration of, among other things, the number of Independent Trustees that constitute the Board, the amount of assets under management in the Trust, and the number of Funds overseen by the Board. The Board also believes that its leadership structure facilitates the orderly and efficient flow of information to the Independent Trustees from Fund management.

The Board has two standing committees: the Audit Committee and the Nominating/Governance Committee of the Board (the "Nominating/Governance Committee"). Each Committee is chaired by an Independent Trustee and composed of Independent Trustees.

The Audit Committee is comprised of all of the Independent Trustees. The function of the Audit Committee is to review the scope and results of the annual audit of the Fund and any matters bearing on the audit or the Fund's financial statements and to ensure the integrity of the Fund's financial reporting. The Audit Committee also recommends to the Board the annual selection of the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund, and it reviews and pre-approves audit and certain non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee did not meet between the Fund's inception date on April 7, 2026 and the Fund's fiscal year-end on April 30, 2026.

The Nominating/Governance Committee, comprised of all the Independent Trustees, is responsible for seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for Trustees. The Committee meets on an as needed basis. The Nominating/Governance Committee will accept and review shareholder nominations for Trustees, which may be submitted to the Trust by sending the nomination to the Trust's Secretary, c/o Wedbush Series Trust, 225 S Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101. The Nominating/Governance Committee did not meet between the Fund's inception date on April 7, 2026 and the Fund's fiscal year-end on April 30, 2026.

Additional information about each Trustee of the Trust is set forth below. The address of each Trustee of the Trust is Secretary c/o Wedbush Series Trust, 225 S Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

Name and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships held by Trustee During Past Five Years
Interested Trustee					
Geoff Bland* Born: 1962	Trustee	Indefinite; Since 2025	Senior Advisor, Wedbush Capital (since 2026); Chief Investment Officer, Wedbush Capital (2019 – 2026); Board Member, Wedbush Financial Services (since 2020); Advisor, Wedbush Ventures (2020 – 2026); Managing Director, Wedbush Capital Partners (2004 – 2023).	4	None
Independent Trustees					
John F. de Benedetti Born: 1962	Trustee	Indefinite; Since 2025	Principal, JFD Advisors (since 2023); President and CEO, California Center for Sleep Disorders (2006 – 2023).	4	None

Name and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen By Trustee	Other Directorships held by Trustee During Past Five Years
J. Philip Ferguson Born: 1945	Trustee	Indefinite; Since 2025	Member, Investment Committee, Silver Ventures (2012 – 2024); Member, Board of Managers, Salient Partners (since 2012); Member, Investment Committee, Houston Endowment, Inc. (2014 – 2025); Member, Investment Committee, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (since 2016); Member, Investment Committee, Texas Health Resources (since 2016); Trustee, USCA Fund Trust (2016 – 2024).	4	None
Jennifer E. Hoopes Born: 1965	Trustee	Indefinite; Since 2025	Chief Legal Officer, Member of the Board, Surus, Inc./Surus Trust Company (asset management) (since 2024); General Counsel, Farm Together, Inc. (farmland asset management) (2022 – 2024); General Counsel, Foreside Financial Group, LLC (2007 – 2021).	4	Man ETF Series Trust; Oak Associates Funds; Liberty All-Star Equity Fund; Liberty All-Star Growth Fund

* Mr. Bland is an interested Trustee because of his roles at Wedbush Capital, an affiliate of the Adviser.

Individual Trustee Qualifications. The Trust has concluded that each of the Trustees should serve on the Board because of their ability to review and understand information about the Fund provided to them by management, to identify and request other information they may deem relevant to the performance of their duties, to question management and other service providers regarding material factors bearing on the management and administration of the Fund, and to exercise their business judgment in a manner that serves the best interests of the Fund's shareholders. Additional considerations that led the Board to conclude that each individual serving as a Trustee of the Trust should so serve included the following: (i) the individual's business and professional experience and accomplishments; (ii) the individual's ability to work effectively with the other members of the Board; (iii) the individual's prior experience, if any, serving on company boards (including public companies and, where relevant, other investment companies) and the boards of other complex enterprises and organizations; and (iv) how the individual's skills, experiences, and attributes would contribute to an appropriate mix of relevant skills and experience on the Board.

In respect of each current Trustee, the individual's professional accomplishments and prior experience, including, in some cases, in fields related to the operations of the Trust, were a significant factor in the determination that the individual should serve as a Trustee of the Trust. In addition to the general considerations described above, the Board also considered the following individual qualities when selecting each Trustee.

The Trust has concluded that Mr. Bland should serve as Trustee because of his significant investment experience and executive experience as Chief Investment Officer and Managing Director of Wedbush Capital, and his experience of serving on boards. The Trust has concluded that Mr. de Benedetti should serve as a Trustee because of his significant executive experience, including as an adviser to corporate and non-profit boards. The Trust has concluded that Mr. Ferguson should serve as a Trustee because of his extensive finance and investment management background and his experience serving as an executive and on corporate boards. The Trust has concluded that Ms. Hoopes should serve as a Trustee because of her risk management, governance and regulatory expertise, specifically related to investment companies, and her experience serving on investment company boards.

In its periodic assessment of the effectiveness of the Board, the Board considers the complementary individual skills and experience of the individual Trustees primarily in the broader context of the Board's overall composition so that the Board, as a body, possesses the appropriate (and appropriately diverse) skills and experience to oversee the business of the Fund.

Principal Officers of the Trust. The officers of the Trust conduct and supervise its daily business. The address of each officer of the Trust is Secretary c/o Wedbush Series Trust, 225 S Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

Name and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with Funds	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years
Matthew Bromberg Born: 1973	President, Principal Executive Officer and Secretary	Indefinite; Since 2024	Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel, Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC (since 2024); Corporate Counsel, Wedbush Securities Inc. (since 2024); Chief Compliance Officer, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel of ETF Managers Group, LLC (2020 – 2024).
Samantha Kirkman Born: 1980	Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer and Accounting Officer	Indefinite; Since 2025	Controller, Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC (since 2025); Chief Financial Officer and FINOP, Wedbush & Co. (since 2024); Managing Director and Controller, Wedbush Securities Inc. (since 2017).
Michael Minella Born: 1971	Chief Compliance Officer	Indefinite; Since 2025	Director and Fund Chief Compliance Officer, ACA (since 2022); Director of Audit and Risk Strategy & Planning, Fidelity Investments (2021 – 2022), Vice President and Director, Funds' Treasurer's Office and Investment & Adviser Compliance, Fidelity Investments (2009 – 2021)
Melissa Beuther Born: 1971	Assistant Secretary	Indefinite; Since 2025	Assistant Vice President of ETF Governance and Operations, Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC (since 2025); Executive Assistant, Datasite (2024 – 2025); Corporate Services and Administration Manager, ETF Managers Group, LLC (2021 – 2024); Executive Assistant, Central Jersey Medical Center (2020 – 2021).
Gregory Nakamura Born: 1987	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite; Since 2025	Vice President, Product Control, Wedbush Securities Inc. (since 2019).

Fund Shares Owned by Board Members. The Fund is required to show the dollar amount ranges of each Trustee's "beneficial ownership" of Shares of the Fund and each other series of the Trust as of the end of the most recently completed calendar year. Dollar amount ranges disclosed are established by the SEC. "Beneficial ownership" is determined in accordance with Rule 16a-1(a)(2) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). As of December 31, 2025, for each Trustee, the dollar range of equity securities owned by the Trustees are:

Trustee	Fund	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Funds
Geoff Bland	IVES	$10,001 – $50,000
	IVEP	None
	EXEQ	None
	TGLR	None
John F. DiBenedetti	IVES	$10,001 – $50,000
	IVEP	None
	EXEQ	None
	TGLR	None
J. Phillip Ferguson	IVES	$100,001 – $500,000
	IVEP	None
	EXEQ	None
	TGLR	None
Jennifer E. Hoopes	IVES	None
	IVEP	None
	EXEQ	None
	TGLR	None

Board Compensation. Independent Trustees are paid by the Adviser from the unified management fee paid to the Adviser and not by the Fund. The Independent Trustees each receive an annual fee of $50,000, paid quarterly in arrears, as well as reimbursement for travel and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attendance at Board meetings. The Trust has no pension or retirement plan. Additionally, the chair of the Trust and the respective chairs of the Audit and Nominating/Corporate Governance Committees shall receive additional annual compensation of $5,000 per year. No officer, director, or employee of the Adviser, including an Interested Trustee, receives any compensation from the Fund for acting as a Trustee or officer of the Trust.

The following table shows the compensation earned by each Trustee for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2026. Independent Trustee fees are paid by the Adviser from the unified management fees paid to the Adviser and not by the Fund. Trustee compensation does not include reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses in connection with attendance at meetings.

Name	Aggregate Compensation From The Fund	Total Compensation From Fund Complex Paid to Trustees
Interested Trustee		
Geoff Bland	None	None
Independent Trustees		
John F. de Benedetti	None	$ 21,500
J. Philip Ferguson	None	$ 26,500
Jennifer E. Hoopes	None	$ 24,000

Control Persons and Principal Holders of Securities. A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding Shares of the Fund. A control person is a shareholder that owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of the Fund or acknowledges the existence of control. Shareholders owning voting securities in excess of 25% may determine the outcome of any matter

affecting and voted on by shareholders of the Fund. The following table sets forth the name, address, and percentage of ownership of each person who is known by the Trust to own, of record or beneficially, 5% or more of the Predecessor Fund's outstanding equity securities as of August 3, 2026:

Name and Address	Number of Shares	Percentage Ownership
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. c/o Christina Young 2423 E. Lincoln Drive Phoenix, AZ 85016	197,473	26.69%
National Financial Services LLC c/o Joanne Padarthsingh 499 Washington Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07310	164,281	22.20%
Pershing LLC c/o Joseph Lavara One Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399	106,439	14.38%
Bank of America c/o Monica Hernandez 9000 Southside BLVD. BLDG 200 Jacksonville, FL 32256	37,686	5.09%

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser") serves as investment adviser to the Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and the Adviser (the "Investment Advisory Agreement"). The Adviser is a Delaware limited liability company located at 225 S Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101. The Adviser is a wholly owned subsidiary of Wedbush Financial Services, LLC, which is majority owned by Wedbush Capital ("Wedbush"). Wedbush is a large securities brokerage, clearing, wealth management, and investment banking firm headquartered in Los Angeles, California, with 100 registered offices and nearly 900 colleagues. Matthew Bromberg, who is the General Counsel, Chief Operating Officer, and Secretary of the Adviser, is also the President and Principal Executive Officer of the Trust. Geoff Bland, Senior Adviser of Wedbush Capital, is also an interested Trustee of the Trust.

Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser provides investment advice to the Fund and oversees the day-to-day operations of the Fund, subject to the direction and control of the Board and the officers of the Trust. The Adviser also arranges for transfer agency, custody, fund administration, and all other non-distribution-related services necessary for the Fund to operate. The Fund pays the Adviser a fee equal to 0.75% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

Under the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser has agreed to pay all expenses of the Fund (except for advisory fees) excluding interest charges on any borrowings, dividends and other expenses on securities sold short, taxes, brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred in placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities and other investment instruments, securities lending fees and expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, accrued deferred tax liability, distribution fees and expenses paid by the Fund under any distribution plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, and litigation expenses, and other non-routine or extraordinary expenses.

The Investment Advisory Agreement, with respect to the Fund, continues in effect for two years from its effective date, and thereafter is subject to annual approval by (i) the Board of Trustees of the Trust or (ii) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund, provided that in either event such continuance also is approved by a vote of a majority of the Trustees of the Trust who are not interested persons (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund, by a vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. If the shareholders of the Fund fail to approve the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser may continue to serve in the manner and to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act and rules and regulations thereunder.

The Investment Advisory Agreement with respect to the Fund is terminable without any penalty, by vote of the Board or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund, or by the Adviser, in each case on not less than thirty (30) days' nor more than sixty (60) days' prior written notice to the other party; provided that a shorter notice period shall be permitted for the Fund in the event Shares are no longer listed on a national securities exchange. The Investment Advisory Agreement will terminate automatically and immediately in the event of its "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act).

The amount of management fees paid by the Fund since inception was $2,025. The Fund commenced operations on April 7, 2026.

