

CUSHING MLP & INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL RETURN FUND

Form N-2

June 08, 2018

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 8, 2018

Securities Act File No. 333-

Investment Company Act File No. 811-22072

United States

Securities and Exchange Commission

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-2

Registration Statement

*under*

*the Securities Act of 1933*  
Pre-Effective Amendment No.  
Post-Effective Amendment No.  
and/or

Registration Statement

*under*

*the Investment Company Act of 1940*  
Amendment No. 20

**THE CUSHING<sup>®</sup> MLP & INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL RETURN FUND**

**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)**

**8117 Preston Road, Suite 440**

**Dallas, Texas 75225**

**(Address of Principal Executive Offices)**

**(214) 692-6334**

**(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)**

**Jerry V. Swank**

**Cushing<sup>®</sup> Asset Management, LP**

**8117 Preston Road, Suite 440**

**Dallas, Texas 75225**

**(Name and Address of Agent for Service)**

*Copies to:*

**Kevin T. Hardy, Esq.**

**Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**

**155 North Wacker Drive**

**Chicago, Illinois 60606**

Approximate date of proposed public offering: As soon as practicable after the effective date of this registration statement.

If any securities being registered on this form will be offered on a delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, other than securities offered in connection with a dividend reinvestment

plan, check the following box . . . .

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box):

When declared effective pursuant to section 8(c).

If appropriate, check the following box:

This [post-effective] amendment designates a new effective date for a previously filed [post-effective amendment] [registration statement].

This form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act and the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering is .

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

Title of Securities Being Registered	Amount Being Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Shares, \$0.001 par value				
Subscription Rights for Common Shares				
<b>Total</b>			\$1,000,000	\$124.50

- (1) There are being registered hereunder a presently indeterminate number of common shares and/or subscription rights to purchase common shares to be offered on an immediate, continuous or delayed basis.
- (2) The proposed maximum offering price per share will be determined, from time to time, by the Registrant in connection with the sale by the Registrant of the securities registered under this registration statement.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to Section 8(a), may determine.

**The information in this Preliminary Prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the Registration Statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This Preliminary Prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

**Subject To Completion Preliminary Prospectus dated June 8, 2018**

\$

**The Cushing® MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund**

**Common Shares**

**Subscription Rights for Common Shares**

*Investment Objective.* The Cushing® MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund (the Fund) is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund's investment objective is to obtain a high after-tax total return from a combination of capital appreciation and current income.

*Investment Strategy.* The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of Managed Assets (as defined below) in a portfolio of infrastructure master limited partnerships ( MLPs ) and MLP-related investments (together, MLP Investments ) (the 80% policy ). For purposes of the Fund's 80% policy, MLP Investments are investments that offer economic exposure to public and private MLPs in the form of common or subordinated units issued by MLPs, securities of entities holding primarily general partner or managing member interests in MLPs, debt securities of MLPs, and securities that are derivatives of interests in MLPs, which are I-Shares and other derivative securities that have economic characteristics of MLP securities, and businesses that operate and have the economic characteristics of MLP Investments but are organized and taxed as C corporations or as limited liability companies ( Other Natural Resources Companies ). The Fund considers an MLP Investment to be an infrastructure MLP Investment if at least 50% of its assets, income, sales or profits are committed to or derived from the development, construction, management, ownership or operation of assets that are used for natural resources-based activities.

*(continued on inside front cover)*

*Investment Adviser.* The Fund is managed by Cushing® Asset Management, LP (the Investment Adviser ).

*Offering.* The Fund may offer, from time to time, up to \$ aggregate initial offering price of common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.001 per share ( Common Shares ), and/or subscription rights to purchase Common Shares ( Rights and together with the Common Shares, Securities ) in one or more offerings in amounts, at prices and on terms set forth in one or more supplements to this Prospectus (each a Prospectus Supplement ). You should read this Prospectus and any related Prospectus Supplement carefully before you decide to invest in the Securities.

The Fund may offer Securities (1) directly to one or more purchasers, (2) through agents that the Fund may designate from time to time or (3) to or through underwriters or dealers. The Prospectus Supplement relating to a particular offering of Securities will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of Securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between the Fund and agents or underwriters or among underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. The Fund may not sell Securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of this Prospectus and a Prospectus Supplement. See Plan of Distribution.

*(continued on inside front cover)*

**Investing in the Fund's Securities involves a high degree of risk. See Risks on page 39 of this Prospectus.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined that this Prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**Prospectus dated                      , 2018**

*(continued from front cover)*

*Investment Strategy.* Entities commonly referred to as MLPs are taxed as partnerships for federal income tax purposes and are generally organized under state law as limited partnerships or limited liability companies. If publicly traded, MLPs must derive at least 90% of their gross income from qualifying sources as described in Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). The Fund will invest no more than 25% of Managed Assets in securities of energy MLPs that are qualified publicly traded partnerships under the Code.

The Fund seeks to obtain a high after-tax total return through investments in public and private MLP Investments that have distribution growth prospects that, in the view of the Investment Adviser (as defined below), are high relative to comparable MLP Investments and available unit pricing. The Fund intends to focus its investments in MLP Investments with operations in the development, production, processing, refining, transportation, storage and marketing of natural resources. The Fund expects to make equity investments in a mix of publicly traded securities and non-readily marketable securities that may be issued by public or private companies. The Fund will seek to hedge certain risks such as overall market, interest rate and commodity price risk.

The Fund generally seeks to invest no more than 10% of Managed Assets (as defined below) in any one issue and no more than 15% of Managed Assets in any one issuer (for purposes of this limit, with respect to an investment in an MLP, an issuer includes both an MLP and its controlling general partner or managing member), in each case, determined at the time of investment.

Among other things, the Investment Adviser will use fundamental, proprietary research to seek to identify the most attractive MLP Investments with strong fundamental growth prospects and will seek to invest in initial public offerings (IPOs) and secondary market issuances, private investment in public equity (PIPE) transactions and private transactions, including pre-acquisition and pre-IPO equity issuances and investments in private companies. Generally, no more than 50% of the Fund's portfolio will be in PIPE or other private or restricted securities at the time of investment.

As used in this Prospectus, Managed Assets means the total assets of the Fund, minus all accrued expenses incurred in the normal course of operations other than liabilities or obligations attributable to investment leverage, including, without limitation, investment leverage obtained through (i) indebtedness of any type (including, without limitation, borrowing through a credit facility or the issuance of debt securities), (ii) the issuance of shares of preferred stock or other similar preference securities and/or (iii) the reinvestment of collateral received for securities loaned in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

*Tax Treatment of the Fund.* Since its inception and through the Fund's fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Fund has been treated as a regular corporation, or a C corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, as a result, unlike most investment companies, has been subject to corporate income tax to the extent the Fund recognizes taxable income. However, in conjunction with certain changes to the Fund's non-fundamental investment policies that became effective on February 20, 2018, the Fund manages its portfolio in a manner intended to allow the Fund to qualify and elect to be treated as a regulated investment company (RIC) for U.S. federal income tax purposes beginning in the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. In order to qualify as a RIC, the Fund must, among other things, satisfy income, asset diversification and distribution requirements. The Fund satisfied the asset diversification requirements applicable to a RIC as of February 28, 2018, the end of the first quarter of the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be eligible to make a RIC election, or that the Fund will continue to qualify as a RIC if such an election is made. Until the Fund elects and qualifies to be treated as a RIC, the Fund will continue to be treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Fund qualifies and elects to be treated as a RIC, the Fund would be subject to tax on any net unrealized appreciation as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation. Also, the Fund would be required to distribute any earnings and profits accumulated as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation.

*NYSE Listing.* The Fund's currently outstanding Common Shares are, and the Common Shares offered by this Prospectus, will be, subject to notice of issuance, listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "SRV". As of June 4, 2018, the last reported sale price for the Fund's Common Shares on the NYSE was \$12.02 per Common Share, and the net asset value of the Fund's Common Shares was \$13.17 per Common Share, representing a discount to net asset value of 8.73%. In connection with any offering of Rights, the Fund will provide information in the Prospectus Supplement for the expected trading market, if any, for Rights.



*Leverage.* The Fund generally seeks to enhance total return by utilizing leverage. The Fund may utilize leverage through the issuance of commercial paper or notes and other forms of borrowing ( *Indebtedness* ) or the issuance of preferred shares, in each case to the maximum extent permitted by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the *1940 Act* ). Under current market conditions, the Fund currently intends to utilize leverage principally through *Indebtedness*. The amount of *Indebtedness* outstanding is expected to vary over time, but will not exceed  $33\frac{1}{3}\%$  of the Fund's *Managed Assets* (*i.e.*, 50% of its net assets attributable to the Fund's *Common Shares*), including the proceeds of such leverage. The costs associated with the issuance and use of leverage will be borne by the holders of the *Common Shares*. Leverage is a speculative technique and investors should note that there are special risks and costs associated with leverage. There can be no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful during any period in which it is employed. As of November 30, 2017, the Fund had outstanding *Indebtedness* of approximately \$33.7 million, which represents 29.3% of the Fund's *Managed Assets* (or approximately 41.5% of its net assets attributable to the Fund's *Common Shares*). See *Use of Leverage*.

You should read this Prospectus, which contains important information about the Fund that you should know before deciding whether to invest, and retain it for future reference. A Statement of Additional Information, dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 ( *SAI* ), containing additional information about the Fund, has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the *SEC* ) and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this Prospectus. You may request a free copy of the Statement of Additional Information, the table of contents of which is on page 82 of this Prospectus, and the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports by calling toll-free (888) 777-2346, or you may obtain a copy of such reports, the *SAI* and other information regarding the Fund from the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>). Free copies of the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports are also available from the Fund's website at [www.cushingcef.com](http://www.cushingcef.com). Information on, or accessible through, the Fund's website is not a part of, and is not incorporated into, this Prospectus.

**The Fund's securities do not represent a deposit or obligation of, and are not guaranteed or endorsed by, any bank or other insured depository institution and are not federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board or any other government agency.**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>Prospectus Summary</u></b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>Summary of Fund Expenses</u></b>	<b>21</b>
<b><u>Financial Highlights</u></b>	<b>22</b>
<b><u>Senior Securities</u></b>	<b>26</b>
<b><u>The Fund</u></b>	<b>27</b>
<b><u>Use of Proceeds</u></b>	<b>27</b>
<b><u>Market and Net Asset Value Information</u></b>	<b>27</b>
<b><u>Investment Objective and Policies</u></b>	<b>28</b>
<b><u>The Fund's Investments</u></b>	<b>29</b>
<b><u>Use of Leverage</u></b>	<b>36</b>
<b><u>Risks</u></b>	<b>39</b>
<b><u>Management of the Fund</u></b>	<b>60</b>
<b><u>Net Asset Value</u></b>	<b>62</b>
<b><u>Distributions</u></b>	<b>64</b>
<b><u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u></b>	<b>65</b>
<b><u>Description of Shares</u></b>	<b>66</b>
<b><u>Anti-Takeover Provisions in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust</u></b>	<b>70</b>
<b><u>Certain Provisions of Delaware Law, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws</u></b>	<b>71</b>
<b><u>Closed-End Fund Structure</u></b>	<b>72</b>
<b><u>Repurchase of Common Shares</u></b>	<b>73</b>
<b><u>U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u></b>	<b>73</b>
<b><u>Plan of Distribution</u></b>	<b>77</b>
<b><u>Other Service Providers</u></b>	<b>79</b>
<b><u>Legal Matters</u></b>	<b>79</b>
<b><u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u></b>	<b>79</b>
<b><u>Additional Information</u></b>	<b>79</b>
<b><u>Privacy Policy</u></b>	<b>81</b>
<b><u>Table of Contents of the Statement of Additional Information</u></b>	<b>82</b>

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus. The Fund has not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. The Fund is not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. The information contained in this Prospectus and any related Prospectus Supplement is accurate only as of the date of this Prospectus and any related Prospectus Supplement, regardless of the time of delivery of this Prospectus and any related Prospectus Supplement or of any sale of Securities of the Fund. The Fund's business, financial condition and prospects may have changed since that date.

### CAUTIONARY NOTICE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Prospectus, including documents incorporated by reference, contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the words may, will, intend, expect, estimate, continue, anticipate, and similar terms and the negative of such terms. By their nature, all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results could differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. Many factors that could materially affect the Fund's actual results are the performance of the portfolio of securities held by the Fund, the conditions in the U.S. and international financial, petroleum and other markets, the price at which the Fund's Common Shares will trade in the public markets and other factors discussed in this Prospectus and to be discussed in the Fund's periodic filings with the SEC.

Although the Fund believes that the expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. The Fund's future financial condition and results of operations, as well as any forward-looking statements, are subject to change and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties, such as those disclosed in the Risks section of this Prospectus. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus are made as of the date of this Prospectus. Except for the Fund's ongoing obligations under the federal securities laws, the Fund does not intend, and the Fund undertakes no obligation, to update any forward-looking statement. The forward-looking statements contained in this Prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Currently known risk factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the Fund's expectations include, but are not limited to, the factors described in the Risks section of this Prospectus. The Fund urges you to review carefully this section for a more detailed discussion of the risks of an investment in the Fund's securities.

## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

*This is only a summary of information contained elsewhere in this prospectus (the "Prospectus"). This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the Fund's securities. In particular, you should carefully read the more detailed information contained in this Prospectus and the statement of additional information, dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 (the "SAI"), especially the information set forth under the heading "Risks."*

### **The Fund**

The Cushing® MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company registered under the 1940 Act that commenced investment operations on August 27, 2007. The Fund's Investment Adviser is Cushing® Asset Management, LP.

### **The Offering**

The Fund may offer, from time to time, up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ aggregate initial offering price of common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.001 per share ( \_\_\_\_\_ Common Shares ), and/or subscription rights to purchase Common Shares ( \_\_\_\_\_ Rights ) and together with the \_\_\_\_\_ Common Shares, \_\_\_\_\_ Securities ) in one or more offerings in amounts, at prices and on terms set forth in one or more supplements to this Prospectus (each a \_\_\_\_\_ Prospectus Supplement ). You should read this Prospectus and any related Prospectus Supplement carefully before you decide to invest in the Securities.

The Fund may offer Securities (1) directly to one or more purchasers, (2) through agents that the Fund may designate from time to time or (3) to or through underwriters or dealers. The Prospectus Supplement relating to a particular offering of Securities will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of Securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between the Fund and agents or underwriters or among underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. The Fund may not sell Securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of this Prospectus and a Prospectus Supplement. See \_\_\_\_\_ Plan of Distribution.

### **Use of Proceeds**

Unless otherwise specified in a Prospectus Supplement, the Fund intends to invest the net proceeds of an offering of Securities in accordance with its investment objective and policies as stated in this Prospectus. It is currently anticipated that the Fund will be able to invest substantially all of the net proceeds of an offering of Securities in accordance with its investment objective and policies within three months after the completion of such offering. Prior to the time the proceeds of each offering are fully invested, such proceeds may temporarily be invested in cash, cash equivalents, or in debt securities that are rated AA or higher. Income received by the Fund from such temporary investments would likely be less than returns sought pursuant to the Fund's investment objective and policies. A delay in the anticipated use of proceeds could lower returns and reduce the Fund's distribution to holders of Common Shares ( \_\_\_\_\_ Common Shareholders ).

### **Investment Objective**

The Fund's investment objective is to obtain a high after-tax total return from a combination of capital appreciation and current income. There can be no

assurance that the Fund's investment objective will be achieved.

**Principal Investment Policies**

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of Managed Assets (as defined in this Prospectus) in a portfolio of infrastructure master limited partnerships ( MLPs ) and MLP-related investments (together, MLP Investments ) (the 80% policy ). For purposes of the Fund's 80% policy, MLP Investments are investments that offer economic exposure to public and private MLPs in the form of common or subordinated units issued by MLPs, securities of entities holding primarily general

partner or managing member interests in MLPs, debt securities of MLPs, and securities that are derivatives of interests in MLPs, which are I-Shares and other derivative securities that have economic characteristics of MLP securities, and businesses that operate and have the economic characteristics of MLP Investments but are organized and taxed as C corporations or as limited liability companies ( Other Natural Resources Companies ). The Fund considers an MLP Investment to be an infrastructure MLP Investment if at least 50% of its assets, income, sales or profits are committed to or derived from the development, construction, management, ownership or operation of assets that are used for natural resources-based activities.

Entities commonly referred to as MLPs are taxed as partnerships for federal income tax purposes and are generally organized under state law as limited partnerships or limited liability companies. If publicly traded, MLPs must derive at least 90% of their gross income from qualifying sources as described in Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). The Fund will invest no more than 25% of Managed Assets in securities of energy MLPs that are qualified publicly traded partnerships under the Code.

The Fund generally seeks to invest no more than 10% of Managed Assets (as defined below) in any one issue and no more than 15% of Managed Assets in any one issuer, in each case, determined at the time of investment. For purposes of this limit, with respect to an investment in an MLP, an issuer includes both an issuer and its controlling general partner, managing member or sponsor, and an issue is a class of an issuer's securities or a derivative security that tracks that class of securities.

Among other things, the Investment Adviser will use fundamental and proprietary research to seek to identify the most attractive MLP Investments and will seek to invest in MLP Investments that have distribution growth prospects that, in the Investment Adviser's view, are high relative to comparable MLP Investments and that are not fully reflected in current pricing. The Investment Adviser believes that the MLP Investments most likely to offer such attractive investment characteristics are those that have proven and motivated management teams that are able to develop projects organically ( greenfield or internally developed) and/or to successfully identify, acquire and integrate assets and companies that enhance value to shareholders.

As part of the Fund's 80% policy, the Investment Adviser will also seek to invest in MLPs or other entities that hold the general partner or managing member interest and incentive distribution rights in MLPs ( GP MLPs ). The Investment Adviser believes the distribution growth prospects of many GP MLPs are high relative to many other MLPs, and the Investment Adviser will seek to invest in GP MLPs in which the Investment Adviser believes that such growth is not fully reflected in current pricing. Like MLPs with strong distribution growth prospects, GP MLPs with strong growth prospects often trade at prices that result in relatively low current yields. Since the Investment Adviser will seek to maximize total return through a focus on MLPs and GP MLPs with strong distribution growth prospects, the Investment Adviser believes the distribution yield of the Fund will be lower than it would be under a more diversified investment approach.

As used in this Prospectus, **Managed Assets** means the total assets of the Fund, minus all accrued expenses incurred in the normal course of operations other than liabilities or obligations attributable to investment leverage, including, without limitation, investment leverage obtained through (i) indebtedness of any type (including, without limitation, borrowing through a credit facility or the issuance of debt securities), (ii) the issuance of shares of preferred stock ( preferred shares ) or other similar preference securities and/or (iii) the reinvestment of collateral received for securities loaned in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

The Investment Adviser will seek to invest in initial public offerings ( IPOs ) and secondary market issuances, PIPE transactions and privately negotiated transactions, including pre-acquisition and pre-IPO equity issuances and investments in private companies. Generally, no more than 50% of the Fund's portfolio will be in PIPE or other private or restricted securities at the time of investment. See Investment Objective and Policies.

The Fund's investment objective and percentage parameters, including its 80% MLP investment policy, are not fundamental policies of the Fund and may be changed without shareholder approval. Shareholders, however, will be notified in writing of any change at least 60 days prior to effecting any such change.

### **The Fund's Investments**

*MLPs.* Master limited partnerships are formed as limited partnerships or limited liability companies and taxed as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. The securities issued by many MLPs are listed and traded on a U.S. exchange. An MLP typically issues general partner and limited partner interests or managing member and member interests. The general partner or managing member manages and often controls, has an ownership stake in, and is normally eligible to receive incentive distribution payments from, the MLP. To be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, an MLP must derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from qualifying sources as described in Section 7704 of the Code. These qualifying sources include natural resources-based activities such as the exploration, development, mining, production, processing, refining, transportation, storage and certain marketing of mineral or natural resources. The general partner or managing member may be structured as a private or publicly-traded corporation or other entity. The general partner or managing member typically controls the operations and management of the entity through an up to 2% general partner or managing member interest in the entity plus, in many cases, ownership of some percentage of the outstanding limited partner or member interests. The limited partners or members, through their ownership of limited partner or member interests, provide capital to the entity, are intended to have no role in the operation and management of the entity and receive cash distributions. Due to their structure as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and the expected character of their income, MLPs generally do not pay federal income taxes. Thus, unlike investors in corporate securities, direct MLP investors are generally not subject to double taxation (*i.e.*, corporate level tax and tax on corporate dividends). Currently, most MLPs operate in the energy and midstream, natural resources, shipping or real estate sectors.

*Other Natural Resources Companies.* The Fund may invest in businesses that operate and have the economic characteristics of MLP Investments but are organized and taxed as C corporations or as limited liability companies.

*Other Equity Securities.* The Fund may invest up to 20% of its Managed Assets in equity securities of issuers other than MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies, including issuers engaged in other sectors, including the finance and real estate sectors.

*Debt Securities.* The Fund may invest in debt securities rated, at the time of investment, at least (i) B3 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ( Moody's ), (ii) B- by Standard & Poor's ( S&P ) or Fitch Ratings ( Fitch ), or (iii) a comparable rating by



another rating agency, provided, however, that the Fund may invest up to 5% of the Fund's Managed Assets in lower rated or unrated debt securities. Debt

securities rated below investment grade are commonly known as junk bonds and are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligations, and involve major risk exposure to adverse conditions.

*Non-U.S. Securities.* The Fund may invest in non-U.S. securities, including, among other things, non-U.S. securities represented by American Depositary Receipts ( ADRs ). ADRs are certificates evidencing ownership of shares of a non-U.S. issuer that are issued by depositary banks and generally trade on an established market in the United States or elsewhere.

See The Fund's Investments.

## **Investment Characteristics**

The Investment Adviser believes that the following characteristics of MLP Investments make them attractive investments:

Many MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are utility-like in nature and have relatively stable, predictable cash flows.

MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies provide services which help meet the largely inelastic demand of U.S. energy consumers.

Transportation assets in the interstate and intrastate pipeline sector are typically backed by relatively long-term contracts and stable transportation rates (or tariffs) that are regulated by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ( FERC ) or by state regulatory commissions.

High barriers to entry may protect the business model of some MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies since construction of the physical assets typically owned by these companies generally requires significant capital expenditures and long lead times.

As the location and quality of natural resources supplies change, new midstream infrastructure such as gathering and transportation pipelines, treating and processing facilities, and storage facilities is needed to meet these new logistical needs. Similarly, as the demographics of demand centers change, new infrastructure is often needed. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are integral providers of these midstream needs.

Requirements for new and additional transportation fuel compositions (*e.g.*, reduced sulfur diesel and ethanol blends) require additional logistical assets. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are integral providers of these logistical needs.

Midstream assets are typically long-lived and tend to retain their economic value, and the risk of technological obsolescence is low.

In addition to their growth potential, MLP Investments may offer higher yields than some investments, such as utilities and real estate investment trusts. Of course, there can be no guarantee that the MLP Investments in the Fund's portfolio will generate higher yields than these other asset classes, and since the Investment Adviser will seek to maximize total return through a focus on MLP Investments with strong distribution growth prospects, the Investment Adviser believes the distribution yield of the Fund will be lower than it would be under a more diversified investment approach.

## Leverage

An investment in MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies also involves risks, some of which are described below under Risks.