Manager-of-Managers Arrangement

Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act requires that all contracts pursuant to which persons serve as investment advisers to investment companies be approved by shareholders. This requirement also applies to the appointment of sub-advisers to the Fund. The Trust and the Adviser received exemptive relief from the SEC (the "Order"), which permits the Adviser, on behalf of the Fund and subject to the approval of the Board, including a majority of the independent members of the Board, to hire, and to modify any existing or future sub-advisory agreement with, unaffiliated sub-advisers and affiliated sub-advisers, including sub-advisers that are wholly owned subsidiaries (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Adviser or its parent company and sub-advisers that are partially-owned by, or otherwise affiliated with, the Adviser or its parent company (the "Manager-of-Managers Structure"). The Adviser has the ultimate responsibility for overseeing the Fund's sub-advisers and recommending their hiring, termination, and replacement, subject to oversight by the Board. The Order provides relief from certain disclosure obligations with regard to sub-advisory fees. With this relief, the Fund may elect to disclose the aggregate fees payable to the Adviser and wholly owned sub-advisers and the aggregate fees payable to unaffiliated sub-advisers and sub-advisers affiliated with Adviser or its parent company, other than wholly-owned sub-advisers. The Order is subject to various conditions, including that the Fund will notify shareholders and provide them with certain information required by the exemptive order within 90 days of hiring a new sub-adviser.

The Fund may also rely on any other current or future laws, rules, or regulatory guidance from the SEC or its staff applicable to the Manager-of-Managers Structure. The sole initial shareholder of the Fund has approved the operation of the Fund under a Manager-of-Managers Structure with respect to any affiliated or unaffiliated sub-adviser, including in the manner that is permitted by the Order.

The Manager-of-Managers Structure enables the Trust to operate with greater efficiency by not incurring the expense and delays associated with obtaining shareholder approvals for matters relating to sub-advisers or sub-advisory agreements. Operation of the Fund under the Manager-of-Managers Structure will not permit management fees paid by the Fund to the Adviser to be increased without shareholder approval. Shareholders will be notified of any changes made to the sub-advisers or material changes to sub-advisory agreements within 90 days of the change.

Portfolio Managers.

In addition to the Fund, Cullen Rogers, manages the following other accounts (collectively, the "Other Accounts") as of April 30, 2026:

Type of Accounts	Total Number of Accounts	Total Assets of Accounts	Total Number of Accounts with Performance Based Fees	Total Assets of Accounts with Performance Based Fees
Registered Investment Companies	3	$1,032,282,705	0	$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	$0	0	$0
Other Accounts	0	$0	0	$0

Portfolio Manager Compensation. Portfolio manager compensation includes a salary and discretionary bonus based on the profitability of the Adviser. No compensation is directly related to the performance of the Fund.

Portfolio Manager Fund Ownership. As of April 30, 2026, the dollar range of equity securities of each Fund beneficially owned by the Funds' Portfolio Manager was as follows:

Portfolio Manager	Fund	Dollar Range of Equity Securities Beneficially Owned
Cullen Rogers	IVES	None
	IVEP	None
	EXEQ	$1 – $10,000
	TGLR	None

Description of Material Conflicts of Interest. A portfolio manager's management of "other accounts" may give rise to potential conflicts of interest in connection with his/her management of the Fund's investments, on the one hand, and the investments of the other accounts, on the other. The other accounts may have similar investment objectives or strategies to the Fund. Therefore, a potential conflict of interest may arise as a result, whereby a portfolio manager could favor one account over another. Another potential conflict could include a portfolio manager's knowledge about the size, timing, and possible market impact of Fund trades, whereby the portfolio manager could use this information to the advantage of other accounts and to the disadvantage of the Fund.

Codes of Ethics. The Trust and the Adviser have each adopted codes of ethics (each, a "Code of Ethics") pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act. These Codes of Ethics are designed to prevent affiliated persons of the Trust and the Adviser from engaging in deceptive, manipulative, or fraudulent activities in connection with securities held or to be acquired by the Fund (which may also be held by persons subject to the Codes of Ethics). Each Code of Ethics permits personnel subject to that Code of Ethics to invest in securities for their personal investment accounts, subject to certain limitations, including limitations related to securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. The Distributor (as defined below) relies on the principal underwriters' exception under Rule 17j-1(c)(3), specifically where the Distributor is not affiliated with the Trust or the Adviser, and no officer, director, or general partner of the Distributor serves as an officer, director, or general partner of the Trust or the Adviser.

There can be no assurance that the Codes of Ethics will be effective in preventing such activities. Each Code of Ethics may be examined at the office of the SEC in Washington, D.C. or on the Internet at the SEC's website at *http://www.sec.gov.*

Proxy Voting Policy. The Fund has delegated proxy voting responsibilities to the Adviser, subject to the Board's oversight. In delegating proxy responsibilities, the Board has directed that proxies be voted consistent with the Fund's and its shareholders' best interests and in compliance with all applicable proxy voting rules and regulations. The Adviser has adopted proxy voting policies and guidelines for this purpose ("Proxy Voting Policies") and has engaged a third-party proxy solicitation firm to assist with voting proxies in a timely manner. The Trust's chief compliance officer is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Proxy Voting Policies. Under the Proxy Voting Policies, in the absence of specific voting guidelines from the client, the Adviser will vote proxies in the best interest of each particular client. The Adviser has adopted the proxy voting guidelines attached as Appendix A. They are designed to vote in a manner consistent with the Adviser's investment decision making. The Adviser's policy is to vote all proxies from a specific issuer the same way for each client, absent qualifying restrictions from a client. Clients are permitted to place reasonable restrictions on the Adviser's voting authority in the same manner that they may place such restrictions on the actual selection of account securities. Clients may direct the vote in a particular solicitation.

The Adviser will generally vote in favor of routine corporate housekeeping proposals such as the election of directors and selection of auditors absent conflicts of interest raised by an auditor's non-audit services. The Adviser will generally vote against proposals that cause board members to become entrenched or cause unequal voting rights. In reviewing proposals, the Adviser will further consider the opinion of management, the effect on management, the effect on shareholder value, and the issuer's business practices.

When available, information on how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 will be available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling (866) 597-9452 and (2) on the SEC's website at *http://www.sec.gov*.

ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

The Trust entered into an administration agreement (the "Administration Agreement") with Wedbush Fund Advisers LLC (in its capacity as such, the "Administrator"), pursuant to which the Administrator acts as the Fund's administrator and provides the Trust with, or arranges for, administrative and management services (other than investment advisory services) to be provided to the Trust and the Board. Wedbush Fund Advisers LLC receives no additional compensation for its services as the Fund's administrator. For a description of the fee payable to Wedbush Fund Advisers LLC for its services as the Fund's investment adviser, see above under the caption "Investment Adviser."

THE SUB-ADMINISTRATOR, TRANSFER AGENT, AND CUSTODIAN

The Bank of New York Mellon ("BNY") serves as sub-administrator, fund accountant, transfer agent, and custodian for the Fund. BNY's principal address is 240 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10286. Pursuant to the Sub-Administration Agreement between the Adviser and BNY, the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement between the Trust and BNY, and the Fund Accounting and Administration Agreement between the Trust and BNY, BNY provides the Trust with administrative, transfer agency, and accounting services, respectively, including portfolio accounting services, tax accounting services, and furnishing financial reports. In this capacity, BNY does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of Fund Shares. As compensation for the administration, accounting, and management services, the Adviser pays BNY a fee based on the Fund's average daily net assets, subject to a minimum annual fee. BNY also is entitled to certain out-of-pocket expenses for the services mentioned above.

Pursuant to a Custody Agreement, BNY serves as the custodian of the Fund's assets. The custodian holds and administers the assets in the Fund's portfolios. Pursuant to the Custody Agreement, the custodian receives an annual fee from the Adviser based on the Trust's total average daily net assets, subject to a minimum annual fee and certain settlement charges. The custodian also is entitled to certain out-of-pocket expenses.

THE DISTRIBUTOR

The Trust and Foreside Fund Services, LLC (the "Distributor") are parties to a distribution agreement ("Distribution Agreement"), whereby the Distributor acts as principal underwriter for the Fund and distributes Shares. Shares are continuously offered for sale by the Distributor only in Creation Units. The Distributor will not distribute Shares in amounts less than a Creation Unit and does not maintain a secondary market in Shares. The principal business address of the Distributor is 190 Middle Street, Suite 301, Portland, ME 04101.

Under the Distribution Agreement, the Distributor, as agent for the Trust, will review orders for the purchase and redemption of Creation Units, provided that any subscriptions and orders will not be binding on the Trust until accepted by the Trust. The Distributor is a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and a member of FINRA.

The Distributor may also enter into agreements with securities dealers ("Soliciting Dealers") who will solicit purchases of Creation Units of Shares. Such Soliciting Dealers may also be APs (as discussed in "Procedures for Purchase of Creation Units" below) or DTC participants (as defined below).

The Distribution Agreement will continue for two years from its effective date and is renewable annually thereafter. The continuance of the Distribution Agreement must be specifically approved at least annually (i) by the vote of the majority of the Trustees or by the vote of a majority of the outstanding Shares of the Fund and (ii) by the vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the Distribution Agreement or interested persons of any such party cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Distribution Agreement may be terminated at any time without penalty by the vote of majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the Distribution Agreement or interested persons of any such party or by the vote of a majority of the outstanding Shares of the Fund, or by the Distributor on 60 days' written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment. The Distribution Agreement provides that in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith, or gross negligence on the part of the Distributor, or reckless disregard by it of its obligations thereunder, the Distributor shall not be liable for any action or failure to act in accordance with its duties thereunder.

Intermediary Compensation. The Adviser, or its affiliates, out of their own resources and not out of the Fund's assets (*i.e.*, without additional cost to the Fund or their shareholders), may pay certain broker dealers, banks, and other financial intermediaries ("Intermediaries") for certain activities related to the Fund, including participation in activities that are designed to make Intermediaries more knowledgeable about exchange traded products, including the Fund, or for other activities, such as marketing and educational training or support. These arrangements are not financed by the Fund and, thus, do not result in increased Fund expenses. They are not reflected in the fees and expenses listed in the fees and expenses sections of the Fund's Prospectus and they do not change the price paid by investors for the purchase of Fund Shares or the amount received by a shareholder as proceeds from the redemption of Fund Shares.

Such compensation may be paid to Intermediaries that provide services to the Fund, including marketing and education support (such as through conferences, webinars, and printed communications). The Adviser periodically assesses the advisability of continuing to make these payments. Payments to an Intermediary may be significant to the Intermediary, and amounts that Intermediaries pay to your adviser, broker, or other investment professional, if any, may also be significant to such adviser, broker, or investment professional. Because an Intermediary may make decisions about what investment options it will make available or recommend, and what services to provide in connection with various products, based on payments it receives or is eligible to receive, such payments create conflicts of interest between the Intermediary and its clients. For example, these financial incentives may cause the Intermediary to recommend the Fund over other investments. The same conflict of interest exists with respect to your financial adviser, broker, or investment professionals if he or she receives similar payments from his or her Intermediary firm.

Intermediary information is current only as of the date of this SAI. Please contact your adviser, broker, or other investment professional for more information regarding any payments his or her Intermediary firm may receive. Any payments made by the Adviser or its affiliates to an Intermediary may create an incentive for an Intermediary to encourage customers to buy Shares of the Fund.

Distribution Plan. The Trust has adopted a Distribution Plan (the "Plan") in accordance with the provisions of Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, which regulates circumstances under which an investment company may directly or indirectly bear expenses relating to the distribution of its shares. No payments pursuant to the Plan are expected to be made during the twelve (12) month period from the date of this SAI. Rule 12b-1 fees to be paid by the Fund under the Plan may only be imposed after approval by the Board.

Continuance of the Plan must be approved annually by a majority of the Trustees of the Trust and by a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the Plan or in any agreements related to the Plan ("Qualified Trustees"). The Plan requires that quarterly written reports of amounts spent under the Plan and the purposes of such expenditures be furnished to and reviewed by the Trustees. The Plan may not be amended to increase materially the amount that may be spent thereunder without approval by a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. All material amendments of the Plan will require approval by a majority of the Trustees of the Trust and of the Qualified Trustees.

The Plan provides that the Fund pays the Distributor an annual fee of up to a maximum of 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Shares. Under the Plan, the Distributor may make payments pursuant to written agreements to financial institutions and intermediaries such as banks, savings and loan associations, and insurance companies including, without limit, investment counselors, broker-dealers and the Distributor's affiliates and subsidiaries (collectively, "Agents") as compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with distribution assistance. The Plan is characterized as a compensation plan since the distribution fee will be paid to the Distributor without regard to the distribution expenses incurred by the Distributor or the amount of payments made to other financial institutions and intermediaries. The Trust intends to operate the Plan in accordance with its terms and with FINRA rules concerning sales charges.