The Fund may seek to enhance its total return by utilizing leverage. The Fund may utilize leverage through the issuance of commercial paper or notes and other forms of borrowing ( Indebtedness ) or the issuance of preferred shares. The Fund may utilize leverage through Indebtedness or preferred shares to the maximum extent permitted by the 1940 Act. Under current market conditions, the Fund intends to utilize leverage principally through Indebtedness. The amount of Indebtedness outstanding is expected to vary over time, but will not exceed 33 1/3% of the Fund s Managed Assets (*i.e.*, 50% of its net assets attributable to the Fund s Common Shares), including the proceeds of such leverage.

The costs associated with the issuance and use of leverage will be borne by the holders of the Common Shares. Leverage is a speculative technique, and investors should note that there are special risks and costs associated with leverage. There can be no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful during any period in which it is employed.

The Fund will only utilize leverage when it expects to be able to invest the proceeds at a higher rate of return than its cost of borrowing. The use of leverage for investment purposes creates opportunities for greater total return, but at the same time increases risk. When leverage is employed, the net asset value, market price of the Common Shares and the yield to holders of Common Shares may be more volatile. Any investment income or gains earned with respect to the amounts borrowed in excess of the interest due on the borrowing will augment the Fund s income. Conversely, if the investment performance with respect to the amounts borrowed fails to cover the interest on such borrowings, the value of the Fund s Common Shares may decrease more quickly than would otherwise be the case and distributions on the Common Shares would be reduced or eliminated. Interest payments and fees incurred in connection with such borrowings will reduce the amount of net income available for distribution to Common Shareholders.

The Fund currently utilizes Indebtedness pursuant to a borrowing arrangement with Scotiabank™. The interest rate charged on such Indebtedness is 1-month London Interbank Offered Rate ( LIBOR ) plus 1.00%. As of November 30, 2017, the principal balance outstanding was approximately \$33.7 million, which represented 29.3% of the Fund s Managed Assets (or approximately 41.5% of its net assets attributable to the Fund s Common Shares).

The costs associated with the issuance and use of leverage are borne by the holders of the Common Shares. Because the investment management fee paid to the Investment Adviser is calculated on the basis of the Fund's Managed Assets, which include the proceeds of leverage, the dollar amount of the management fee paid by the Fund to the Investment Adviser will be higher (and the Investment Adviser will be benefited to that extent) when leverage is utilized. The Investment Adviser will utilize leverage only if it believes such action would result in a net benefit to the Fund's shareholders after taking into account the higher fees and expenses associated with leverage (including higher management fees). There can be no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful during any period in which it is employed. See Use of Leverage.

**Tax Treatment of the Fund**

Since its inception and through the Fund's fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Fund has been treated as a regular corporation, or a C corporation, for U.S.

federal income tax purposes and, as a result, unlike most investment companies, has been subject to corporate income tax to the extent the Fund recognizes taxable income. However, in conjunction with certain changes to the Fund's non-fundamental investment policies that became effective on February 20, 2018, the Fund intends to qualify and elect to be treated as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes beginning in the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. In order to qualify as a RIC, the Fund must, among other things, satisfy income, asset diversification and distribution requirements. The Fund satisfied the asset diversification requirements applicable to a RIC as of February 28, 2018, the end of the first quarter of the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be eligible to make a RIC election, or that the Fund will continue to qualify as a RIC if such an election is made. Until the Fund elects and qualifies to be treated as a RIC, the Fund will continue to be treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Fund qualifies and elects to be treated as a RIC, the Fund would be subject to tax on any net unrealized appreciation as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation. Also, the Fund would be required to distribute any earnings and profits accumulated as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation.

For each taxable year the Fund is treated as a regular corporation, or C corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Fund generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income at a 21 percent rate for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. In addition, as a regular corporation, the Fund will be subject to state income tax by reason of its investments in equity securities of MLPs. Therefore, the Fund may have state income tax liabilities in multiple states, which will reduce the Fund's cash available to make distributions on the Common Shares. For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2018, the Fund may be subject to an alternative minimum tax on its alternative minimum taxable income to the extent that the alternative minimum tax exceeds the Fund's regular income tax liability. The extent to which the Fund is required to pay U.S. corporate income tax or alternative minimum tax could materially reduce the Fund's cash available to make distributions on the Common Shares.

See U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

#### **Investment Adviser**

The Fund's investments are managed by its Investment Adviser, Cushing® Asset Management, LP, whose principal business address is 8117 Preston Road, Suite 440, Dallas, Texas 75225. The Investment Adviser serves as investment adviser to registered and unregistered funds, which invest primarily in securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies and global commodities. The Investment Adviser continues to seek to expand its platform of energy-related investment products, leveraging extensive industry contacts and significant research depth to drive both passive and actively managed investment opportunities for individual and institutional investors. The Investment Adviser seeks to identify and exploit investment niches that it believes are generally less understood and less followed by the broader investor community.

The Investment Adviser considers itself one of the principal professional institutional investors in the natural resources sector based on the following:

An investment team with extensive experience in analysis, portfolio management, risk management, and private securities transactions.

A focus on bottom-up, fundamental analysis performed by its experienced investment team is core to the Investment Adviser's investment process.

The investment team's wide range of professional backgrounds, market knowledge, industry relationships, and experience in the analysis, financing, and structuring of energy income investments give the Investment Adviser insight into, and the ability to identify and capitalize on, investment opportunities.

Its central location in Dallas, Texas and proximity to major players and assets in the natural resources sector.

## **Distributions**

The Fund intends to pay substantially all of its net investment income to Common Shareholders through monthly distributions. In addition, the Fund intends to distribute any net long-term capital gains to Common Shareholders at least annually. The Fund expects that distributions paid on the Common Shares will consist primarily of (i) investment company taxable income, which includes, among other things, ordinary income, net short-term capital gain and income from certain hedging and interest rate transactions, and (ii) net capital gain (which is the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss). A portion of the Fund's distributions may also be characterized as return of capital. The Fund may invest no more than 25% of its Managed Assets in MLPs that are qualified publicly traded partnerships under the Code, and a portion of the cash distributions received by the Fund from the MLPs in which it invests may be characterized as return of capital. If, for any calendar year, the Fund's total distributions exceed both current earnings and profits and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will generally be treated as a return of capital for U.S. federal income tax purposes up to the amount of a shareholder's tax basis in the Common Shares, reducing that basis accordingly. The Fund cannot assure you as to what percentage, if any, of the distributions paid on the Common Shares will consist of net capital gain, which is taxed at reduced rates for non-corporate shareholders, or return of capital.

For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, 100% of the Fund's distributions were treated as a return of capital for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, effective on February 20, 2018, the Fund adopted a policy to limit its investments in securities of MLPs that are qualified publicly traded partnerships under the Code to no more than 25% of the Fund's Managed Assets in order to allow the Fund to manage its portfolio in a manner intended to allow the Fund to qualify and elect to be treated as RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes beginning in the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. As a result, the Fund expects that a lesser percentage of future distributions will be treated as a return of capital for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

To permit the Fund to maintain a more stable distribution rate, the Fund may distribute less or more than the income it earns on its investments in a particular period. Any undistributed income would be available to supplement future distributions and, until distributed, would add to the Fund's net asset value. Correspondingly, such amounts, once distributed, will be deducted from the Fund's net asset value. See Distributions.



**Dividend Reinvestment Plan**

Shareholders will automatically have all distributions reinvested in Common Shares issued by the Fund or Common Shares of the Fund purchased on the open market in accordance with the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan unless an election is made to receive cash. Common Shareholders who receive distributions in the form of additional Common Shares will be subject to the same U.S. federal income tax consequences as Common Shareholders who elect to receive their distributions in cash. See Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

**Listing and Symbol**

The Fund's currently outstanding Common Shares are, and the Common Shares offered by this Prospectus, will be, subject to notice of issuance, listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "SRV". As of June 4, 2018, the last reported sale price for the Fund's Common Shares on the NYSE was \$12.02 per Common Share, and the net asset value of the Fund's Common Shares was \$13.17 per Common Share, representing a discount to net asset value of 8.73%. In connection with any offering of Rights, the Fund will provide information in the Prospectus Supplement for the expected trading market, if any, for Rights.

**Special Risk Considerations**

The following is a summary of the principal risks associated with an investment in Common Shares of the Fund. Investors should also refer to "Risks" in this prospectus for a more detailed explanation of these and other risks associated with investing in the Fund.

*Investment And Market Risk.* An investment in the Fund's Common Shares is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of an investor's entire investment. The Fund's Common Shares at any point in time may be worth less than at the time of original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of the Fund's distributions. The Fund is primarily a long-term investment vehicle and should not be used for short-term trading. An investment in the Fund's Common Shares is not intended to constitute a complete investment program and should not be viewed as such.

*Common Stock Risk.* The Fund will have exposure to common stocks. Although common stocks have historically generated higher average total returns than fixed-income securities over the long-term, common stocks also have experienced significantly more volatility in those returns and may significantly under-perform relative to fixed income securities during certain periods. An adverse event, such as an unfavorable earnings report, may depress the value of a particular common stock held by the Fund. Also, the price of common stocks is sensitive to general movements in the stock market and a drop in the stock market may depress the price of common stocks to which the Fund has exposure. Common stock prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, or when political or economic events affecting the issuers occur. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase.

*Concentration Risk.* The Fund's investments will be concentrated in MLP Investments, which operate primarily in the natural resources sector. Because the Fund will be concentrated in the natural resources sector, it may be subject to more risks than if it were more broadly diversified over numerous industries and sectors of the economy. General changes in market sentiment towards MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may adversely affect the Fund, and the performance of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may lag behind the broader market as a whole. Also, the Fund's concentration in the natural resources sector may subject the Fund to a variety of risks associated with that sector.

*MLP and Other Natural Resources Company Risks.* Under normal circumstances, the Fund concentrates its investments in MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. MLP and Other Natural Resources Companies are subject to certain risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

Commodity Price Risk. Natural resources commodity prices have been very volatile in the past and such volatility is expected to continue. Fluctuations in

commodity prices can result from changes in general economic conditions or political circumstances (especially of key energy-consuming countries); market conditions; weather patterns; domestic production levels; volume of imports; energy conservation; domestic and foreign governmental regulation; international politics; policies of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ( OPEC ); taxation; tariffs; and the availability and costs of local, intrastate and interstate transportation methods. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies engaged in crude oil and natural gas exploration, development or production, natural gas gathering and processing, crude oil refining and transportation and coal mining or sales may be directly affected by their respective natural resources commodity prices. The volatility of, and interrelationships between, commodity prices can also indirectly affect certain MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies due to the potential impact on the volume of commodities transported, processed, stored or distributed. Some MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies that own the underlying energy commodity may be unable to effectively mitigate or manage direct margin exposure to commodity price levels. The prices of MLP and Other Natural Resources Companies securities can be adversely affected by market perceptions that their performance and distributions or dividends are directly tied to commodity prices.

Cyclicality Risk. The highly cyclical nature of the natural resources sector may adversely affect the earnings or operating cash flows of the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund will invest.

Supply Risk. A significant decrease in the production of natural gas, crude oil, coal or other energy commodities, due to the decline of production from existing resources, import supply disruption, depressed commodity prices or otherwise, would reduce the revenue, operating income and operating cash flows of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies and, therefore, their ability to make distributions or pay dividends.

Demand Risk. A sustained decline in demand for coal, natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil and refined petroleum products could adversely affect an MLP s or an Other Natural Resources Company s revenues and cash flows.

Risks Relating to Expansions and Acquisitions. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies employ a variety of means to increase cash flow, including increasing utilization of existing facilities, expanding operations through new construction or development activities, expanding operations through acquisitions, or securing additional long-term contracts. Thus, some MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies may be subject to construction risk, development risk, acquisition risk or other risks arising from their specific business strategies. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies that attempt to grow through acquisitions may not be able to effectively integrate acquired operations with their existing operations.