Under the Plan, subject to the limitations of applicable law and regulations, the Fund is authorized to compensate the Distributor up to the maximum amount to finance any activity primarily intended to result in the sale of Creation Units of the Fund or for providing or arranging for others to provide shareholder services and for the maintenance of shareholder accounts. Such activities may include, but are not limited to: (i) delivering copies of the Fund's then current reports, prospectuses, notices, and similar materials to prospective purchasers of Creation Units; (ii) marketing and promotional services, including advertising; (iii) paying the costs of and compensating others, including APs with whom the Distributor has entered into written Authorized Participant Agreements ("Participant Agreements"), for performing shareholder servicing on behalf of the Fund; (iv) compensating certain APs for providing assistance in distributing the Creation Units of the Fund, including the travel and communication expenses and salaries and/or

commissions of sales personnel in connection with the distribution of the Creation Units of the Fund; (v) payments to financial institutions and intermediaries such as banks, savings and loan associations, insurance companies and investment counselors, broker-dealers, mutual fund supermarkets, and the affiliates and subsidiaries of the Trust's service providers as compensation for services or reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with distribution assistance; (vi) facilitating communications with beneficial owners of Shares, including the cost of providing (or paying others to provide) services to beneficial owners of Shares, including, but not limited to, assistance in answering inquiries related to shareholder accounts; and (vii) such other services and obligations as are set forth in the Distribution Agreement.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP, 700 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20001, serves as legal counsel for the Trust.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 800, Cleveland, OH 44115, serves as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund.

BROKERAGE TRANSACTIONS

The policy of the Trust regarding purchases and sales of securities for the Fund is that primary consideration will be given to obtaining the most favorable prices and efficient executions of transactions. Consistent with this policy, when securities transactions are effected on a stock exchange, the Trust's policy is to pay commissions which are considered fair and reasonable without necessarily determining that the lowest possible commissions are paid in all circumstances. The Trust believes that a requirement always to seek the lowest possible commission cost could impede effective portfolio management and preclude the Fund from obtaining a high quality of brokerage and research services. In seeking to determine the reasonableness of brokerage commissions paid in any transaction, the Adviser will rely upon its experience and knowledge regarding commissions generally charged by various brokers and on its judgment in evaluating the brokerage services received from the broker effecting the transaction. Such determinations are necessarily subjective and imprecise, as in most cases, an exact dollar value for those services is not ascertainable. The Trust has adopted policies and procedures that prohibit the consideration of sales of Fund Shares as a factor in the selection of a broker or dealer to execute its portfolio transactions.

The Adviser owes a duty to the Fund to seek best execution on trades effected. "Best execution" is generally understood to mean the most favorable cost or net proceeds reasonably obtainable under the circumstances. The full range of brokerage services applicable to a particular transaction may be considered when making this judgment, which may include, but is not limited to: liquidity, price, commission, timing, aggregated trades, capable floor brokers or traders, competent block trading coverage, ability to position, capital strength and stability, reliable and accurate communications and settlement processing, use of automation, knowledge of other buyers or sellers, arbitrage skills, administrative ability, underwriting, and provision of information on a particular security or market in which the transaction is to occur. The specific criteria will vary depending upon the nature of the transaction, the market in which it is executed, and the extent to which it is possible to select from among multiple broker/dealers. The Adviser will also use electronic crossing networks ("ECNs") or other alternative trading systems when appropriate.

Subject to the foregoing policies, brokers or dealers selected to execute the Fund's portfolio transactions may include the Fund's APs (as discussed in "Procedures for Purchase of Creation Units" below) or their affiliates. An AP or its affiliates may be selected to execute the Fund's portfolio transactions in conjunction with an all-cash creation unit order or an order including "cash-in-lieu" (as described below under "Purchase and Redemption of Shares in Creation Units"), so long as such selection is in keeping with the foregoing policies. As described below under "Purchase and Redemption of Shares in Creation Units-Creation Transaction Fee" and "— Redemption Transaction Fee", the Fund may determine to not charge a variable fee on certain orders when the Adviser has determined that doing so is in the best interests of Fund shareholders, *e.g.*, for creation orders that facilitate the rebalance of the Fund's portfolio in a more tax efficient manner than could be achieved without such order, even if the decision to not charge a variable fee could be viewed as benefiting the AP or its affiliate selected to execute the Fund's portfolio transactions in connection with such orders.

The Adviser may use the Fund's assets for, or participate in, third-party soft dollar arrangements, in addition to receiving proprietary research from various full service brokers, the cost of which is bundled with the cost of the broker's execution services. The Adviser does not "pay up" for the value of any such proprietary research. Section 28(e) of the Exchange Act permits the Adviser, under certain circumstances, to cause the Fund to pay a broker or dealer a commission for effecting a transaction in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for effecting the transaction in recognition of the value of brokerage and research services provided by the broker or dealer. The Adviser may receive a variety of research services and information on many topics, which it can use in connection with its management responsibilities with respect to the various accounts over which it exercises investment discretion or otherwise provides investment advice. The research services may include qualifying order management systems, portfolio attribution and monitoring services, and computer software and access charges which are directly related to investment research. Accordingly, the Fund may pay a broker commission higher than the lowest available commission in recognition of the broker's provision of such services to the Adviser. The amount of soft dollar benefits received depends on the amount of brokerage transactions effected with the brokers. A conflict of interest exists because there is an incentive to: 1) cause clients to pay a higher commission than the firm might otherwise be able to negotiate; 2) cause clients to engage in more securities transactions than would otherwise be optimal; and 3) only use brokers that provide soft dollar benefits.

The Adviser faces a potential conflict of interest when it uses client trades to obtain brokerage or research services. This conflict exists because the Adviser is able to use the brokerage or research services to manage client accounts without paying cash for such services, which reduces the Adviser's expenses to the extent that the Adviser would have purchased such products had they not been provided by brokers. Section 28(e) permits the Adviser to use brokerage or research services for the benefit of any account it manages. Certain accounts managed by the Adviser may generate soft dollars used to purchase brokerage or research services that ultimately benefit other accounts managed by the Adviser, effectively cross subsidizing the other accounts managed by the Adviser that benefit directly from the product. The Adviser may not necessarily use all of the brokerage or research services in connection with managing the Fund whose trades generated the soft dollars used to purchase such products. The Adviser is responsible, subject to oversight by the Board, for placing orders on behalf of the Fund for the purchase or sale of portfolio securities. If purchases or sales of portfolio securities of the Fund and one or more other investment companies or clients supervised by the Adviser are considered at or about the same time, transactions in such securities are allocated among the several investment companies and clients in a manner deemed equitable and consistent with its fiduciary obligations to all by the Adviser. In some cases, this procedure could have a detrimental effect on the price or volume of the security so far as the Fund is concerned. However, in other cases, it is possible that the ability to participate in volume transactions and to negotiate lower brokerage commissions will be beneficial to the Fund. The primary consideration is prompt execution of orders at the most favorable net price.

The Fund may deal with affiliates in principal transactions to the extent permitted by exemptive order or applicable rule or regulation.

Brokerage with Fund Affiliates. The Fund may execute brokerage or other agency transactions through registered broker-dealer affiliates of the Fund, the Adviser, or the Distributor for a commission in conformity with the 1940 Act, the Exchange Act, and rules promulgated by the SEC. These rules require that commissions paid to the affiliate by the Fund for exchange transactions not exceed "usual and customary" brokerage commissions. The rules define "usual and customary" commissions to include amounts which are "reasonable and fair compared to the commission, fee or other remuneration received or to be received by other brokers in connection with comparable transactions involving similar securities being purchased or sold on a securities exchange during a comparable period of time." The Trustees, including those who are not "interested persons" of the Fund, have adopted procedures for evaluating the reasonableness of commissions paid to affiliates and review these procedures periodically. The Fund has not paid brokerage commissions to any registered broker-dealer affiliates of the Fund, the Adviser, or the Distributor as of the date of this SAI.

Securities of "Regular Broker-Dealers." The Fund is required to identify any securities of its "regular brokers and dealers" (as such term is defined in the 1940 Act) which it may hold at the close of its most recent fiscal year. "Regular brokers and dealers" of the Fund are the ten brokers or dealers that, during the most recent fiscal year: (i) received the greatest dollar amounts of brokerage commissions from the Fund's portfolio transactions; (ii) engaged as principal in the largest dollar amounts of portfolio transactions of the Fund; or (iii) sold the largest dollar amounts of the Fund's Shares. The Fund did not own any securities of its "regular broker dealers" during the most recent fiscal year.

Brokerage Commissions. The Fund has paid brokerage commissions in the amount of $31 from commencement of operations through April 30, 2026.

Directed Brokerage. The Fund is also required to identify any brokerage transactions during its most recent fiscal year that were directed to a broker because of research services provided, along with the amount of any such transactions and any related commissions paid by the Fund. The Fund has not paid any directed brokerage as of the date of this SAI.

Portfolio Turnover. Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year, as well as within a year. High turnover rates are likely to result in comparatively greater brokerage expenses. The overall reasonableness of brokerage commissions is evaluated by the Adviser based upon its knowledge of available information as to the general level of commissions paid by other institutional investors for comparable services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRUST

The Declaration of Trust authorizes the issuance of an unlimited number of series and shares of each series. Each share of each fund represents an equal proportionate interest in any given fund with any given share. Shares are entitled upon liquidation to a pro rata share in the net assets of the Fund. Shareholders have no preemptive rights. The Declaration of Trust provides that the Trustees may create additional series or classes of shares. All consideration received by the Trust for shares of any additional funds and all assets in which such consideration is invested would belong to that fund and would be subject to the liabilities related thereto. Share certificates representing shares will not be issued. The Fund's Shares, when issued, are fully paid and non-assessable.

Each Share has one vote with respect to matters upon which a shareholder vote is required, consistent with the requirements of the 1940 Act and the rules promulgated thereunder. Shares of all funds of the Trust vote together as a single class, except that if the matter being voted on affects only a particular fund, it will be voted on only by that fund, and if a matter affects a particular fund differently from other funds, that fund will vote separately on such matter. As a Delaware statutory trust, the Trust is not required, and does not intend, to hold annual meetings of shareholders. Approval of shareholders will be sought, however, for certain changes in the operation of the Trust and for the election of Trustees under certain circumstances. Upon the written request of shareholders owning at least a majority of the outstanding shares of the Trust, the Trust will call for a meeting of shareholders to consider the removal of one or more Trustees and certain other matters. In the event that such a meeting is requested, the Trust will provide appropriate assistance and information to the shareholders requesting the meeting.

Under the Declaration of Trust, the Trustees have the power to liquidate the Fund without shareholder approval. While the Trustees have no present intention of exercising this power, they may do so if the Fund fails to reach a viable size within a reasonable amount of time or for such other reasons as may be determined by the Board.

Role of the Depository Trust Company ("DTC"). DTC acts as a securities depository for the Shares of the Trust. Shares of the Fund are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee and deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC. DTC, a limited-purpose trust company, was created to hold securities of its participants ("DTC Participants") and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among the DTC Participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the DTC Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities' certificates. DTC Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations, some of which (and/or their representatives) own DTC. More specifically, DTC is a subsidiary of the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation, which is owned by its member firms, including international broker dealers, correspondent and clearing banks, mutual fund companies, and investment banks. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers, and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants").

Beneficial ownership of Shares is limited to DTC Participants, Indirect Participants, and persons holding interests through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in Shares (owners of such beneficial interests are referred to herein as "Beneficial Owners") is shown on, and the transfer of ownership is effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to DTC Participants) and on the records of DTC Participants (with respect to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners that are not DTC Participants). Beneficial Owners will receive from or through the DTC Participant a written confirmation relating to their purchase of Shares. No Beneficial Owner shall have the right to receive a certificate representing such Shares.

Conveyance of all notices, statements, and other communications to Beneficial Owners is effected as follows. Pursuant to the Depositary Agreement between the Trust and DTC, DTC is required to make available to the Trust upon request and for a fee to be charged to the Trust a listing of the Shares of the Fund held by each DTC Participant. The Trust shall inquire of each such DTC Participant as to the number of Beneficial Owners holding Shares, directly or indirectly, through such DTC Participant. The Trust shall provide each such DTC Participant with copies of such notice, statement, or other communication, in such form and number and at such place as such DTC Participant may reasonably request, in order that such notice, statement, or communication may be transmitted by such DTC Participant, directly or indirectly, to such Beneficial Owners. In addition, the Trust shall pay to each such DTC Participant a fair and reasonable amount as reimbursement for the expenses attendant to such transmittal, all subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Share distributions shall be made to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of all Shares of the Trust. DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any such distributions, shall immediately credit DTC Participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in Shares of the Fund as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. Payments by DTC Participants to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners of Shares held through such DTC Participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in a "street name," and will be the responsibility of such DTC Participants.