Competition Risk. The natural resources sector is highly competitive. To the extent that the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund will invest are unable to compete effectively, their operating results, financial position, growth potential and cash flows may be adversely affected, which could in turn adversely affect the results of the Fund.

Weather Risk. Extreme weather conditions could result in substantial damage to the facilities of certain MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies located in the affected areas and significant volatility in the supply of natural resources, commodity prices and the earnings of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, and could therefore adversely affect their securities.

Interest Rate Risk. The prices of the equity and debt securities of the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies the Fund expects to hold in its portfolio are susceptible in the short-term to a decline when interest rates rise. Rising interest rates could limit the capital appreciation of securities of certain MLPs as a result of the increased availability of alternative investments with yields comparable to those of MLPs. Rising interest rates could adversely impact the financial performance of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies by increasing their cost of capital. This may reduce their ability to execute acquisitions or expansion projects in a cost effective manner.

MLP Structure Risk. Holders of MLP units are subject to certain risks inherent in the structure of MLPs, including (i) tax risks (described further below), (ii) the limited ability to elect or remove management or the general partner or managing member (iii) limited voting rights, except with respect to extraordinary transactions, and (iv) conflicts of interest between the general partner or managing member and its affiliates, on the one hand, and the limited partners or members, on the other hand, including those arising from incentive distribution payments or corporate opportunities.

Cash Flow Risk. The Fund will derive substantially all of its cash flow from investments in equity securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. The amount of cash that the Fund has available to distribute to shareholders will depend on the ability of the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund has an interest to make distributions or pay dividends to their investors and the tax character of those distributions or dividends. The Fund will likely have no influence over the actions of the MLPs in which it invests with respect to the payment of distributions or dividends, and may only have limited influence over Other Natural Resources Companies in that regard.

Regulatory Risk. The profitability of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies could be adversely affected by changes in the regulatory environment. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are subject to significant foreign, federal, state and local regulation in virtually every aspect of their operations, including with respect to how facilities are constructed, maintained and operated, environmental and safety controls, and the prices they may charge for the products and services they provide. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may be adversely affected by future regulatory requirements. While the nature of such regulations cannot be predicted at this time, they may impose additional costs or limit certain operations by MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies operating in various sectors.

Environmental Risk. There is an inherent risk that MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may incur environmental costs and liabilities due to the nature of their businesses and the substances they handle. For example, an accidental release from wells or gathering pipelines could subject them to substantial liabilities for environmental cleanup and restoration costs, claims made by neighboring landowners and other third parties for personal injury and property damage, and fines or penalties for related violations of environmental laws or regulations. Moreover, the possibility exists that stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could significantly increase the compliance costs of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, and the cost of any remediation

that may become necessary. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may not be able to recover these costs from insurance. In addition, regulation can change over time in both scope and intensity, may have adverse

effects on MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies and may be implemented in unforeseen manners on an emergency basis in response to catastrophes or other events.

Affiliated Party Risk. Certain MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are dependent on their parents or sponsors for a majority of their revenues. Any failure by an MLP's or an Other Natural Resources Company's parents or sponsors to satisfy their payments or obligations would impact the MLP's or Other Natural Resources Company's revenues and cash flows and ability to make distributions. Moreover, the terms of an MLP's or an Other Natural Resources Company's transactions with its parent or sponsor are typically not arrived at on an arm's-length basis, and may not be as favorable to the MLP or Other Natural Resources Company as a transaction with a non-affiliate.

Catastrophe Risk. The operations of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are subject to many hazards inherent in the exploration for, and development, production, gathering, transportation, processing, storage, refining, distribution, mining or marketing of coal, natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil, refined petroleum products or other hydrocarbons, including: damage to production equipment, pipelines, storage tanks or related equipment and surrounding properties caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires and other natural disasters or by acts of terrorism; inadvertent damage from construction or other equipment; leaks of natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil, refined petroleum products or other hydrocarbons; and fires and explosions. If a significant accident or event occurs that is not fully insured, it could adversely affect the MLP's or Other Natural Resources Company's operations and financial condition.

Technology Risk. Some MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are focused on developing new technologies and are strongly influenced by technological changes. Technology development efforts by MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may not result in viable methods or products. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may bear high research and development costs, which can limit their ability to maintain operations during periods of organizational growth or instability. Some MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may be in the early stages of operations and may have limited operating histories and smaller market capitalizations on average than companies in other sectors. As a result of these and other factors, the value of investments in such MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may be considerably more volatile than that in more established segments of the economy.

Sub-Sector Specific Risks. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are also subject to risks that are specific to the particular sub-sector of the natural resources sector in which they operate.

*Pipelines.* Pipeline companies are subject to the demand for natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil or refined products in the markets they serve, changes in the availability of products for gathering, transportation, processing or sale due to natural declines in reserves and production in the supply areas serviced by the companies' facilities, sharp decreases in crude oil or natural gas prices that cause producers to curtail production or reduce capital spending for exploration



activities, and environmental regulation. Demand for gasoline, which accounts for a substantial portion of refined product transportation, depends on price, prevailing economic conditions in the markets served, and demographic and seasonal factors.

*Gathering and Processing.* Gathering and processing companies are subject to natural declines in the production of oil and natural gas fields, which utilize their gathering and processing facilities as a way to market their production, prolonged declines in the price of natural gas or crude oil, which curtails drilling activity and therefore production, and declines in the prices of natural gas liquids and refined petroleum products, which cause lower processing margins. In addition, some gathering and processing contracts subject the gathering or processing company to direct commodities price risk.

*Exploration and Production.* Exploration, development and production companies are particularly vulnerable to declines in the demand for and prices of crude oil and natural gas. Reductions in prices for crude oil and natural gas can cause a given reservoir to become uneconomic for continued production earlier than it would if prices were higher, resulting in the plugging and abandonment of, and cessation of production from, that reservoir. In addition, lower commodity prices not only reduce revenues but also can result in substantial downward adjustments in reserve estimates.

*Propane.* Propane companies are subject to earnings variability based upon weather patterns in the locations where they operate and increases in the wholesale price of propane which reduce profit margins. In addition, propane companies are facing increased competition due to the growing availability of natural gas, fuel oil and alternative energy sources for residential heating.

*Coal.* Coal companies are subject to declines in the demand for and prices of coal. Demand variability can be based on weather conditions, the strength of the domestic economy, the level of coal stockpiles in their customer base, and the prices of competing sources of fuel for electric generation. They are also subject to supply variability based on geological conditions that reduce the productivity of mining operations, the availability of regulatory permits for mining activities and the availability of coal that meets the standards of the federal Clean Air Act of 1990, as amended (the Clean Air Act ).

*Marine Shipping.* Marine shipping companies are subject to supply of and demand for, and level of consumption of, natural gas, liquefied natural gas, crude oil, refined petroleum products and liquefied petroleum gases in the supply and market areas they serve, which affect the demand for marine shipping services and therefore charter rates. Shipping companies vessels and cargoes are also subject to the risk of being damaged or lost due to marine disasters, extreme weather, mechanical failures, grounding, fire, explosions, collisions, human error, piracy, war and terrorism.

See Risks MLP and Other Natural Resources Company Risks.

*Risks Associated with an Investment in IPOs.* The Fund may invest in initial public offerings ( IPOs ). Securities purchased in IPOs are often subject to the general risks associated with investments in companies with small market capitalizations, and typically to a heightened degree. Securities issued in IPOs have no trading history, and information about the companies may be available for very limited



periods. In addition, the prices of securities sold in an IPO may be highly volatile, thus the Fund cannot predict whether investments in IPOs will be successful. As the Fund grows in size, the positive effect of IPO investments on the Fund may decrease. See [Risks](#) [Risks Associated with an Investment in IPOs](#).

*Risks Associated with an Investment in PIPE Transactions.* PIPE investors purchase securities directly from a publicly traded company in a private placement transaction, typically at a discount to the market price of the company's common stock. Because the sale of the securities is not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the [Securities Act](#)), the securities are restricted and cannot be immediately resold by the investors into the public markets. Accordingly, the company typically agrees as part of the PIPE deal to register the restricted securities with the SEC. PIPE securities may be deemed illiquid. See [Risks](#) [Risks Associated with an Investment in PIPE Transactions](#).

*Privately Held Company Risk.* Investing in privately held companies involves risk. For example, privately held companies are not subject to SEC reporting requirements, are not required to maintain their accounting records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and are not required to maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting. As a result, the Investment Adviser may not have timely or accurate information about the business, financial condition and results of operations of the privately held companies in which the Fund invests. In addition, the securities of privately held companies are generally illiquid, and entail the risks described under [Risks](#) [Liquidity Risk](#).

*MLP Risks.* An investment in MLP units involves some risks that differ from an investment in the common stock of a corporation. As compared to common stockholders of a corporation, holders of MLP units have more limited control and limited rights to vote on matters affecting the partnership. In addition, there are certain tax risks associated with an investment in MLP units and conflicts of interest may exist between common unit holders and the general partner, including those arising from incentive distribution payments.

A portion of the benefit the Fund derives from its investment in equity securities of MLPs is a result of MLPs generally being treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A change in current tax law, or a change in the business of a given MLP, could result in an MLP being treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which would result in such MLP being required to pay U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income, which would have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by the MLP and causing any such distributions received by the Fund to be taxed as distribution income to the extent of the MLP's current or accumulated earnings and profits.

To the extent that the Fund invests in the equity securities of an MLP that is treated as a partnership under the Code, the Fund will be a partner in such MLP. Accordingly, the Fund will be required to include in its taxable income the Fund's allocable share of the income, gains, losses, deductions and credits recognized by

each such MLP, regardless of whether the MLP distributes cash to the Fund. Historically, MLPs have been able to offset a significant portion of their income with tax deductions. The portion, if any, of a distribution received by the Fund from an MLP that is offset by the MLP's tax deductions, losses or credits is essentially treated as a return of capital. However, those distributions will reduce the Fund's adjusted tax basis in the equity securities of the MLP, which will result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the Fund for tax purposes upon the sale of any such equity securities or upon subsequent distributions in respect of such equity securities.

In addition, changes in tax laws or regulations, or future interpretations of such laws or regulations, could adversely affect the Fund or the MLP investments in which the Fund invests. See Risks MLP Risks.

*Liquidity Risk.* The investments made by the Fund may be illiquid and consequently the Fund may not be able to sell such investments at prices that reflect the Investment Adviser's assessment of their value, the value at which the Fund is carrying the securities on its books or the amount paid for such investments by the Fund. Furthermore, the nature of the Fund's investments may require a long holding period prior to profitability. See Risks Liquidity Risk.

*Non-U.S. Securities Risk.* Investing in non-U.S. securities involves certain risks not involved in domestic investments, including, but not limited to: fluctuations in foreign exchange rates; future foreign economic, financial, political and social developments; different legal systems; the possible imposition of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions, including expropriation; lower trading volume; much greater price volatility and illiquidity of certain non-U.S. securities markets; different trading and settlement practices; less governmental supervision; changes in currency exchange rates; high and volatile rates of inflation; fluctuating interest rates; less publicly available information; and different accounting, auditing and financial recordkeeping standards and requirements. Investing in securities of issuers based in underdeveloped emerging markets entails all of the risks of investing in securities of non-U.S. issuers to a heightened degree. Currencies of certain countries may be volatile and therefore may affect the value of securities denominated in such currencies, which means that the Fund's net asset value could decline as a result of changes in the exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar. See Risks Non-U.S. Securities Risk.

*Interest Rate Risk.* The costs associated with any leverage used by the Fund are likely to increase when interest rates rise. Accordingly, the market price of the Fund's Common Shares may decline when interest rates rise.