The Trust has no responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or notices to Beneficial Owners, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in such Shares, or for maintaining, supervising, or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests, or for any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and the DTC Participants or the relationship between such DTC Participants and the Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners owning through such DTC Participants. DTC may decide to discontinue its service with respect to Shares of the Trust at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Trust and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Trust shall take action to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions at a comparable cost.

LIMITATION OF TRUSTEES' LIABILITY

The Declaration of Trust provides that a Trustee shall be liable only for his or her own willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of the office of Trustee, and shall not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law. The Declaration of Trust also provides that the Trust shall indemnify each person who is, or has been, a Trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the Trust, any person who is serving or has served at the Trust's request as a Trustee, Director, partner, officer, employee, agent, or fiduciary of another domestic or foreign corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, other enterprise, or employee benefit plan to the fullest extent provided by law and in the manner provided in the By-laws. However, nothing in the Declaration of Trust shall protect or indemnify a Trustee against any liability for his or her willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of the office of Trustee. Nothing contained in this section attempts to disclaim a Trustee's individual liability in any manner inconsistent with the federal securities laws.

PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES IN CREATION UNITS

The Trust issues and sells Shares of the Fund only: (i) in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load (but subject to transaction fees, if applicable), at their NAV per share next determined after receipt of an order, on any Business Day, in proper form pursuant to the terms of the Participant Agreement; or (ii) pursuant to the Dividend Reinvestment Service (defined below). The NAV of the Fund's Shares is calculated each Business Day as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange, generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time on each day that the New York Stock Exchange is open. The Fund will not issue fractional Creation Units. A "Business Day" is any day on which the New York Stock Exchange and Trust are open for business. As of the date of this SAI, the NYSE observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day (Washington's Birthday), Good Friday, Memorial Day (observed), Juneteenth Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Fund Deposits. The Fund has adopted policies and procedures governing the process of constructing baskets of Deposit Securities (defined below), Fund Securities (defined below) and/or cash, and acceptance of the same (the "Basket Procedures"). The consideration for purchase of a Creation Unit of the Fund generally consists of either: (i) the in-kind deposit of a designated portfolio of securities (the "Deposit Securities") per each Creation Unit and the Cash Component (defined below), computed as described below, or (ii) the cash value of the Deposit Securities ("Deposit Cash") and the Cash Component to replace any Deposit Security. When accepting purchases of Creation Units for all or a portion of Deposit Cash, the Fund may incur additional costs associated with the acquisition of Deposit Securities that would otherwise be provided by an in-kind purchaser. Together, the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, and the Cash Component constitute the fund deposit (the "Fund Deposit"), which represents the minimum initial and subsequent investment amount for a Creation Unit of the Fund. The "Cash Component" is an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the Shares (per Creation Unit) and the market value of the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable. If the Cash Component is a positive number (*i.e.*, the NAV per Creation Unit exceeds the market value of the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable), the Cash Component shall be such positive amount. If the Cash Component is a negative number (*i.e.*, the NAV per Creation Unit is less than the market value of the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable), the Cash Component shall be such negative amount and the creator will be entitled to receive cash in an amount equal to the Cash Component. The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the NAV per Creation Unit and the market value of the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable. Computation of the Cash Component excludes any stamp duty or other similar fees and expenses payable upon transfer of beneficial ownership of the Deposit Securities, if applicable, which shall be the sole responsibility of the AP (as defined below).

The Fund, through NSCC, will make available on each Business Day, prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time), the list of the names and the required number of Shares of each Deposit Security or the required amount of Deposit Cash, as applicable, to be included in the current Fund Deposits (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day) for the Fund. Such Fund Deposits are subject to any applicable adjustments as described below, to effect purchases of Creation Units of the Fund until such time as the next-announced composition of the Deposit Securities or the required amount of Deposit Cash, as applicable, is made available.

The identity and number of Shares of the Deposit Securities or the amount of Deposit Cash, as applicable, required for the Fund Deposit for the Fund may be changed from time to time by the Adviser, in accordance with the Basket Procedures, with a view to the investment objective of the Fund. Information regarding the Fund Deposit necessary for the purchase of a Creation Unit is made available to APs and other market participants seeking to transact in Creation Unit aggregations. The composition of the Deposit Securities may also change in response to adjustments to the weighting or composition of the component securities of the Fund's Index, interest payments, and corporate action events.

The Trust reserves the right to permit or require the substitution of Deposit Cash to replace any Deposit Security, which shall be added to the Cash Component, including, without limitation, in situations where the Deposit Security: (i) may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery; (ii) may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC for corporate securities and municipal securities; (iii) may not be eligible for trading by an AP or the investor for which it is acting; (iv) would be restricted under the securities laws or where the delivery of the Deposit Security to the AP would result in the disposition of the Deposit Security by the AP becoming restricted under the securities laws; or (v) in certain other situations (collectively, "custom orders"). The Trust also reserves the right to permit or require the substitution of Deposit Securities in lieu of Deposit Cash.

Cash Purchase. The Trust may at its discretion permit full or partial cash purchases of Creation Units of the Fund. When full or partial cash purchases of Creation Units are available or specified for the Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases thereof. In the case of a full or partial cash purchase, the AP must pay the cash equivalent of the Deposit Securities it would otherwise be required to provide through an in-kind purchase, plus the same Cash Component required to be paid by an in-kind purchaser together with a creation transaction fee and non-standard charges, as may be applicable.

Procedures for Purchase of Creation Units. To be eligible to place orders with the Distributor to purchase a Creation Unit of the Fund, an entity must be (i) a "Participating Party", *i.e.*, a broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process through the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC (the "Clearing Process"), a clearing agency that is registered with the SEC; or (ii) a DTC Participant (see "BOOK ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM"). In addition, each Participating Party or DTC Participant (each, an "AP") must execute a Participant Agreement that has been

agreed to by the Distributor, and that has been accepted by the Transfer Agent and the Trust, with respect to purchases and redemptions of Creation Units. Each AP will agree, pursuant to the terms of a Participant Agreement, on behalf of itself or any investor on whose behalf it will act, to certain conditions, including that it will pay to the Trust an amount of cash sufficient to pay the Cash Component together with the creation transaction fee (described below) and any other applicable fees and taxes.

All orders to purchase Shares directly from the Fund must be placed for one or more Creation Units and in the manner and by the time set forth in the Participant Agreement and/or applicable order form. The order cut-off time for the Fund for orders to purchase Creation Units is expected to be 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, which time may be modified by the Fund from time-to-time by amendment to the Participant Agreement and/or applicable order form. The date on which an order to purchase Creation Units (or an order to redeem Creation Units, as set forth below) is received and accepted is referred to as the order placement date (the "Order Placement Date").

An AP may require an investor to make certain representations or enter into agreements with respect to the order, (*e.g.*, to provide for payments of cash, when required). Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement and that, therefore, orders to purchase Shares directly from the Fund in Creation Units have to be placed by the investor's broker through an AP that has executed a Participant Agreement. In such cases there may be additional charges to such investor. At any given time, there may be only a limited number of broker-dealers that have executed a Participant Agreement and only a small number of such APs may have international capabilities.

On days when the Exchange closes earlier than normal, the Fund may require orders to create Creation Units to be placed earlier in the day. In addition, if a market or markets on which the Fund's investments are primarily traded is closed, the Fund will also generally not accept orders on such day(s). Orders must be transmitted by an AP by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Distributor pursuant to procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement and in accordance with the applicable order form. On behalf of the Fund, the Distributor will notify the Custodian of such order. The Custodian will then provide such information to the appropriate local sub-custodian(s). Those placing orders through an AP should allow sufficient time to permit proper submission of the purchase order to the Distributor by the cut-off time on such Business Day, as designated in the Participant Agreement. Economic or market disruptions or changes, or telephone or other communication failure may impede the ability to reach the Distributor or an AP.

Fund Deposits must be delivered by an AP through the Federal Reserve System (for cash) or through DTC (for corporate securities), through a sub-custody agent (for foreign securities) and/or through such other arrangements allowed by the Trust or its agents. With respect to foreign Deposit Securities, the Custodian shall cause the sub-custodian of the Fund to maintain an account into which the AP shall deliver, on behalf of itself or the party on whose behalf it is acting, such Deposit Securities (or Deposit Cash for all or a part of such securities, as permitted or required), with any appropriate adjustments as advised by the Trust. Foreign Deposit Securities must be delivered to an account maintained at the applicable local sub-custodian. The Fund Deposit transfer must be ordered by the AP in a timely fashion so as to ensure the delivery of the requisite number of Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, to the account of the Fund or its agents by no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time (or such other time as specified by the Trust) on the Settlement Date (as defined below). If the Fund or its agents do not receive all of the Deposit Securities, or the required Deposit Cash in lieu thereof, by such time, then the order may be deemed rejected and the AP shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any, resulting therefrom. The settlement date for the Fund is generally the second Business Day after the Order Placement Date (the "Settlement Date"). All questions as to the number of Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash to be delivered, as applicable, and the validity, form, and eligibility (including time of receipt) for the deposit of any tendered securities or cash, as applicable, will be determined by the Trust, whose determination shall be final and binding. The amount of cash represented by the Cash Component must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than the Settlement Date. If the Cash Component and the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, are not received by the Custodian in a timely manner by the Settlement Date, the creation order may be cancelled. Upon written notice to the Distributor, such canceled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day using the Fund Deposit as newly constituted to reflect the then current NAV of the Fund.

The order shall be deemed to be received on the Order Placement Date provided that the order is placed in proper form prior to the applicable cut-off time and the Deposit Cash, as applicable, and the Cash Component in the appropriate amount are deposited with the Custodian on the Settlement Date. If the order is not placed in proper form as required,

or Deposit Cash, as applicable, and the Cash Component in the appropriate amount are not received on the Settlement Date, then the order may be deemed to be rejected and the AP shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any, resulting therefrom. A creation request is considered to be in "proper form" if all procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement, order form, and this SAI are properly followed.

Issuance of a Creation Unit. Except as provided in this SAI, Creation Units will not be issued until the transfer of good title to the Trust of the Deposit Securities or payment of Deposit Cash, as applicable, and the payment of the Cash Component have been completed. When the sub-custodian has confirmed to the Custodian that the required Deposit Securities (or the cash value thereof) have been delivered to the account of the relevant sub-custodian or sub-custodians, the Distributor and the Adviser shall be notified of such delivery, and the Trust will issue and cause the delivery of the Creation Units. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the second Business Day following the day on which the purchase order is deemed received by the Distributor. The AP shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any, resulting from unsettled orders.

Creation Units may be purchased in advance of receipt by the Trust of all or a portion of the applicable Deposit Securities as described below. In these circumstances, the initial deposit will have a value greater than the NAV of Shares on the date the order is placed in proper form since, in addition to available Deposit Securities, cash must be deposited in an amount equal to the sum of (i) the Cash Component, plus (ii) an additional amount of cash equal to a percentage of the value as set forth in the Participant Agreement, of the undelivered Deposit Securities (the "Additional Cash Deposit"), which shall be maintained in a separate non-interest bearing collateral account. The AP must deposit with the Custodian the Additional Cash Deposit, as applicable, by 12:00 p.m. Eastern time (or such other time as specified by the Trust) on the Settlement Date. If the Fund or its agents do not receive the Additional Cash Deposit in the appropriate amount, by such time, then the order may be deemed rejected and the AP shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any, resulting therefrom. An additional amount of cash shall be required to be deposited with the Trust, pending delivery of the missing Deposit Securities to the extent necessary to maintain the Additional Cash Deposit with the Trust in an amount at least equal to the applicable percentage, as set forth in the Participant Agreement, of the daily market value of the missing Deposit Securities. The Participant Agreement will permit the Trust to buy the missing Deposit Securities at any time. APs will be liable to the Trust for the costs incurred by the Trust in connection with any such purchases. These costs will be deemed to include the amount by which the actual purchase price of the Deposit Securities exceeds the value of such Deposit Securities on the day the purchase order was deemed received by the Transfer Agent plus the brokerage and related transaction costs associated with such purchases. The Trust will return any unused portion of the Additional Cash Deposit once all of the missing Deposit Securities have been properly received by the Custodian or purchased by the Trust and deposited into the Trust. In addition, a transaction fee, as described below under "Creation Transaction Fee," may be charged. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the Settlement Date.