*Interest Rate Hedging Risk.* The Fund may from time to time hedge against interest rate risk resulting from the Fund's portfolio holdings and any financial leverage it may incur. Interest rate transactions the Fund may use for hedging purposes will expose the Fund to certain risks that differ from the risks associated with its portfolio holdings. There are economic costs of hedging reflected in the price of interest rate swaps, caps and similar techniques, the cost of which can be significant. In addition, the Fund's success in using hedging instruments is subject to the Investment Adviser's ability to correctly predict changes in the relationships of such hedging instruments to the Fund's leverage risk, and there can be no assurance that the Investment Adviser's judgment in this respect will be accurate. See Risks Interest Rate Hedging Risk.

*Arbitrage Risk.* A part of the Investment Adviser's investment operations may involve spread positions between two or more securities, or derivatives positions including commodities hedging positions, or a combination of the foregoing. The Investment Adviser's trading operations also may involve arbitraging between two securities or commodities, between the security, commodity and related options or derivatives markets, between spot and futures or forward markets, and/or any combination of the above. To the extent the price relationships between such

positions remain constant, no gain or loss on the positions will occur. These offsetting positions entail substantial risk that the price differential could change unfavorably, causing a loss to the position.

*Equity Securities Risk.* Master limited partnership common units and other equity securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies can be affected by macroeconomic, political, global and other factors affecting the stock market in general, expectations of interest rates, investor sentiment towards MLPs or the natural resources sector, changes in a particular company's financial condition, or the unfavorable or unanticipated poor performance of a particular MLP or Other Natural Resources Company (which, in the case of an MLP, is generally measured in terms of distributable cash flow). Prices of common units and other equity securities of individual MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies can also be affected by fundamentals unique to the partnership or company, including earnings power and coverage ratios.

MLP Subordinated Units. Master limited partnership subordinated units are not typically listed on an exchange or publicly traded. Holders of MLP subordinated units are entitled to receive a distribution only after the minimum quarterly distribution (the MQD) has been paid to holders of common units, but prior to payment of incentive distributions to the general partner or managing member. Master limited partnership subordinated units generally do not provide arrearage rights. Most MLP subordinated units are convertible into common units after the passage of a specified period of time or upon the achievement by the MLP of specified financial goals.

General Partner and Managing Member Interests. General partner and managing member interests are not publicly traded, though they may be owned by publicly traded entities such as GP MLPs. A holder of general partner or managing member interests can be liable in certain circumstances for amounts greater than the amount of the holder's investment. In addition, while a general partner or managing member's incentive distribution rights can mean that general partners and managing members have higher distribution growth prospects than their underlying MLPs, these incentive distribution payments would decline at a greater rate than the decline rate in quarterly distributions to common or subordinated unit holders in the event of a reduction in the MLP's quarterly distribution. A general partner or managing member interest can be redeemed by the MLP if the MLP unit holders choose to remove the general partner, typically by a supermajority vote of the limited partners or members.

*Small-Cap and Mid-Cap Company Risk.* Certain of the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund may invest may have small or medium-sized market capitalizations (small-cap and mid-cap companies, respectively). Investing in the securities of small-cap or mid-cap MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies presents some particular investment risks. These MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may have limited product lines and markets, as well as shorter operating histories, less experienced management and more limited financial resources than larger MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, and may be more vulnerable to adverse general market or economic developments. Stocks of these MLPs and Other Natural Resources



Companies may be less liquid than those of larger MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, and may experience greater price fluctuations than larger MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. In addition, small-cap or mid-cap company securities may not be widely followed by investors, which may result in reduced demand.

*Leverage Risk.* The Fund may use leverage through the issuance of Indebtedness or the issuance of preferred shares. The use of leverage magnifies both the favorable and unfavorable effects of price movements in the investments made by the Fund. Insofar as the Fund employs leverage in its investment operations, the Fund will be subject to increased risk of loss. In addition, the Fund pays (and the holders of

Common Shares bear) all costs and expenses relating to the issuance and ongoing maintenance of leverage, including higher advisory fees. Similarly, any decline in the net asset value of the Fund's investments will be borne entirely by the holders of Common Shares. Therefore, if the market value of the Fund's portfolio declines, the leverage will result in a greater decrease in net asset value to the holders of Common Shares than if the Fund were not leveraged. This greater net asset value decrease will also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for the Common Shares. See Risks Leverage Risk.

*Non-Diversification Risk.* The Fund is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company under the 1940 Act. Accordingly, the Fund may invest a greater portion of its assets in a more limited number of issuers than a diversified fund. An investment in the Fund may present greater risk to an investor than an investment in a diversified portfolio because changes in the financial condition or market assessment of a single issuer may cause greater fluctuations in the value of the Fund's shares. See Risks Non-Diversification Risk.

*Portfolio Turnover Risk.* Portfolio turnover rate is not considered a limiting factor in the Investment Adviser's execution of investment decisions. The Fund anticipates that its annual portfolio turnover rate may vary greatly from year to year. A higher portfolio turnover rate results in correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other transactional expenses that are borne by the Fund. High portfolio turnover may result in an increased realization of net short-term capital gains or capital losses by the Fund.

*Strategic Transactions Risk.* The Fund may, but is not required to, use investment strategies (referred to herein as Strategic Transactions) for hedging, risk management or portfolio management purposes or to earn income. The Fund's use of Strategic Transactions may involve the purchase and sale of derivative instruments. The Fund may purchase and sell exchange-listed and over-the-counter put and call options on securities, indices and other instruments, enter into forward contracts, purchase and sell futures contracts and options thereon, enter into swap, cap, floor or collar transactions, purchase structured investment products and enter into transactions that combine multiple derivative instruments. Strategic Transactions often have risks similar to the securities underlying the Strategic Transactions. However, the use of Strategic Transactions also involves risks that are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with other portfolio investments. Strategic Transactions may involve the use of highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from those associated with other portfolio investments. The use of derivative instruments has risks, including the imperfect correlation between the value of the derivative instruments and the underlying assets, the possible default of the counterparty to the transaction or illiquidity of the derivative investments. Furthermore, the ability to successfully use these techniques depends on the Investment Adviser's ability to predict pertinent market movements, which cannot be assured. Thus, the use of Strategic Transactions may result in losses greater than if they had not been used, may require the Fund to sell or purchase portfolio securities at inopportune times or for prices other than current market values, may limit the amount of appreciation the Fund can realize on an investment or may cause the Fund to hold a security that it might otherwise sell. In addition, amounts paid by the Fund as premiums and cash, or other assets held in margin accounts

with respect to Strategic Transactions are not otherwise available to the Fund for investment purposes. It is possible that government regulation of various types of derivative instruments, including regulations enacted pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act ), which was signed into law in July 2010, may impact the availability, liquidity and cost of

derivative instruments. There can be no assurance that such regulation will not have a material adverse effect on the Fund or will not impair the ability of the Fund to implement certain Strategic Transactions or to achieve its investment objective. Although the Investment Adviser seeks to use Strategic Transactions to further the Fund's investment objective, no assurance can be given that the use of Strategic Transactions will achieve this result. A more complete discussion of Strategic Transactions and their risks is included in the SAI under the heading Strategic Transactions.

*Convertible Instrument Risk.* The Fund may invest in convertible instruments. A convertible instrument is a bond, debenture, note, preferred stock or other security that may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of Common Shares of the same or a different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. Convertible debt instruments have characteristics of both fixed income and equity investments. Convertible instruments are subject both to the stock market risk associated with equity securities and to the credit and interest rate risks associated with fixed-income securities. As the market price of the equity security underlying a convertible instrument falls, the convertible instrument tends to trade on the basis of its yield and other fixed-income characteristics. As the market price of such equity security rises, the convertible security tends to trade on the basis of its equity conversion features. See Risks Convertible Instruments Risk.

*Debt Securities Risk.* Debt securities are subject to many of the risks described elsewhere in this section. In addition, they are subject to credit risk, prepayment risk and, depending on their quality, other special risks.

Certain debt instruments, particularly below investment grade securities, may contain call or redemption provisions which would allow the issuer of the debt instrument to prepay principal prior to the debt instrument's stated maturity. This is also sometimes known as prepayment risk. See Risks Debt Securities Risk.

*Below Investment Grade Securities Risk.* Below investment grade and unrated debt securities generally pay a premium above the yields of U.S. government securities or debt securities of investment grade issuers because they are subject to greater risks than these securities. These risks, which reflect their speculative character, include the following: greater yield and price volatility; greater credit risk and risk of default; potentially greater sensitivity to general economic or industry conditions; potential lack of attractive resale opportunities (illiquidity); and additional expenses to seek recovery from issuers who default. Debt securities rated below investment grade are commonly known as "junk bonds" and are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligations, and involve major risk exposure to adverse conditions. See Risks Below Investment Grade Securities Risk.

*Market Discount from Net Asset Value.* Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a discount from their net asset value, which is a risk separate and distinct from the risk that the Fund's net asset value could decrease as a result of its investment activities.

Although the value of the Fund's net assets is generally considered by market participants in determining whether to purchase or sell Common Shares, whether investors will realize gains or losses upon the sale of Common Shares will depend entirely upon whether the market price of Common Shares at the time of sale is above or below the investor's purchase price for Common Shares. Because the market price of Common Shares will be determined by factors such as net asset

value, distribution levels (which are dependent, in part, on expenses), supply of and demand for Common Shares, stability of distributions, trading volume of Common Shares, general market and economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the Fund, the Fund cannot predict whether Common Shares will trade at, below or above net asset value or at, below or above the initial public offering price. This risk may be greater for investors expecting to sell their Common Shares soon after the completion of the public offering, as the net asset value of the Common Shares will be reduced immediately following the offering as a result of the payment of certain offering costs. Common Shares of the Fund are designed primarily for long-term investors; investors in Common Shares should not view the Fund as a vehicle for trading purposes.

*Risks Associate with Offerings of Additional Common Shares.* The voting power of current Common Shareholders will be diluted to the extent that current Common Shareholders do not purchase Common Shares in any future offerings of Common Shares or do not purchase sufficient Common Shares to maintain their percentage interest. If the Fund is unable to invest the proceeds of such offering as intended, the Fund's per Common Share distribution may decrease and the Fund may not participate in market advances to the same extent as if such proceeds were fully invested as planned. If the Fund sells Common Shares at a price below net asset value per share pursuant to the consent of Common Shareholders, shareholders will experience a dilution of the aggregate net asset value per Common Share because the sale price will be less than the Fund's then-current net asset value per Common Share. Similarly, were the expenses of the offering to exceed the amount by which the sale price exceeded the Fund's then current net asset value per Common Share, shareholders would experience a dilution of the aggregate net asset value per Common Share. This dilution will be experienced by all shareholders, irrespective of whether they purchase Common Shares in any such offering. See Description of Shares Common Shares Issuance of Additional Common Shares.

*Additional Risks of Rights.* There are additional risks associated with an offering of Rights. Shareholders who do not exercise their Rights may, at the completion of such an offering, own a smaller proportional interest in the Fund than if they exercised their Rights. As a result of such an offering, a shareholder may experience dilution in net asset value per share if the subscription price per share is below the net asset value per share on the expiration date. If the subscription price per share is below the net asset value per share of the Fund's Common Shares on the expiration date, a shareholder will experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of such shareholder's Common Shares if the shareholder does not participate in such an offering and the shareholder will experience a reduction in the net asset value per share of such shareholder's Common Shares whether or not the shareholder participates in such an offering. Such a reduction in net asset value per share may have the effect of reducing market price of the Common Share. The Fund cannot state precisely the extent of this dilution (if any) if the shareholder does not exercise such shareholder's Rights because the Fund does not know what the net asset value per share will be when the offer expires or what proportion of the Rights will be exercised. If the subscription price is substantially less than the then current net asset value per Common Share at the expiration of a rights offering, such dilution could be substantial. Any such dilution or accretion will depend upon whether (i) such shareholders participate in

the Rights offering and (ii) the Fund's net asset value per Common Share is above or below the subscription price on the expiration date of the Rights offering. In addition to the economic dilution described above, if a Common Shareholder does not exercise all of their rights, the Common Shareholder will incur voting dilution as a result of this rights offering. This voting dilution will occur because the Common Shareholder will own a smaller proportionate interest in the Fund after

the rights offering than prior to the rights offering. There is a risk that changes in market conditions may result in the underlying Common Shares purchasable upon exercise of the subscription rights being less attractive to investors at the conclusion of the subscription period. This may reduce or eliminate the value of the subscription rights. If investors exercise only a portion of the rights, the number of Common Shares issued may be reduced, and the Common Shares may trade at less favorable prices than larger offerings for similar securities. Subscription rights issued by the Fund may be transferable or non-transferable rights. In a non-transferable rights offering, Common Shareholders who do not wish to exercise their rights will be unable to sell their rights. In a transferrable rights offering, the Fund will use its best efforts to ensure an adequate trading market for the rights; however, investors may find that there is no market to sell rights they do not wish to exercise.