Acceptance of Orders of Creation Units. The Trust reserves the right to reject an order for Creation Units transmitted to it by the Distributor with respect to the Fund including, without limitation, if (a) the order is not in proper form; or the Fund Deposit delivered does not consist of the securities the Custodian specified; (b) the investor(s), upon obtaining the Shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding Shares of the Fund; (c) the Deposit Securities or Deposit Cash, as applicable, delivered by the AP are not as disseminated through the facilities of the NSCC for that date by the Custodian; (d) the acceptance of the Fund Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; (e) the acceptance or receipt of the order for a Creation Unit would, in the opinion of counsel to the Trust, be unlawful; or (f) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Trust, the Custodian, the Transfer Agent, and/or the Adviser make it for all practical purposes not feasible to process orders for Creation Units.

Examples of such circumstances include acts of God or public service or utility problems such as fires, floods, extreme weather conditions, and power outages resulting in telephone, telecopy, and computer failures; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other information systems affecting the Trust, the Distributor, the Custodian, a sub-custodian, the Transfer Agent, DTC, NSCC, the Federal Reserve System, or any other participant in the creation process, and other extraordinary events. The Distributor shall notify a prospective creator of a Creation Unit and/or the AP acting on behalf of the creator of a Creation Unit of its rejection of the order of such person. The Trust, the Transfer Agent, the Custodian, any sub-custodian, and the Distributor are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Fund Deposits nor shall either of them incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification. The Trust, the Transfer Agent, the Custodian and the Distributor shall not be liable for the rejection of any purchase order for Creation Units.

All questions as to the number of Shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility, and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Trust, and the Trust's determination shall be final and binding.

Creation Transaction Fee. A fixed purchase (*i.e.*, creation) transaction fee, payable to the Fund's custodian, may be imposed for the transfer and other transaction costs associated with the purchase of Creation Units ("Creation Order Costs"). The standard fixed creation transaction fee for the Fund is $500, regardless of the number of Creation Units created in the transaction. The Fund may adjust the standard fixed creation transaction fee from time to time. The fixed creation fee may be waived on certain orders if the Fund's custodian has determined to waive some or all of the Creation Order Costs associated with the order or another party, such as the Adviser, has agreed to pay such fee.

In addition, a variable fee, payable to the Fund, of up to a maximum of 2% of the value of the Creation Units subject to the transaction may be imposed for cash purchases, non-standard orders, or partial cash purchases of Creation Units. The variable charge is primarily designed to cover additional costs (*e.g.*, brokerage, taxes) involved with buying the securities with cash. The Fund may determine to not charge a variable fee on certain orders when the Adviser has determined that doing so is in the best interests of Fund shareholders, *e.g.*, for creation orders that facilitate the rebalance of the Fund's portfolio in a more tax-efficient manner than could be achieved without such order. The fees discussed above may not be enough to cover the costs associated with the transaction. In this instance, the costs would be borne by the Fund and would decrease the Fund's NAV.

Investors who use the services of a broker or other such intermediary may be charged a fee for such services. Investors are responsible for the fixed costs of transferring the Fund Securities from the Trust to their account or on their order.

Risks of Purchasing Creation Units. There are certain legal risks unique to investors purchasing Creation Units directly from the Fund. Because Shares may be issued on an ongoing basis, a "distribution" of Shares could be occurring at any time. Certain activities that a shareholder performs as a dealer could, depending on the circumstances, result in the shareholder being deemed a participant in the distribution in a manner that could render the shareholder a statutory underwriter and subject to the prospectus delivery and liability provisions of the Securities Act. For example, a shareholder could be deemed a statutory underwriter if it purchases Creation Units from the Fund, breaks them down into the constituent Shares, and sells those Shares directly to customers, or if a shareholder chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new Shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary-market demand for Shares. Whether a person is an underwriter depends upon all of the facts and circumstances pertaining to that person's activities, and the examples mentioned here should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could cause you to be deemed an underwriter.

Dealers who are not "underwriters" but are participating in a distribution (as opposed to engaging in ordinary secondary-market transactions), and thus dealing with Shares as part of an "unsold allotment" within the meaning of Section 4(a)(3)(C) of the Securities Act, will be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act.

Redemption. Shares may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by the Fund through the Transfer Agent and only on a Business Day. Redemption requests must be placed by or through an AP. EXCEPT UPON LIQUIDATION OF THE FUND, THE TRUST WILL NOT REDEEM SHARES IN AMOUNTS LESS THAN CREATION UNITS. Investors must accumulate enough Shares in the secondary market to constitute a Creation Unit to have such Shares redeemed by the Trust. There can be no assurance, however, that there will be sufficient liquidity in the public trading market at any time to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. Investors should expect to incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a sufficient number of Shares to constitute a redeemable Creation Unit.

With respect to the Fund, the Custodian, through the NSCC, makes available prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time) on each Business Day, the list of the names and Share quantities of the Fund's portfolio securities that will be applicable (subject to possible amendment or correction) to redemption requests received in proper form (as defined below) on that day ("Fund Securities"). Fund Securities received on redemption may not be identical to Deposit Securities.

Redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit are paid either in-kind or in cash, or combination thereof, as determined by the Trust, in accordance with the Basket Procedures. With respect to in-kind redemptions of the Fund, redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit will consist of Fund Securities -- as announced by the Custodian on the Business Day of the request for redemption received in proper form plus cash in an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the Shares being redeemed, as next determined after a receipt of a request in proper form, and the value of the Fund Securities (the "Cash Redemption Amount"), less a fixed redemption transaction fee as set forth below. In the event that the Fund Securities have a value greater than the NAV of the Shares, a compensating cash payment equal to the differential is required to be made by or through an AP by the redeeming shareholder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at the Trust's discretion, an AP may receive the corresponding cash value of the securities in lieu of the in-kind securities value representing one or more Fund Securities.

Cash Redemption. Full or partial cash redemptions of Creation Units will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind redemptions thereof. In the case of full or partial cash redemptions, the AP receives the cash equivalent of the Fund Securities it would otherwise receive through an in-kind redemption, plus the same Cash Redemption Amount to be paid to an in-kind redeemer.

Redemption Transaction Fee. A fixed redemption transaction fee, payable to the Fund's custodian, may be imposed for the transfer and other transaction costs associated with the redemption of Creation Units ("Redemption Order Costs"). The standard fixed redemption transaction fee for the Fund is $500. This is regardless of the number of Creation Units redeemed in the transaction. The Fund may adjust the redemption transaction fee from time to time. The fixed redemption fee may be waived on certain orders if the Fund's custodian has determined to waive some or all of the Redemption Order Costs associated with the order or another party, such as the Adviser, has agreed to pay such fee.

In addition, a variable fee, payable to the Fund, of up to a maximum of 2% of the value of the Creation Units subject to the transaction may be imposed for cash redemptions, non-standard orders, or partial cash redemptions (when cash redemptions are available) of Creation Units. The variable charge is primarily designed to cover additional costs (*e.g.*, brokerage, taxes) involved with selling portfolio securities to satisfy a cash redemption. The Fund may determine not to charge a variable fee on certain orders when the Adviser has determined that doing so is in the best interests of Fund shareholders, *e.g.*, for redemption orders that facilitate the rebalance of the Fund's portfolio in a more tax efficient manner than could be achieved without such order.

Investors who use the services of a broker or other such intermediary may be charged a fee for such services. Investors are responsible for the fixed costs of transferring the Fund Securities from the Fund to their account or on their order.

Procedures for Redemption of Creation Units. Orders to redeem Creation Units must be submitted in proper form to the Transfer Agent prior to 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. A redemption request is considered to be in "proper form" if (i) an AP has transferred or caused to be transferred to the Trust's Transfer Agent the Creation Unit(s) being redeemed through the book-entry system of DTC so as to be effective by the time as set forth in the Participant Agreement and (ii) a request in form satisfactory to the Trust is received by the Transfer Agent from the AP on behalf of itself or another redeeming investor within the time periods specified in the Participant Agreement. If the Transfer Agent does not receive the investor's Shares through DTC's facilities by the times and pursuant to the other terms and conditions set forth in the Participant Agreement, the redemption request shall be rejected.

The AP must transmit the request for redemption, in the form required by the Trust, to the Transfer Agent in accordance with procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement. Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement, and that, therefore, requests to redeem Creation Units may have to be placed by the investor's broker through an AP who has executed a Participant Agreement. Investors making a redemption request should be aware that such request must be in the form specified by such AP. Investors making a request to redeem Creation Units should allow sufficient time to permit proper submission of the request by an AP and transfer of Shares to the Trust's Transfer Agent; such investors should allow for the additional time that may be required to effect redemptions through their banks, brokers or other financial intermediaries if such intermediaries are not APs.

Additional Redemption Procedures. In connection with taking delivery of Shares of Fund Securities upon redemption of Creation Units, a redeeming shareholder or AP acting on behalf of such shareholder must maintain appropriate custody arrangements with a qualified broker-dealer, bank or other custody providers in each jurisdiction in which any of the Fund Securities are customarily traded, to which account such Fund Securities will be delivered. Deliveries of redemption proceeds generally will be made within two business days of the trade date.

However, due to the schedule of holidays in certain countries, the different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and dividend ex-dates (that is the last date the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security sold), and in certain other circumstances, the delivery of in-kind redemption proceeds by the Fund may take longer than two Business Days after the day on which the redemption request is received in proper form. If neither the redeeming shareholder nor the AP acting on behalf of such redeeming shareholder has appropriate arrangements to take delivery of the Fund Securities in the applicable foreign jurisdiction and it is not possible to make other such arrangements, or if it is not possible to effect deliveries of the Fund Securities in such jurisdiction, the Trust may, in its discretion, exercise its option to redeem such Shares in cash, and the redeeming shareholders will be required to receive its redemption proceeds in cash.

The Trust may in its discretion, and in accordance with the Basket Procedures, exercise its option to redeem such Shares in cash, and the redeeming investor will be required to receive its redemption proceeds in cash. In addition, an investor may request a redemption in cash that the Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit. In either case, the investor will receive a cash payment equal to the NAV of its Shares based on the NAV of Shares next determined after the redemption request is received in proper form (minus a redemption transaction fee, if applicable, and additional charge for requested cash redemptions specified above, to offset the Trust's brokerage and other transaction costs associated with the disposition of Fund Securities). The Fund may also, in its sole discretion, and in accordance with the Basket Procedures, upon request of a shareholder, provide such redeemer a portfolio of securities that differs from the exact composition of the Fund Securities but does not differ in NAV.

Redemptions of Shares for Fund Securities will be subject to compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws and the Fund (whether or not it otherwise permits cash redemptions) reserves the right to redeem Creation Units for cash to the extent that the Trust could not lawfully deliver specific Fund Securities upon redemptions or could not do so without first registering the Fund Securities under such laws. An AP or an investor for which it is acting subject to a legal restriction with respect to a particular security included in the Fund Securities applicable to the redemption of Creation Units may be paid an equivalent amount of cash. The AP may request the redeeming investor of Shares to complete an order form or to enter into agreements with respect to such matters as compensating cash payment. Further, an AP that is not a "qualified institutional buyer" ("QIB"), as such term is defined under Rule 144A of the Securities Act, will not be able to receive Fund Securities that are restricted securities eligible for resale under Rule 144A. An AP may be required by the Trust to provide a written confirmation with respect to QIB status to receive Fund Securities.

Because the portfolio securities of the Fund may trade on other exchanges on days that the Exchange is closed or are otherwise not Business Days for the Fund, shareholders may not be able to redeem their Shares, or to purchase or sell Shares on the Exchange, on days when the NAV of the Fund could be significantly affected by events in the relevant foreign markets.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed with respect to the Fund (1) for any period during which the Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (2) for any period during which trading on the Exchange is suspended or restricted; (3) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of Shares or determination of the NAV of Shares is not reasonably practicable; or (4) in such other circumstance as is permitted by the SEC.

DETERMINATION OF NAV

NAV per Share for the Fund is computed by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (*i.e.*, the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of Shares outstanding, rounded to the nearest cent. Expenses and fees, including the management fees, are accrued daily and taken into account for purposes of determining NAV. The NAV of the Fund is calculated by the Adviser and determined at the close of the regular trading session on the New York Stock Exchange (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day that such exchange is open, provided that fixed-income assets may be valued as of the announced closing time for trading in fixed-income instruments on any day that the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association ("SIFMA") announces an early closing time.