*Additional Risks.* For additional risks relating to investments in the Fund including Valuation Risk, Securities Lending Risk, Short Sales Risk, Inflation Risk, Deflation Risk, ETN and ETF Risk, Investment Management Risk, Dependence on Key Personnel of the Investment Adviser, Conflicts of Interest with the Investment Adviser, Reliance on Service Providers, Technology Risk, Recent Economic Events Risk, Legislation and Regulatory Risk, Geopolitical and Market Disruption Risk, Tax Risks of MLPS, Tax Risks, and Lack of a Complete Investment Program please see Risks beginning on page 39 of this Prospectus.

**Anti-Takeover Provisions in the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws**

The Fund's Second Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended (the Agreement and Declaration of Trust), and By-Laws include provisions that could have the effect of limiting the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or to change the composition of its Board of Trustees. For example, the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust limits the ability of persons to beneficially own (within the meaning of Section 382 of the Code) more than 4.99% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Fund. This restriction is intended to reduce the risk of the Fund undergoing an ownership change within the meaning of Section 382 of the Code, which would limit the Fund's ability to use a capital loss carryforward and certain unrealized losses (if such tax attributes exist). In general, an ownership change occurs if 5% shareholders (and certain persons or groups treated as 5% shareholders) of the Fund increase their ownership percentage in the Fund by more than 50 percentage points in the aggregate within any three-year period ending on certain defined testing dates. If an ownership change were to occur, Section 382 would impose an annual limitation on the amount of post-ownership change gains that the Fund may offset with pre-ownership change losses, and might impose restrictions on the Fund's ability to use certain unrealized losses existing at the time of the ownership change. Such a limitation arising under Section 382 could reduce the benefit of the Fund's then existing capital loss carryforward or unrealized losses, if any. These ownership restrictions could have the effect of depriving shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control over the Fund. Such attempts could have the effect of increasing the expenses of the Fund and disrupting the normal operation of the Fund. In addition, these ownership restrictions may reduce market demand for the Fund's Common Shares, which could have the effect of increasing the likelihood that the Fund's Common Shares trade at a discount to net asset value and increasing the



amount of any such discount. See Anti-Takeover Provisions in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and Certain Provisions of Delaware Law, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws.

**Other Service Providers**

Under a transfer agent servicing agreement among U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC and the Fund, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC serves as the Fund's transfer agent, registrar and distribution disbursing agent.

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (the Administrator) provides the Fund with administrative services. The Administrator also performs fund accounting.

U.S. Bank National Association serves as the custodian of the Fund's securities and other assets.

### SUMMARY OF FUND EXPENSES

The following table contains information about the costs and expenses that Common Shareholders will bear directly or indirectly. The table is based on the capital structure of the Fund as of November 30, 2017 (except as noted below). The purpose of the table and the example below is to help you understand the fees and expenses that you, as a holder of Common Shares, would bear directly or indirectly.

#### Shareholder transaction expenses

Sales load (as a percentage of estimated offering price)	0%
Offering expenses borne by the Fund (as a percentage of estimated offering price)	0%
Dividend reinvestment plan fees	None

Annual Expenses	Percentage of Net Assets Attributable to Common Shares <sup>(2)</sup>
Management fees <sup>(3)</sup>	1.78%
Interest payments on borrowed funds <sup>(4)</sup>	1.18%
Other expenses <sup>(5)</sup>	0.56%
Total annual expenses	3.52%

- (1) If Common Shares to which this Prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, the Prospectus Supplement will set forth any applicable sales load and the estimated offering expenses borne by the Fund.
- (2) Based upon net assets attributable to common shares as of November 30, 2017.
- (3) The Fund pays the Investment Adviser an annual fee, payable monthly, in an amount equal to 1.25% of the Fund's average weekly Managed Assets. The fee shown above is based upon outstanding leverage of 29.3% of the Fund's Managed Assets. If leverage of more than 29.3% of the Fund's Managed Assets is used, the management fees shown would be higher. The Investment Adviser has agreed to waive a portion of the management fee in an amount equal to 0.25% of the Fund's Managed Assets through February 1, 2019.
- (4) Based upon the Fund's outstanding borrowings as of November 30, 2017 of \$33.7 million and the interest rate as of November 30, 2017, of 2.20%.
- (5) Other expenses are estimated based upon those incurred during the fiscal period ended November 30, 2017. Other expenses do not include expense related to realized or unrealized investment gains or losses.

#### EXAMPLE

As required by relevant SEC regulations, the following example illustrates the expenses that you would pay on a \$1,000 investment in Common Shares, assuming (1) Total annual expenses of 3.52% of net assets attributable to Common Shares and (4) a 5% annual return\*:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Total expenses incurred	\$ 36	\$ 108	\$ 183	\$ 379

**The example should not be considered a representation of future expenses or returns. Actual expenses may be greater or less than those shown.** Moreover, the Fund's actual rate of return may be greater or less than the

hypothetical 5% return shown in the example. The example assumes that all distributions and distributions are reinvested at net asset value.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance. The information in this table for the past five years is derived from the Fund's financial statements audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund, whose report on such financial statements, together with the financial statements of the Fund, are included in the Fund's annual report to shareholders for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017 and are incorporated by reference into the SAI.

The Cushing® MLP Total Return Fund

### Financial Highlights

	Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2017	Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2016	Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2015	Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2014 <sup>(1)</sup>	Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2013 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Per Common Share Data<sup>(2)</sup></b>					
Net Asset Value, beginning of fiscal year	\$ 14.84	\$ 13.76	\$ 29.70	\$ 34.90	\$ 33.10
Public offering price					
Offering costs on issuance of common shares					
<b>Income from Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment loss	(0.42)	(0.29)	(8.83)	(5.60)	(4.80)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(1.31)	2.45	(4.90)	4.90	11.10
Total increase (decrease) from investment operations	(1.73)	2.16	(13.73)	(0.70)	6.30
<b>Less Distributions and Dividends to Common Stockholders:</b>					
Net investment income				(4.50)	(3.95)
Return of capital	(1.08)	(1.08)	(2.21)		(0.55)
Total distributions and dividends to common stockholders	(1.08)	(1.08)	(2.21)	(4.50)	(4.50)
Net Asset Value, end of fiscal year	\$ 12.03	\$ 14.84	\$ 13.76	\$ 29.70	\$ 34.90
Per common share fair value, end of fiscal year	\$ 10.73	\$ 12.69	\$ 12.02	\$ 40.50	\$ 40.45

Total Investment Return Based on Fair Value <sup>(3)</sup>	(8.05)%	15.98%	(67.20)%	11.89%	18.86%
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The Cushing® MLP Total Return Fund

**Financial Highlights (Continued)**

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2012</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2011</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2010</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2009</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2008</b>
<b>Per Common Share Data<sup>(2)</sup></b>					
Net Asset Value, beginning of fiscal year	\$ 7.74	\$ 8.03	\$ 5.74	\$ 3.98	\$ 18.17
Public offering price					
Offering costs on issuance of common shares			(0.05)	(0.01)	
<b>Income from Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment loss	(0.34)	0.68	1.07	1.09	1.15
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.12	(0.29)	2.17	1.69	(14.05)
Total increase (decrease) from investment operations	(0.22)	0.39	3.24	2.78	(12.90)
<b>Less Distributions and Dividends to Common Stockholders:</b>					
Net investment income	(0.19)	(0.01)			
Return of capital	(0.71)	(0.67)	(0.90)	(1.01)	(1.29)
Total distributions and dividends to common stockholders	(0.09)	(0.68)	(0.90)	(1.01)	(1.29)
Net Asset Value, end of fiscal year	\$ 6.62	\$ 7.74	\$ 8.03	\$ 5.74	\$ 3.98
Per common share fair value, end of fiscal year	\$ 7.68	\$ 9.43	\$ 9.42	\$ 7.37	\$ 10.36
Total Investment Return Based on Fair Value <sup>(3)</sup>	(9.75)%	7.48%	42.26%	(16.89)%	(31.18)%

## The Cushing® MLP Total Return Fund

**Financial Highlights (Continued)**

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2017</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2016</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2015</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2014<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2013<sup>(1)</sup></b>
<b>Supplemental Data and Ratios</b>					
Net assets applicable to common stockholders, end of fiscal year (000 s)	\$ 81,002	\$ 99,970	\$ 92,651	\$ 199,847	\$ 233,620
Ratio of expenses (including current and deferred income tax benefit/expense) to average net assets before waiver <sup>(4)(5)</sup>	4.04%	3.14%	2.11%	3.41%	4.64%
Ratio of expenses (including current and deferred income tax benefit/expense) to average net assets after waiver <sup>(4)(5)</sup>	4.04%	3.14%	2.11%	3.41%	4.64%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets before waiver <sup>(4)(6)(7)</sup>	(2.60)%	(2.85)%	(2.19)%	(0.07)%	(0.05)%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets after waiver <sup>(4)(6)(7)</sup>	(2.16)%	(2.08)%	(1.58)%	(0.07)%	(0.05)%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets after current and deferred income tax benefit/expense, before waiver <sup>(4)</sup>	(3.60)%	(3.01)%	(1.30)%	(0.55)%	(2.50)%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets after current and deferred income tax benefit/expense, after waiver <sup>(4)</sup>	(3.16)%	(2.24)%	(0.70)%	(0.55)%	(2.50)%
Portfolio turnover rate	62.87%	97.78%	97.30%	137.17%	297.81%
Total borrowings outstanding (in thousands)	\$ 33,650	\$ 49,454	\$ 43,369	\$ 95,547	\$ 72,950
Asset coverage per \$1,000 of indebtedness <sup>(8)</sup>	\$ 3,407	\$ 3,021	\$ 3,136	\$ 3,092	\$ 4,202

(1) Per share data adjusted for 1:5 reverse stock split completed as of September 14, 2015.

(2) Information presented relates to a share of common stock outstanding for the entire fiscal year.

(3) The calculation also assumes reinvestment of dividends at actual prices pursuant to the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan. Total investment return does not reflect brokerage commissions.

(4) For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Fund accrued \$972,195 in net current and deferred tax expense. For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2016, the Fund accrued \$141,294 in net current and deferred tax expense.



For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2015, the Fund accrued \$1,289,093 in net current and deferred tax benefit.

For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2014, the Fund accrued \$1,115,507 in net current and deferred tax expense.

For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2013, the Fund accrued \$5,743,456 in net current tax expense.

- (5) The ratio of expenses (including current and deferred income tax benefit/expense) to average net assets before waiver was 4.48%, 3.91%, 2.71%, 3.41%, and 4.64% for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.
- (6) The ratio of expenses (excluding current and deferred income tax expense) to average net assets before waiver was 3.48%, 3.75%, 3.60%, 2.93%, and 2.18% for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.  
The ratio of expenses (excluding current and deferred income tax expense) to average net assets after waiver was 3.04%, 2.97%, 2.99%, 2.93%, and 2.18% for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.
- (7) This ratio excludes current and deferred income tax benefit/expense on net investment income.
- (8) Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities (not including borrowings) from the Fund's total assets and dividing by the total borrowings.