In calculating the Fund's NAV per Share, the Fund's investments are generally valued using market valuations. A market valuation generally means a valuation (i) obtained from an exchange, a pricing service, or a major market maker (or dealer), (ii) based on a price quotation or other equivalent indication of value supplied by an exchange, a pricing service, or a major market maker (or dealer), or (iii) based on amortized cost. In the case of shares of other funds that are not traded on an exchange, a market valuation means such fund's published NAV per share. A price

obtained from a pricing service based on such pricing service's valuation matrix may be considered a market valuation. The values of non-U.S. dollar denominated securities are converted to U.S. dollars using foreign currency exchange rates generally determined as of 3:00 p.m. Hong Kong time. Any assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources.

DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Prospectus entitled "Dividends, Distributions and Taxes."

General Policies. Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid at least annually by the Fund. Distributions of net realized securities gains, if any, generally are declared and paid annually, but the Fund may make distributions on a more frequent basis to improve index tracking for the Fund or to comply with the distribution requirements of the Code to preserve the Fund's eligibility for treatment as a RIC, in all events in a manner consistent with the provisions of the 1940 Act.

Dividends and other distributions on Shares are distributed, as described below, on a pro rata basis to Beneficial Owners of such Shares. Dividend payments are made through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners then of record with proceeds received from the Trust.

The Trust makes additional distributions to the extent necessary (i) to distribute the entire annual taxable income of the Fund, plus any net capital gains and (ii) to avoid imposition of the excise tax imposed by Section 4982 of the Code. Management of the Fund reserves the right to declare special dividends if, in its reasonable discretion, such action is necessary or advisable to preserve the status of the Fund as a RIC or to avoid imposition of income or excise taxes on undistributed income.

Dividend Reinvestment Service. The Trust will not make the DTC book-entry dividend reinvestment service available for use by Beneficial Owners for reinvestment of their cash proceeds, but certain individual broker-dealers may make available the DTC book-entry Dividend Reinvestment Service for use by Beneficial Owners of the Fund through DTC Participants for reinvestment of their dividend distributions. Investors should contact their brokers to ascertain the availability and description of these services. Beneficial Owners should be aware that each broker may require investors to adhere to specific procedures and timetables to participate in the dividend reinvestment service and investors should ascertain from their brokers such necessary details. If this service is available and used, dividend distributions of both income and realized gains will be automatically reinvested in additional whole Shares issued by the Trust of the Fund at NAV per Share. Distributions reinvested in additional Shares of the Fund will nevertheless be taxable to Beneficial Owners acquiring such additional Shares to the same extent as if such distributions had been received in cash.

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

The following is only a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations generally affecting the Fund and its shareholders that supplements the discussion in the Prospectus. No attempt is made to present a comprehensive explanation of the U.S. federal, state, local, or non-U.S. tax treatment of the Fund or its shareholders, and the discussion here and in the Prospectus is not intended to be a substitute for careful tax planning.

The following general discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences is based on provisions of the Code and the regulations issued thereunder as in effect on the date of this SAI. New legislation, as well as administrative changes or court decisions, may significantly change the conclusions expressed herein, and may have a retroactive effect with respect to the transactions contemplated herein.

Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the provisions of tax law described in this SAI in light of the particular tax situations of the shareholders and regarding specific questions as to federal, state, local, or non-U.S. taxes.

For purposes of this discussion, a "U.S. Shareholder" generally is a beneficial owner of a Share that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes: (i) a citizen or individual resident of the United States; (ii) a corporation (or other entity or arrangement treated as a corporation) organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision

thereof; (iii) a trust that is subject to the supervision of a court within the United States and the control of one or more U.S. persons or that has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person; or (iv) an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

A "Non-U.S. Shareholder" is a beneficial owner of a Share that is neither a U.S. Shareholder nor a partnership for U.S. tax purposes.

If a partnership (including an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds Shares, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Any partner of a partnership holding Shares should consult its tax advisors with respect to the purchase, ownership, and disposition of such Shares.

Taxation of the Fund. The Fund has elected to be treated and intends to continue to qualify each year to be treated as a separate RIC under the Code; however, no assurance can be given that the Fund will be able to maintain its RIC tax treatment. As a RIC, the Fund generally should not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes on its net investment income and capital gains, if any, to the extent that it timely distributes such income and capital gains to its shareholders. To qualify as a RIC, the Fund must distribute annually to its shareholders at least the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (generally its taxable income including the excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) and 90% of its net tax-exempt interest income, if any (the "Distribution Requirement") and also must meet several additional requirements. Among these requirements are the following: (i) at least 90% of the Fund's gross income each taxable year must be derived from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities, or foreign currencies, or other income derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or foreign currencies and net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships (the "Qualifying Income Requirement"); and (ii) at the end of each quarter of the Fund's taxable year, the Fund's assets must be diversified so that (a) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs, and other securities, if such other securities of any one issuer do not represent more than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets or more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of its total assets is invested, including through corporations in which the Fund owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, in (1) the securities (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other RICs) of any one issuer, (2) the securities (other than securities of other RICs) of two or more issuers which the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same, similar, or related trades or businesses, or (3) the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships (the "Diversification Requirement").

The Fund's efforts to satisfy the Diversification Requirement may affect the Fund's execution of its investment strategy and may cause the Fund's return to deviate from that of the Index, and the Fund's efforts to represent the Index using a sampling strategy, if such a strategy is used at any point, may cause it inadvertently to fail to satisfy the Diversification Requirement.

To the extent the Fund makes investments that may generate income that is not qualifying income, including certain derivatives, the Fund may take actions to ensure that the Fund's income that does not count towards the Qualifying Income Requirement does not exceed 10% of its gross income, such as transferring such investments to a subsidiary that is treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Although the Fund intends to distribute substantially all of its net investment income and may distribute its capital gains for any taxable year, the Fund will be subject to U.S. federal income taxation to the extent any such income or gains are not distributed. The Fund is treated as a separate corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The Fund therefore is considered to be a separate entity in determining its treatment under the rules for RICs described herein. The requirements (other than certain organizational requirements) for qualifying RIC status are determined at the Fund level rather than at the Trust level.

If a Fund fails to qualify for treatment as a RIC, and certain relief provisions are not applicable, it would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on all of its taxable income (including net capital gains) imposed at regular corporate rates. Such Fund would not be able to deduct distributions to stockholders, nor would they be required to be made. Distributions, including distributions of net long-term capital gain, would generally be taxable to shareholders as ordinary dividend income to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Subject to certain holding period and other limitations under the Code, corporate shareholders would be eligible to claim a dividend received deduction with respect to such dividend and non-corporate shareholders would generally be able to treat such

dividends as "qualified dividend income," which is subject to reduced rates of U.S. federal income tax. To requalify for treatment as a RIC in a subsequent taxable year, the Fund would be required to satisfy the RIC qualification requirements for that year and to distribute any earnings and profits from any year in which the Fund failed to qualify for tax treatment as a RIC. If the Fund failed to qualify as a RIC for a period greater than two taxable years, it would generally be required to pay the Fund-level tax on certain net built-in gains recognized with respect to certain of its assets upon disposition of such assets within five years of qualifying as a RIC in a subsequent year. The Board reserves the right not to maintain the qualification of the Fund for treatment as a RIC if it determines such course of action to be beneficial to shareholders. If the Fund determines that it will not qualify as a RIC, the Fund will establish procedures to reflect the anticipated tax liability in the Fund's NAV.

Capital losses in excess of capital gains ("net capital losses") are not permitted to be deducted against a RIC's net investment income. Instead, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, potentially subject to certain limitations, the Fund may carry a net capital loss from any taxable year forward indefinitely to offset its capital gains, if any, in years following the year of the loss. To the extent subsequent capital gains are offset by such losses, they will not result in U.S. federal income tax liability to the Fund and may not be distributed as capital gains to its shareholders. Generally, the Fund may not carry forward any losses other than net capital losses. The carryover of capital losses may be limited under the general loss limitation rules if the Fund experiences an ownership change as defined in the Code.

The Fund will be subject to a nondeductible 4% U.S. federal excise tax on certain undistributed income if it does not distribute to its shareholders in each calendar year an amount at least equal to 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year plus 98.2% of the amount by which the Fund's capital gains exceed its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for the one-year period ending on October 31 of the calendar year, and (3) certain undistributed amounts from the previous years on which the Fund paid no U.S. federal income tax. For this purpose, any ordinary income or capital gain net income retained by the Fund and subject to U.S. federal income tax will be considered to have been distributed. The Fund intends to declare and distribute dividends and distributions in the amounts and at the times necessary to avoid the application of the excise tax but can make no assurances that all such tax liability will be eliminated. The Fund may in certain circumstances be required to liquidate Fund investments in order to make sufficient distributions to avoid U.S. federal excise tax liability at a time when the investment adviser might not otherwise have chosen to do so, and the Fund may make such dispositions at times that, from an investment standpoint, are not advantageous.

If the Fund meets the Distribution Requirement but retains some or all of its income or gains, it will be subject to U.S. federal income tax to the extent any such income or gains are not distributed. The Fund may designate certain amounts retained as undistributed net capital gain in a notice to its shareholders, who (i) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their proportionate shares of the undistributed amount so designated, (ii) will be entitled to credit their proportionate shares of the income tax paid by the Fund on that undistributed amount against their U.S. federal income tax liabilities and to claim refunds to the extent such credits exceed their tax liabilities, and (iii) will be entitled to increase their tax basis, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in their Shares by an amount equal to the excess of the amount of undistributed net capital gain included in their respective income over their respective income tax credits.

For the purpose of determining (i) whether the annual distribution requirement is satisfied for any year and (ii) the amount of capital gain dividends paid for that year, the Fund may, under certain circumstances, elect to treat a dividend that is paid during the following taxable year as if it had been paid during the taxable year in question. If the Fund makes such an election, you will be treated as receiving the dividend in the taxable year in which the distribution is made. However, if the Fund pays a dividend in January that was declared by the Fund in October, November, or December and payable to shareholders of record on a specified date in such a month, treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as paid by the Fund and received by shareholders on December 31 of the calendar year in which it was declared.

Shareholders who have not held Shares for a full year should be aware that the Fund may report and distribute, as ordinary dividends or capital gain dividends, a percentage of income that is not equal to the percentage of the Fund's ordinary income or net capital gain, respectively, actually earned during the applicable shareholder's period of investment in the Fund. A taxable shareholder may wish to avoid investing in the Fund shortly before a dividend or other distribution, because the distribution will generally be taxable even though it may economically represent a return of a portion of the shareholder's investment.

Tax Treatment of Complex Securities. The Fund may invest in complex securities, and these investments may be subject to numerous special and complex tax rules. These rules could affect the Fund's ability to qualify as a RIC, affect whether gains and losses recognized by the Fund are treated as ordinary income or capital gain, accelerate the recognition of income to the Fund, and/or defer the Fund's ability to recognize losses, and, in limited cases, subject the Fund to U.S. federal income tax on income from certain of their non-U.S. securities. In turn, these rules may affect the amount, timing, or character of the income distributed to you by the Fund.

Some debt obligations that are acquired by the Fund may be treated as having original issue discount ("OID"). Generally, the Fund will be required to include OID in taxable income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of the OID is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. If the Fund holds such debt instruments, it may be required to pay out as distributions each year an amount that is greater than the total amount of cash interest the Fund actually received. For example, distributions may be made from the cash assets of the Fund or by liquidation of portfolio securities, if necessary.

The Fund may invest in inflation-linked debt securities. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-linked debt security will be OID, which is taxable as ordinary income and is required to be distributed, even though the Fund will not receive the principal, including any increase thereto, until maturity. If the Fund invests in securities that have OID, it may be required to liquidate other investments, including at times when it is not advantageous to do so, to satisfy its distribution requirements and to eliminate any possible taxation at the Fund level. Moreover, the Fund may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event the Fund realizes net gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive larger distributions than they would have in the absence of such transactions.

Non-U.S. Investments. Dividends and interest received by the Fund from sources within non-U.S. countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax treaties between certain countries and the United States may reduce or eliminate such taxes. The Fund does not expect to satisfy the requirements for passing through to its shareholders any share of non-U.S. taxes paid by the Fund, with the result that shareholders will not include such taxes in their gross incomes and will not be entitled to a tax deduction or credit for such taxes on their own tax returns.