## The Cushing® MLP Total Return Fund

**Financial Highlights (Continued)**

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2012</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2011</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2010</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2009</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2008</b>
<b>Supplemental Data and Ratios</b>					
Net assets applicable to common stockholders, end of fiscal year (000 s)	\$ 220,021	\$ 255,747	\$ 208,002	\$ 64,511	\$ 37,779
Ratio of expenses (including current and deferred income tax benefit/expense) to average net assets before waiver <sup>(4)(5)</sup>	4.04%	3.14%	2.11%	3.41%	4.64%
Ratio of expenses (including current and deferred income tax benefit/expense) to average net assets after waiver <sup>(4)(5)</sup>	4.30%	3.39%	3.08%	4.32%	5.18%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets before waiver <sup>(4)(6)(7)</sup>	(1.91)%	0.10%	1.66%	0.22%	(1.93)%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets after waiver <sup>(4)(6)(7)</sup>	(1.91)%	0.10%	1.69%	0.80%	(1.49)%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets after current and deferred income tax benefit/expense, before waiver <sup>(4)</sup>	(2.18)%	0.10%	1.66%	0.22%	(4.12)%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets after current and deferred income tax benefit/expense, after waiver <sup>(4)</sup>	(2.18)%	0.10%	1.66%	0.22%	(4.12)%
Portfolio turnover rate	230.13%	240.55%	300.70%	526.39%	95.78%
Total borrowings outstanding (in thousands)	\$ 36,300	\$ 72,800	\$ 69,800	\$ 29,900	\$ 14,500
Asset coverage per \$1,000 of indebtedness <sup>(8)</sup>	\$ 7,061	\$ 4,513	\$ 3,980	\$ 3,158	\$ 3,605

(1) Per share data adjusted for 1:5 reverse stock split completed as of September 14, 2015.

(2) Information presented relates to a share of common stock outstanding for the entire fiscal year.

(3) The calculation also assumes reinvestment of dividends at actual prices pursuant to the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan. Total investment return does not reflect brokerage commissions.

(4) For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Fund accrued \$972,195 in net current and deferred tax expense. For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2016, the Fund accrued \$141,294 in net current and deferred tax expense. For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2015, the Fund accrued \$1,289,093 in net current and deferred tax benefit.

For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2014, the Fund accrued \$1,115,507 in net current and deferred tax expense.

For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2013, the Fund accrued \$5,743,456 in net current tax expense.

- (5) The ratio of expenses (including current and deferred income tax benefit/expense) to average net assets before waiver was 4.48%, 3.91%, 2.71%, 3.41%, and 4.64% for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.
- (6) The ratio of expenses (excluding current and deferred income tax expense) to average net assets before waiver was 3.48%, 3.75%, 3.60%, 2.93%, and 2.18% for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.  
The ratio of expenses (excluding current and deferred income tax expense) to average net assets after waiver was 3.04%, 2.97%, 2.99%, 2.93%, and 2.18% for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.
- (7) This ratio excludes current and deferred income tax benefit/expense on net investment income.
- (8) Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities (not including borrowings) from the Fund's total assets and dividing by the total borrowings.

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**SENIOR SECURITIES**

The following table sets forth information about the Fund's outstanding senior securities as of the end of each fiscal year since its inception. The information in this table for the past five years is derived from the Fund's financial statements audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund, whose report on such financial statements, together with the financial statements of the Fund, are included in the Fund's annual report to shareholders for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017 and are incorporated by reference into the SAI.

<b>Fiscal Period Ended</b>	<b>Title of Security</b>	<b>Total Principal</b>		<b>Asset Coverage Per</b>
		<b>Amount Outstanding</b>	<b>\$'000 of Principal Amount</b>	<b>Per \$1,000 of Principal Amount</b>
November 30, 2017	Borrowings	\$ 33,650,000	\$ 3,407	
November 30, 2016	Borrowings	\$ 49,454,000	\$ 3,021	
November 30, 2015	Borrowings	\$ 43,369,000	\$ 3,136	
November 30, 2014	Borrowings	\$ 95,547,000	\$ 3,092	
November 30, 2013	Borrowings	\$ 72,950,000	\$ 4,202	
November 30, 2012	Borrowings	\$ 36,300,000	\$ 7,061	
November 30, 2011	Borrowings	\$ 72,800,000	\$ 4,513	
November 30, 2010	Borrowings	\$ 69,800,000	\$ 3,980	
November 30, 2009	Borrowings	\$ 29,900,000	\$ 3,158	
November 30, 2008	Borrowings	\$ 14,500,000	\$ 3,605	
November 30, 2007*	Borrowings	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 32,821	

## THE FUND

The Cushing<sup>®</sup> MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund (the Fund) was formed as a Delaware statutory trust on May 23, 2007 and is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 Act (the 1940 Act). The Fund commenced investment operations on August 27, 2007. The Fund's principal office is located at 8117 Preston Road, Suite 440, Dallas, Texas 75225.

The Cushing name originates from a city in Oklahoma of the same name that was a center for the exploration, production and storage of crude oil during the early 20th century. Cushing, Oklahoma, with its large amount of energy infrastructure assets, is currently a major storage and trading clearing hub for crude oil and refined products in the United States.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in a Prospectus Supplement, the Fund intends to invest the net proceeds of an offering of Securities in accordance with its investment objective and policies as stated in this Prospectus. It is currently anticipated that the Fund will be able to invest substantially all of the net proceeds of an offering of Securities in accordance with its investment objective and policies within three months after the completion of such offering. Prior to the time the proceeds of each offering are fully invested, such proceeds may temporarily be invested in cash, cash equivalents, or in debt securities that are rated AA or higher. Income received by the Fund from such temporary investments would likely be less than returns sought pursuant to the Fund's investment objective and policies. A delay in the anticipated use of proceeds could lower returns and reduce the Fund's distribution to Common Shareholders.

## MARKET AND NET ASSET VALUE INFORMATION

The Fund's currently outstanding Common Shares are, and the Common Shares offered by this Prospectus, will be, subject to notice of issuance, listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE). The Fund's Common Shares commenced trading on the NYSE on August 27, 2007. In connection with any offering of Rights, the Fund will provide information in the Prospectus Supplement for the expected trading market, if any, for Rights.

Historically, the Common Shares have generally traded at a discount to the Fund's net asset value per share. Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a discount to net asset value. The Fund's net asset value will be reduced immediately following an offering of the Common Shares due to the costs of such offering, which will be borne entirely by the Fund. The sale of Common Shares by the Fund (or the perception that such sales may occur) may have an adverse effect on prices of Common Shares in the secondary market. An increase in the number of Common Shares available may put downward pressure on the market price for Common Shares. See Risks Market Discount From Net Asset Value.

The following table sets forth, for each of the periods indicated, the high and low closing market prices for the Common Shares on the NYSE, the net asset value per Common Share and the premium or discount to net asset value per Common Share at which the Common Shares were trading.

<i>Fiscal Quarter Ended</i>	<b>Market Price</b>		<b>Corresponding Net Asset Value Per Common Share</b>		<b>Corresponding Premium/(Discount) as a Percentage of Net Asset Value</b>	
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
	May 31, 2018	\$ 12.26	\$ 10.25	\$ 13.08	\$ 11.34	-6.27%

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February 28, 2018	\$ 12.92	\$ 10.51	\$ 14.30	\$ 11.82	-9.65%	-11.08%
November 30, 2017	\$ 12.25	\$ 10.17	\$ 13.38	\$ 11.76	-8.45%	-13.52%
August 31, 2017	\$ 13.01	\$ 11.30	\$ 14.05	\$ 12.22	-7.42%	-7.53%
May 31, 2017	\$ 14.53	\$ 12.90	\$ 16.84	\$ 13.92	-13.72%	-7.33%
February 28, 2017	\$ 14.96	\$ 12.65	\$ 17.12	\$ 14.65	-12.62%	-13.65%
November 30, 2016	\$ 13.57	\$ 11.39	\$ 15.51	\$ 13.34	-12.51%	-14.62%
August 31, 2016	\$ 13.03	\$ 11.60	\$ 14.74	\$ 13.21	-11.60%	-12.19%
May 31, 2016	\$ 12.24	\$ 9.42	\$ 13.64	\$ 10.61	-10.26%	-11.22%

As of June 4, 2018, the last reported sale price for the Fund's Common Shares on the NYSE was \$12.02 per Common Share, and the net asset value of the Fund's Common Shares was \$13.17 per Common Share, representing a discount to net asset value of 8.73%. The Fund cannot predict whether its Common Shares will trade in the future at a premium to or discount from net asset value, or the level of any premium or discount. Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a discount from net asset value. As of November 30, 2017, 6,734,302 Common Shares of the Fund were outstanding.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES

### Investment Objective

The Fund's investment objective is to obtain a high after-tax total return from a combination of capital appreciation and current income. There can be no assurance that the Fund's investment objective will be achieved.

### Principal Investment Policies

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of Managed Assets (as defined in this Prospectus) in a portfolio of infrastructure master limited partnerships ( MLPs ) and MLP-related investments (together, MLP Investments ) (the 80% policy ). For purposes of the Fund's 80% policy, MLP Investments are investments that offer economic exposure to public and private MLPs in the form of common or subordinated units issued by MLPs, securities of entities holding primarily general partner or managing member interests in MLPs, debt securities of MLPs, and securities that are derivatives of interests in MLPs, which are I-Shares and other derivative securities that have economic characteristics of MLP securities, and businesses that operate and have the economic characteristics of MLP Investments but are organized and taxed as C corporations or as limited liability companies ( Other Natural Resources Companies ). The Fund considers an MLP Investment to be an infrastructure MLP Investment if at least 50% of its assets, income, sales or profits are committed to or derived from the development, construction, management, ownership or operation of assets that are used for natural resources-based activities.

Entities commonly referred to as MLPs are taxed as partnerships for federal income tax purposes and are generally organized under state law as limited partnerships or limited liability companies. If publicly traded, MLPs must derive at least 90% of their gross income from qualifying sources as described in Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). The Fund will invest no more than 25% of Managed Assets in securities of energy MLPs that are qualified publicly traded partnerships under the Code.

The Fund generally seeks to invest no more than 10% of Managed Assets in any one issue and no more than 15% of Managed Assets in any one issuer, in each case, determined at the time of investment. For purposes of this limit, with respect to an investment in an MLP, an issuer includes both an issuer and its controlling general partner, managing member or sponsor, and an issue is a class of an issuer's securities or a derivative security that tracks that class of securities.

Among other things, the Investment Adviser will use fundamental and proprietary research to seek to identify the most attractive MLP Investments and will seek to invest in MLP Investments that have distribution growth prospects that, in the Investment Adviser's view, are high relative to comparable MLP Investments and that are not fully reflected in current pricing. The Investment Adviser believes that the MLP Investments most likely to offer such attractive investment characteristics are those that have proven and motivated management teams that are able to develop projects organically ( greenfield or internally developed) and/or to successfully identify, acquire and integrate assets and companies that enhance value to shareholders.

As part of the Fund's 80% policy, the Investment Adviser will also seek to invest in MLPs or other entities that hold the general partner or managing member interest and incentive distribution rights in MLPs ( GP MLPs ). The Investment Adviser believes the distribution growth prospects of many GP MLPs are high relative to many other MLPs, and the Investment Adviser will seek to invest in GP MLPs in which the Investment Adviser believes that such growth is not fully reflected in current pricing. Like MLPs with strong distribution growth prospects, GP MLPs with strong growth prospects often trade at prices that result in relatively low current yields. Since the Investment Adviser will seek to maximize total return through a focus on MLPs and GP MLPs with strong distribution growth prospects, the Investment Adviser believes the distribution yield of the Fund will be lower than it would be under a more diversified investment approach.