If more than 50% of the value of the Fund's assets at the close of any taxable year consists of stock or securities of non-U.S. corporations, which for this purpose may include obligations of non-U.S. governmental issuers, the Fund may elect, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, to treat any non-U.S. income or withholding taxes paid by the Fund as paid by its shareholders. For any year that the Fund is eligible for and makes such an election, each shareholder of the Fund will be required to include in income an amount equal to his or her allocable share of qualified non-U.S. income taxes paid by the Fund, and shareholders will be entitled, subject to certain holding period requirements and other limitations, to credit their portions of these amounts against their U.S. federal income tax due, if any, or to deduct their portions from their U.S. taxable income, if any. No deductions for non-U.S. taxes paid by the Fund may be claimed, however, by non-corporate shareholders who do not itemize deductions. No deduction for such taxes will be permitted to individuals in computing their alternative minimum tax liability. Non-U.S. taxes paid by the Fund will reduce the return from the Fund's investments.

If the Fund holds shares in a "passive foreign investment company" ("PFIC"), it may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any "excess distribution" received on or any gain from the disposition of such shares. Additional charges in the nature of interest generally will be imposed on the Fund in respect of deferred taxes arising from any such excess distributions or gains.

This additional tax and interest may apply even if the Fund makes a distribution as a taxable dividend to its shareholders in an amount equal to (1) any excess distribution or (2) the gain from the dispositions of such shares. Provided that the PFIC agrees to provide the Fund with adequate information regarding its annual results and other aspects of its operations, the Fund can elect to treat the PFIC as a "qualified electing fund," or "QEF". In lieu of the foregoing requirements, the Fund will be required to include in income each year its proportionate share of the ordinary earnings and net capital gains of the QEF, even if not distributed to the Fund, and such amounts will be subject to the 90% and excise tax distribution requirements described above. To make this election, the Fund would be required to obtain certain annual information from the PFICs in which it invests, which may be difficult or impossible to obtain. Alternatively, the Fund may make a mark-to-market election that will result in the Fund being treated as if it had sold and repurchased its PFIC stock at the end of each year. In such case, the Fund would report any gains resulting from such deemed sales as ordinary income and would deduct any losses resulting from such deemed sales as ordinary losses to the extent of previously recognized gains. The election must be made separately for each PFIC owned

by the Fund and, once made, is effective for all subsequent taxable years, unless revoked with the consent of the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"). By making the election, the Fund could potentially ameliorate the adverse tax consequences with respect to its ownership of shares in a PFIC, but in any particular year may be required to recognize income in excess of the distributions it receives from PFICs and its proceeds from dispositions of PFIC stock. The Fund may have to distribute this excess income to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement and to avoid imposition of the 4% excise tax. To distribute this income and avoid a tax at the Fund level, the Fund might be required to liquidate portfolio securities that it might otherwise have continued to hold, potentially resulting in additional taxable gain or loss. Amounts included in income each year by the Fund arising from a QEF election, will be "qualifying income" under the Qualifying Income Requirement (as described above) even if not distributed to the Fund, if the Fund derives such income from its business of investing in stock, securities, or currencies.

If the Fund holds more than 10% of the shares in a non-U.S. corporation that is treated as a controlled foreign corporation, or "CFC," it may be treated as receiving a deemed distribution (taxable as ordinary income) each year from such CFC in an amount equal to the Fund's pro rata share of certain of the corporation's income for the tax year (including both ordinary earnings and capital gains), whether or not the corporation makes an actual distribution during such year. In general, a non-U.S. corporation will be classified as a CFC if more than 50% of the shares of the corporation, measured by reference to combined voting power or value, is owned (directly, indirectly, or by attribution) by U.S. shareholders. A "U.S. shareholder," for this purpose, is any U.S. person that possesses (actually or constructively) 10% or more of the combined voting power or 10% or more of the total value of all classes of shares of a corporation. If the Fund is treated as receiving a deemed distribution from a CFC, it will be required to include such distribution in its investment company taxable income regardless of whether it receives any actual distributions from such CFC, and such income will be subject to the Distribution Requirement and will be taken into account for purposes of the 4% U.S. federal excise tax. Income inclusions from a CFC will be "qualifying income" under the Qualifying Income Requirement provided that they are derived in connection with the Fund's business of investing in stocks and securities or the CFC distributes such income to the Fund in the same taxable year to which the income is included in the Fund's income.

Taxation of U.S. Shareholders. Distributions to U.S. Shareholders by the Fund of ordinary income, and of net short-term capital gains, if any, realized by the Fund will generally be treated as ordinary income to U.S. Shareholders to the extent such distributions are paid out of such Fund's current or accumulated earnings and profits. Distributions, if any, of net capital gains properly reported as "capital gain dividends" will be treated as long-term capital gains, regardless of the length of time the U.S. Shareholder has owned the Shares. A distribution of an amount in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) will be treated by a U.S. Shareholder as a return of capital, which will be applied against and reduce the U.S. Shareholder's adjusted tax basis in his or her Shares. To the extent that the amount of any such distribution exceeds the U.S. Shareholder's adjusted tax basis in his or her Shares, the excess will be treated by the U.S. Shareholder as gain from a sale or exchange of the Shares.

The Fund (or the applicable broker) will report to U.S. Shareholders annually the amounts of dividends paid from ordinary income, the amount of distributions of net capital gain, the portion of dividends which may qualify for the dividends received deduction for corporations, and the portion of dividends which may qualify for treatment as qualified dividend income.

Distributions will be treated in the manner described above regardless of whether such distributions are paid in cash or invested in additional Shares pursuant to a distribution reinvestment plan. U.S. Shareholders receiving distributions in the form of additional Shares will generally be treated as receiving a distribution in the amount of the fair market value of the distributed Shares. The additional Shares received by a U.S. Shareholder pursuant to the distribution reinvestment plan will have a new holding period commencing on the day following the day on which the Shares were credited to the U.S. Shareholder's account.

The Fund may elect to retain its net capital gain or a portion thereof for investment and be subject to U.S. federal income tax imposed at corporate rates, as well as any applicable U.S. federal excise tax, on the amount retained. In such case, it may designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its U.S. Shareholders, who will be treated as if each received a distribution of his pro rata share of such gain, with the result that each U.S. Shareholder will (i) be required to report its pro rata share of such gain on its tax return as long-term capital gain, (ii) receive a refundable tax credit for its pro rata share of tax paid by the Fund on the gain, and (iii) increase the adjusted tax basis for its Shares by an amount equal to the deemed distribution less the tax credit.

Upon the sale or other disposition of Shares, a U.S. Shareholder will generally realize a capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the U.S. Shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the Shares sold. Such gain or loss will be long-term or short-term, depending upon the U.S. Shareholder's holding period for the Shares. Generally, a U.S. Shareholder's gain or loss will be a long-term gain or loss if the Shares have been held for more than one year. For non-corporate taxpayers, long-term capital gains are currently eligible for reduced rates of taxation.

No loss will be allowed on the sale or other disposition of Shares if the owner acquires (including pursuant to the distribution reinvestment plan) or enters into a contract or option to acquire securities that are substantially identical to such Shares within 30 days before or after the disposition. In such a case, the adjusted tax basis of the securities acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Losses realized by a U.S. Shareholder on the sale or exchange of Shares held for six months or less are treated as long-term capital losses to the extent of any distribution of long-term capital gain received (or amounts designated as undistributed capital gains) with respect to such Shares.

The Fund will be required in certain cases to withhold (as "backup withholding") on amounts payable to any U.S. Shareholder who is not otherwise exempt from backup withholding, such as a corporation, and (1) such U.S. Shareholder fails to provide a correct taxpayer identification number certified under penalty of perjury; (2) the IRS notifies the payor that such U.S. Shareholder furnished an incorrect taxpayer identification number; (3) the Fund is notified by the IRS that the U.S. Shareholder has failed to properly report payments of interest or dividends; or (4) such U.S. Shareholder fails to certify, under penalties of perjury, on an IRS Form W-9 (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification) or a suitable substitute form (or other applicable certificate) that the U.S. Shareholder has furnished a correct taxpayer identification number and that the IRS has not notified such U.S. Shareholder that the U.S. Shareholder is subject to backup withholding. The backup withholding rate is currently 24%. Backup withholding is not an additional tax and any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's ultimate U.S. tax liability.

Individuals that are U.S. Shareholders with a modified adjusted gross income (subject to certain adjustments) exceeding $200,000 (other thresholds apply depending the individual U.S. Shareholder's filing status) are subject to a 3.8% tax on all or a portion of their "net investment income," which includes taxable interest, dividends, and certain capital gains (generally including capital gain distributions and capital gains realized on the sale of Shares). This 3.8% tax also applies to all or a portion of the undistributed net investment income of certain shareholders that are estates and trusts.

Under U.S. Treasury regulations, if a U.S. Shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to Shares of $2 million or more for an individual U.S. Shareholder or $10 million or more for a corporate U.S. Shareholder (or a greater loss over a combination of years), the U.S. Shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on IRS Form 8886. Direct U.S. Shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, U.S. Shareholders of a RIC are not excepted. Future guidance may extend the current exception from this reporting requirement to U.S. Shareholders of most or all RICs. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. U.S. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

Taxation of APs. An AP who exchanges securities for Creation Units generally will recognize a gain or a loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the market value of the Creation Units at the time and the sum of the exchanger's aggregate adjusted tax basis in the securities surrendered plus the amount of cash paid for such Creation Units. The ability of APs to receive a full or partial cash redemption of Creation Units of the Fund may limit the tax efficiency of the Fund. A person who redeems Creation Units will generally recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the exchanger's adjusted tax basis in the Creation Units and the sum of the aggregate market value of any securities received plus the amount of any cash received for such Creation Units. The IRS, however, may assert that a loss realized upon an exchange of securities for Creation Units cannot currently be deducted under the rules governing "wash sales" (for a person who does not mark-to-market its portfolio) or on the basis that there has been no significant change in economic position.

Any capital gain or loss realized upon the creation of Creation Units will generally be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the securities exchanged for such Creation Units have been held for more than one year. Any capital gain or loss realized upon the redemption of Creation Units will generally be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if Shares comprising the Creation Units have been held for more than one year. Otherwise, such capital gains or losses will generally be treated as short-term capital gains or losses. Any loss upon a redemption of Creation Units held for

six months or less may be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions to the applicable AP of long-term capital gain with respect to the Creation Units (including any amounts credited to the AP as undistributed capital gains).

The Trust, on behalf of the Fund, has the right to reject an order for Creation Units if the purchaser (or a group of purchasers) would, upon obtaining the Creation Units so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding Shares and if, pursuant to Section 351 of the Code, the Fund would have an adjusted tax basis in the deposit securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit. The Trust also has the right to require the provision of information necessary to determine beneficial Share ownership for purposes of the 80% determination. If the Fund does issue Creation Units to a purchaser (or a group of purchasers) that would, upon obtaining the Creation Units so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding Shares, the purchaser (or a group of purchasers) generally will not recognize gain or loss upon the exchange of securities for Creation Units.

APs purchasing or redeeming Creation Units should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the tax treatment of any creation or redemption transaction and whether the wash sales rule applies and when a loss may be deductible.

Taxation of Tax-Exempt Shareholders. Certain tax-exempt shareholders, including qualified pension plans, individual retirement accounts, salary deferral arrangements, 401(k) plans, and other tax-exempt entities, generally are exempt from U.S. federal income taxation except with respect to their unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI"). Tax-exempt entities are not permitted to offset losses from one unrelated trade or business against the income or gain of another unrelated trade or business. Certain net losses incurred prior to January 1, 2018 are permitted to offset gain and income created by an unrelated trade or business, if otherwise available. Under current law, the Fund generally serves to block UBTI from being realized by its tax-exempt shareholders with respect to their shares of Fund income. However, notwithstanding the foregoing, tax-exempt shareholders could realize UBTI by virtue of their investment in the Fund if, for example, (i) the Fund invests in residual interests of Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits ("REMICs"), (ii) the Fund invests in a REIT that is a taxable mortgage pool ("TMP") or that has a subsidiary that is a TMP or that invests in the residual interest of a REMIC, or (iii) Shares constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholders within the meaning of section 514(b) of the Code. Charitable remainder trusts are subject to special rules and should consult their tax advisors. The IRS has issued guidance with respect to these issues and prospective shareholders, especially charitable remainder trusts, are strongly encouraged to consult with their tax advisors regarding these issues.

Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders. Subject to the discussions below concerning backup withholding and FATCA (defined below), distributions of the Fund's investment company taxable income to Non-U.S. Shareholders will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax imposed at a 30% rate (or lower rate provided by an applicable treaty) to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits unless an applicable exception applies. No withholding will be required on such distributions to the extent that (i) such distributions are properly reported to the Fund's Non-U.S. Shareholders as "interest-related dividends" or "short-term capital gain dividends," (ii) the distributions are derived from sources specified in the Code for such dividends and (iii) certain other requirements are satisfied. No assurance can be given as to whether any significant amount of the Fund's distributions with respect to its Shares would be reported as eligible for this exemption from withholding.

If the distributions with respect to the Shares of the Fund are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. Shareholder (and, if an income tax treaty applies, attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Shareholder in the United States), no amount of U.S. federal tax will be required to be withheld from such distributions if the Non-U.S. Shareholder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements, although such distributions will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. persons. Special certification requirements apply to a Non-U.S. Shareholder that is a foreign partnership or a foreign trust, and such entities are urged to consult their own tax advisors.

Subject to the discussion below concerning FATCA, actual or deemed distributions of the Fund's net capital gains to a Non-U.S. Shareholder, and gains realized by a Non-U.S. Shareholder upon the sale of Shares of the Fund, will not be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax and generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless (i) the distributions or gains, as the case may be, are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the Non-U.S. Shareholder (and, if an income tax treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Shareholder in the United States), or (ii) such Non-U.S. Shareholder is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more during the year of the distribution or gain.

For a corporate Non-U.S. Shareholder, distributions and gains realized upon the sale of Shares of the Fund that are effectively connected to a U.S. trade or business may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional "branch profits tax" at a 30% rate (or at a lower rate if provided for by an applicable treaty).

The Fund must generally report to its Non-U.S. Shareholders and the IRS the amount of dividends paid during each calendar year and the amount of any tax withheld. Information reporting requirements may apply even if no withholding was required because the distributions were effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Shareholder's conduct of a United States trade or business or withholding was reduced or eliminated by an applicable income tax treaty. This information also may be made available under a specific treaty or agreement with the tax authorities in the country in which the Non-U.S. Shareholder resides or is established.

Under U.S. federal income tax law, interest, dividends, and other reportable payments may, under certain circumstances, be subject to "backup withholding" at the then applicable rate (currently 24%). Backup withholding, however, generally will not apply to distributions to a Non-U.S. Shareholder, provided the Non-U.S. Shareholder furnishes to the Fund the required certification as to its non-U.S. status, such as by providing a valid IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E, or certain other requirements are met. Backup withholding is not an additional tax but can be credited against a Non-U.S. Shareholder's U.S. federal income tax and may be refunded to the extent it results in an overpayment of tax and the appropriate information is timely supplied to the IRS.

Non-U.S. Shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the Fund.

Legislation commonly referred to as the "Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act," or "FATCA," generally imposes a 30% withholding tax on payments of certain types of income to foreign financial institutions ("FFIs") unless such FFIs either (i) enter into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury to report certain required information with respect to accounts held by certain specified U.S. persons (or held by foreign entities that have certain specified U.S. persons as substantial owners) or (ii) reside in a jurisdiction that has entered into an intergovernmental agreement, or ("IGA") with the United States to collect and share such information and are in compliance with the terms of such IGA and any enabling legislation or regulations. The types of income subject to the tax include U.S. source interest and dividends. While the Code would also require withholding on payments of the gross proceeds from the sale of any property that could produce U.S. source interest or dividends, the U.S. Treasury Department has indicated its intent to eliminate this requirement in subsequent proposed regulations, which state that taxpayers may rely on the proposed regulations until final regulations are issued. The information required to be reported includes the identity and taxpayer identification number of each account holder that is a specified U.S. person and certain financial information associated with the holder's account. In addition, subject to certain exceptions, this legislation also imposes a 30% withholding on certain payments to certain foreign entities that are not financial institutions unless the foreign entity certifies that it does not have a greater than 10% owner that is a specified U.S. person or provides the withholding agent with identifying information on each greater than 10% owner that is a specified U.S. person. Depending on the status of a Non-U.S. Shareholder and the status of the intermediaries through which they hold their Shares, Non-U.S. Shareholders could be subject to this 30% withholding tax with respect to distributions on their Shares. Under certain circumstances, a Non-U.S. Shareholder might be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes.

Certain Potential Tax Reporting Requirements. Under U.S. Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss on disposition of Shares of $2 million or more for an individual shareholder or $10 million or more for a corporate shareholder (or certain greater amounts over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on IRS Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a RIC are not excepted. Significant penalties may be imposed for the failure to comply with the reporting requirements. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

Other Issues. In those states which have income tax laws, the tax treatment of the Fund and of Fund shareholders with respect to distributions by the Fund may differ from federal tax treatment.

General Considerations. The U.S. federal income tax discussion set forth above is for general information only. Shares of the Fund held in a tax-qualified retirement account will generally not be subject to federal taxation on income and capital gains distributions from the Fund until a shareholder begins receiving payments from their retirement account. Because each shareholder's tax situation is different, prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the specific U.S. federal income tax consequences of purchasing, holding and disposing of Shares of the Fund, as well as the effect of state, local and foreign tax law and any proposed tax law changes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2026 Annual Report for the Fund for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2026 is a separate document from this SAI and the financial statements, accompanying notes, and report of independent accountants appearing therein are incorporated by reference in this SAI.

APPENDIX A

WEDBUSH FUND ADVISERS, LLC

Proxy Voting Policy

Introduction

Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC ("WFA") has adopted this Proxy Voting Policy ("Policy") pursuant to Rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended ("Advisers Act"), Rule 30b1-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and other fiduciary obligations. The Policy describes the Adviser's proxy voting duty and obligation to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interests of WFA's fund(s).[1]

Statement of Policy

It is WFA's policy, where proxy voting authority has been delegated to WFA by the fund(s), that all proxies are voted in the best interest of the fund without regard to the interests of WFA or other related parties. For purposes of the Policy, the "best interests of fund" shall mean, unless otherwise specified by the fund offering documents, the funds' best economic interests over the long term. It is further the policy of WFA that complete and accurate disclosure concerning its proxy voting policies and procedures and proxy voting records, as required by the Advisers Act, be made available to fund shareholders.

Procedures

Subject to the procedures set forth below, WFA's chief compliance officer maintains responsibility for reviewing all proxies and ensuring that proxies are voted timely in accordance with this Policy.

Use of Third-Party Proxy Service

In connection with its responsibilities expressed herein, WFA may utilize the services of third-party service providers to assist it in researching and voting proxies and development of proxy voting guidelines (each, a "Service Provider"). If a Service Provider is used, they help institutional investors research the financial implications of proxy proposals and cast votes that will protect and enhance investor returns. WFA will utilize the research and analytical services, operational implementation and recordkeeping and reporting services provided by Service Provider. Service Provider will research each proxy and provide a recommendation to WFA as to how to vote on each issue based on its research of the individual facts and circumstances of the proxy issue and its application of its research findings to the Guidelines. Service Provider will cast votes in accordance with its recommendations unless instructed otherwise by the CCO or other designed personnel as set forth below. The current service providers are Broadridge and Glass Lewis.

Review of Recommendations

WFA's CCO (or other designated personnel) have the ultimate responsibility to accept or reject any Service Provider voting recommendation ("Recommendation"). Consequently, the CCO or other appointed staff is responsible for understanding and reviewing how proxies are voted for the fund(s), taking into account the Policy, the Guidelines and the best interest of the fund shareholders. The CCO may override the Recommendation should he/she not believe that such Recommendation, based on all facts and circumstances, is in the best interests of the fund(s). WFA will memorialize the basis for any decision to override a Recommendation or to abstain from voting, including the resolution of any conflicts, as further discussed below. WFA may choose not to vote proxies under the following circumstances:

- if the effect on the shareholders economic interests or the value of the portfolio holding is indeterminable or insignificant;
- if the cost of voting the proxy outweighs the possible benefit; or
- if a jurisdiction whose laws or regulations govern the voting of proxies with respect to the portfolio holding impose share blocking restrictions which prevent WFA from exercising its voting authority.

1 WFA typically has responsibility to vote proxies on behalf of all Funds, subject to the terms of each Fund's advisory agreement

Addressing Material Conflicts of Interest

Prior to overriding a Recommendation, the CCO (or other designated personnel) must memorialize the determination and document whether a potential material conflict of interest exists between WFA and the fund on whose behalf the proxy is to be voted ("Material Conflict"). The CCO or any person so designated has an affirmative duty to disclose any potential Material Conflicts known to them related to a proxy vote. Material Conflicts may exist in situations where WFA is called to vote on a proxy involving an issuer or proponent of a proxy proposal regarding the issuer where WFA or an affiliated person of the WFA also:

- manages the issuer's or proponent's pension plan;
- administers the issuer's or proponent's employee benefit plan;
- provided brokerage, underwriting, insurance or banking services to the issuer or proponent; or
- manages money for an employee group.

Additional Material Conflicts may exist if an executive of WFA or its control affiliates is a close relative of, or has a personal or business relationship with:

- an executive of the issuer or proponent;
- a director of the issuer or proponent;
- a person who is a candidate to be a director of the issuer;
- a participant in the proxy contest; or
- a proponent of a proxy proposal.

Material Conflicts based on business relationships or dealings of affiliates of WFA will only be considered to the extent that the applicable CCO has actual knowledge of such business relationships. Whether a relationship creates a Material Conflict will depend on the facts and circumstances. Even if these parties do not attempt to influence WFA with respect to voting, the value of the relationship to WFA can create a Material Conflict.

Material Conflicts may exist when WFA manages a separate account, a fund or other collective investment vehicle that invests in affiliated funds. When WFA receives proxies in its capacity as a shareholder of an underlying fund, WFA will vote in accordance with the recommendation of an independent service provider applying WFA's predetermined guidelines. If there is no relevant predetermined guideline, WFA will vote in accordance with the recommendation of the independent service provider. If the independent service provider does not provide a recommendation, WFA then may address the conflict by "echoing" or "mirroring" the vote of the other shareholders in those underlying funds.

If the CCO determines that there is no potential Material Conflict, the CCO may override the Recommendation and vote the proxy issue as he/she determines is in the best interest of fund(s) shareholders. If the CCO determines that there exists or may exist a Material Conflict, it will consider the following facts and circumstances of the pending proxy vote and the potential or actual Material Conflict and make a determination as to how to vote the proxy:

- the percentage of outstanding securities of the issuer held on behalf of funds advised by WFA;
- the nature of the relationship of the issuer with WFA, its affiliates or its executive officers;
- whether there has been any attempt to directly or indirectly influence WFA's decision;
- whether the direction (for or against) of the proposed vote would appear to benefit WFA or a related party; and
- whether an objective decision to vote in a certain way will still create a strong appearance of a conflict.

WFA may not abstain from voting any such proxy for the purpose of avoiding conflict.

In the event Service Provider itself has a conflict and thus, is unable to provide a recommendation, the CCO will make a voting recommendation and submit the proxy.

Lending

WFA will monitor upcoming meetings and call stock loans, if applicable, in anticipation of an important vote to be taken among holders of the securities or of the giving or withholding of their consent on a material matter affecting the investment. In determining whether to call stock loans, WFA shall consider whether the benefit to the fund in voting the matter outweighs the benefit to the fund in keeping the stock on loan.

Compliance Monitoring

CCO Reporting

Each quarter, the CCO will report to the Board, with respect to proxy votes on behalf of an ETF, all proxy votes involving the fund in which WFA has overridden the Recommendation and include a description of the reason for the override and whether such override involved a potential Material Conflict and participation of the CCO.

Annually, CCO will provide the Board with a report of relevant proxy voting matters, such as any proposed changes to the proxy voting policy or guidelines and any votes presenting Material Conflicts.

Investment Company Disclosures

For each investment company that WFA manages, WFA will ensure that the proxy voting record for the twelve-month period ending June 30 for each registered investment company is properly reported on Form N-PX no later than August 31 of each year. WFA will also ensure that each such fund states in its Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") and its annual and semi-annual report to shareholders that information concerning how the fund voted proxies relating to its portfolio securities for the most recent twelve-month period ending June 30 is available through the fund's website and on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") website.

WFA ensures that proper disclosure is made in each fund's SAI describing the policies and procedures used to determine how to vote proxies relating to such fund's portfolio securities. WFA will further ensure that the annual and semi-annual report to for each fund states that a description of the fund's proxy voting policies and procedures is available: (1) without charge, upon request, by calling a specified toll-free telephone number; (2) on the fund's website; and (3) on the SEC's website.

Recordkeeping

Either WFA or Service Provider, or both, as indicated below, will maintain the following records:

- a copy of the Policy and Guidelines (both);
- a copy of each proxy statement received by WFA regarding fund securities (Service Provider);
- a record of each vote cast by WFA on behalf of a fund (Service Provider);
- a copy of all documents created by WFA that were material to making a decision on the proxy voting (or abstaining from voting) and all supporting documents; and

Such records must be maintained for at least six years.