As used in this Prospectus, **Managed Assets** means the total assets of the Fund, minus all accrued expenses incurred in the normal course of operations other than liabilities or obligations attributable to investment leverage, including, without limitation, investment leverage obtained through (i) indebtedness of any type (including, without limitation, borrowing through a credit facility or the issuance of debt securities), (ii) the issuance of shares of preferred stock ( preferred shares ) or other similar preference securities and/or (iii) the reinvestment of collateral received for securities loaned in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

The Investment Adviser will seek to invest in initial public offerings ( IPOs ) and secondary market issuances, PIPE transactions and privately negotiated transactions, including pre-acquisition and pre-IPO equity issuances and investments in private companies. Generally, no more than 50% of the Fund's portfolio will be in PIPE or other private or restricted securities at the time of investment. See **Investment Objective and Policies**.

The Fund's investment objective and percentage parameters, including its 80% MLP investment policy, are not fundamental policies of the Fund and may be changed without shareholder approval. Shareholders, however, will be notified in writing of any change at least 60 days prior to effecting any such change.

## THE FUND'S INVESTMENTS

### MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies

The Investment Adviser believes that MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies play a vital role in the movement of energy resources. Many MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies own midstream energy infrastructure assets used to transport, process, and store natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil, and refined petroleum products. Crude oil is gathered, shipped, or trucked from producers (suppliers) and transported through pipelines to storage/terminal facilities, refined into petroleum products, and ultimately to end users. While there are a number of contract structures with varying degrees of commodity price sensitivity in the Investment Adviser's experience, these activities are usually fee-based in nature, in which case revenues are simply a function of throughput and a dollar rate per unit. Consequently, cash flows typically have minimal direct commodity price sensitivity, although they may frequently be exposed to indirect commodity risk. See **Risks MLP and Other Natural Resources Company Risks Commodity Price Risk**. Generally, in the natural gas and natural gas liquids value chain, natural gas is gathered in the field and transported via pipelines to a central processing facility where the natural gas liquids are separated from the residue natural gas. The residue gas is then shipped to end users, and the raw natural gas liquids go to a fractionation facility. The raw natural gas liquids mix is separated into its different components (ethane, propane, butane, etc.) and then delivered to end use markets.

MLP and Other Natural Resources Companies operations are often referred to in the context of the following business segments or subsectors:

**Pipeline MLP Investments.** Pipeline MLP Investments are common carrier transporters of natural gas, natural gas liquids (primarily propane, ethane, butane and natural gasoline), crude oil or refined petroleum products (gasoline, diesel fuel and jet fuel). Pipeline MLP Investments may also operate ancillary businesses such as storage and marketing of such products. Revenue is derived from capacity and transportation fees. Historically, in the Investment Adviser's view, pipeline output has been less exposed to cyclical economic forces due in large part to its low cost structure and government-regulated nature. In addition, pipeline MLP Investments do not have much direct commodity price exposure (as opposed to indirect exposure) because they do not own the product being shipped.

Processing MLP Investments. Processing MLP Investments include gatherers and processors of natural gas as well as providers of natural gas liquid transportation, fractionation and storage services. Revenue is typically derived from providing services to natural gas producers, which require treatment or processing before their natural gas commodity can be marketed to utilities and other end user markets. Revenue for the processor is often fee based, although it is not uncommon to have some participation in the prices of the natural gas and natural gas liquids commodities for a portion of revenue.

Exploration and Production MLP Investments ( E&P MLP Investments ). E&P MLP Investments include MLP Investments that are engaged in the exploration, development, production and acquisition of crude oil and natural gas properties. E&P MLP Investment cash flows generally depend on the volume of crude oil and natural gas produced and the realized prices received for crude oil and natural gas sales.

Propane MLP Investments. Propane MLP Investments include MLP Investments that are distributors of propane to end-users for space and water heating. Revenue is typically derived from the resale of the commodity at a margin over wholesale cost. The ability to maintain margin is often a key to profitability. Propane serves approximately 3% of the household energy needs in the United States, largely for homes beyond the geographic reach of natural gas distribution pipelines. Approximately 70% of annual cash flow can be earned during the winter heating season (October through March).

Coal MLP Investments. Coal MLP Investments include MLP Investments that own, lease and manage coal reserves. Revenue is typically derived from production and sale of coal or from royalty payments related to leases to coal producers. Electricity generation is the primary use of coal in the United States. Demand for electricity and supply of alternative fuels to generators are usually the primary drivers of coal demand. Coal MLP Investments are subject to operating and production risks, such as: the company or a lessee meeting necessary production volumes; federal, state and local laws and regulations that may limit the ability to produce coal; the company's ability to manage production costs and pay mining reclamation costs; and the effect on demand that the Environmental Protection Agency's ( EPA ) standards set in the Clean Air Act have on coal end-users.

Marine Shipping MLP Investments. Marine Shipping MLP Investments include MLP Investments that are primarily marine transporters of natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil or refined petroleum products. Marine shipping MLP Investments typically derive revenue from charging customers for the transportation of these products utilizing the MLP Investments' vessels. Transportation services are typically provided pursuant to a charter or contract, the terms of which vary depending on, for example, the length of use of a particular vessel, the amount of cargo transported, the number of voyages made, the parties operating a vessel or other factors.

*Investment Characteristics*. The Investment Adviser believes that the following are characteristics of MLP Investments that make them attractive investments:

MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies provide services which help meet the largely inelastic demand of U.S. energy consumers.

Transportation assets in the interstate and intrastate pipeline sector are typically backed by relatively long-term contracts and stable transportation rates (or tariffs) that are regulated by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ( FERC ) or by state regulatory commissions.

High barriers to entry may protect the business model of some MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, since construction of the physical assets typically owned by these MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies generally requires significant capital expenditures and long lead times.

As the location and quality of natural resources supplies change, new midstream infrastructure such as gathering and transportation pipelines, treating and processing facilities, and storage facilities is needed to meet these new logistical needs. Similarly, as the demographics of demand centers change, new infrastructure is often needed. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are integral providers of these midstream needs.

Requirements for new and additional transportation fuel compositions (*e.g.*, reduced sulfur diesel and ethanol blends) require additional logistical assets. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are integral providers of these logistical needs.

Midstream assets are typically long-lived and tend to retain their economic value, and the risk of technological obsolescence is low.

In addition to their growth potential, MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may offer higher yields than some investments, such as utilities and real estate investment trusts. Of course, there can be no guarantee that MLP Investments in the Fund's portfolio will generate higher yields than these other asset classes, and since the Investment Adviser will seek to maximize total return through a focus on MLP Investments with strong distribution growth prospects, the Investment Adviser believes the distribution yield of the Fund will be lower than it would be under a more diversified investment approach.

### **Description of MLPs**

MLPs are formed as limited partnerships or limited liability companies and taxed as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. The securities issued by many MLPs are listed and traded on a U.S. exchange. An MLP typically issues general partner and limited partner interests, or managing member and member interests. The general partner or managing member manages and often controls, has an ownership stake in, and may receive incentive distribution payments from, the MLP. If publicly-traded, to be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, an MLP must derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from qualifying sources as described in Section 7704 of the Code.

The Fund will invest no more than 25% of Managed Assets in securities of energy MLPs that are qualified publicly traded partnerships under the Code.

These qualifying sources include natural resources-based activities such as the exploration, development, mining, production, processing, refining, transportation, storage and certain marketing of mineral or natural resources. The general partner or managing member may be structured as a private or publicly-traded corporation or other entity. The general partner or managing member typically controls the operations and management of the entity and has an up to 2% general partner or managing member interest in the entity plus, in many cases, ownership of some percentage of the outstanding limited partner or member interests. The limited partners or members, through their ownership of limited partner or member interests, provide capital to the entity, are intended to have no role in the operation and management of the entity and receive cash distributions. Due to their structure as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and the expected character of their income, MLPs generally do not pay federal income taxes. Thus, unlike investors in corporate securities, direct MLP investors are generally not subject to double taxation (*i.e.*, corporate level tax and tax on corporate distributions). Currently, most MLPs operate in the energy and midstream, natural resources, shipping or real estate sectors.

MLPs are typically structured such that common units and general partner interests have first priority to receive the MQD. Common and general partner interests also accrue arrearages in distributions to the extent the MQD is not paid. Once common units and general partner interests have been paid, subordinated units generally receive distributions; however, subordinated units generally do not accrue arrearages. The subordinated units are normally owned by the owners or affiliates of the general partner and convert on a one for one basis into common units, generally in three to five years after the MLP's initial public offering or after certain distribution levels have been exceeded. Distributable cash in excess of the MQD is distributed to both common and subordinated units generally on a pro rata basis. The general partner is also normally eligible to receive incentive distributions if the general partner operates the business in a manner which results in payment of per unit distributions that exceed threshold levels above the MQD. As the general partner increases cash distributions to the limited partners, the general partner receives an increasingly higher percentage of the incremental cash distributions. A common arrangement provides that the general partner can reach a tier where it receives 50% of every incremental dollar distributed by the MLP. These incentive distributions encourage the general partner to increase the partnership's cash flow and raise the quarterly cash distribution by pursuing steady cash flow investment opportunities, streamlining costs and acquiring assets. Such results benefit all security holders of the MLP.

Equity securities issued by MLPs typically consist of common and subordinated units (which represent the limited partner or member interests) and a general partner or managing member interest.

Common Units. The common units of many MLPs are listed and traded on national securities exchanges, including the NYSE, the NYSE American and the NASDAQ Stock Market (the NASDAQ ). The Fund will typically purchase such common units through open market transactions and underwritten offerings, but may also acquire common units through direct placements and privately negotiated transactions. Holders of MLP common units typically have very limited control and voting rights. Holders of such

common units are typically entitled to receive the MQD, including arrearage rights, from the issuer. Generally, an MLP must pay (or set aside for payment) the MQD to holders of common units before any distributions may be paid to subordinated unit holders. In addition, incentive distributions are typically not paid to the general partner or managing member unless the quarterly distributions on the common units exceed specified threshold levels above the MQD. In the event of a liquidation, common unit holders are intended to have a preference to the remaining assets of the issuer over holders of subordinated units. Master limited partnerships also issue different classes of common units that may have different voting, trading, and distribution rights. The Fund may invest in different classes of common units.

Subordinated Units. Subordinated units, which, like common units, represent limited partner or member interests, are not typically listed on an exchange or publicly traded. The Fund will typically purchase outstanding subordinated units through negotiated transactions directly with holders of such units or newly-issued subordinated units directly from the issuer. Holders of such subordinated units are generally entitled to receive a distribution only after the MQD and any arrearages from prior quarters have been paid to holders of common units. Holders of subordinated units typically have the right to receive distributions before any incentive distributions are payable to the general partner or managing member. Subordinated units generally do not provide arrearage rights. Most MLP subordinated units are convertible into common units after the passage of a specified period of time or upon the achievement by the issuer of specified financial goals. Master limited partnerships also issue different classes of subordinated units that may have different voting, trading, and distribution rights. The Fund may invest in different classes of subordinated units.

General Partner or Managing Member Interests. The general partner or managing member interest in MLPs or limited liability companies is typically retained by the original sponsors of an MLP or limited liability company, such as its founders, corporate partners and entities that sell assets to the MLP or limited liability company. The holder of the general partner or managing member interest can be liable in certain circumstances for amounts greater than the amount of the holder's investment in the general partner or managing member. General partner or managing member interests often confer direct board participation rights in, and in many cases control over the operations of, the MLP. General partner or managing member interests can be privately held or owned by publicly traded entities. General partner or managing member interests receive cash distributions, typically in an amount of up to 2% of available cash, which is contractually defined in the partnership or limited liability company agreement. In addition, holders of general partner or managing member interests typically receive incentive distribution rights, which provide them with an increasing share of the entity's aggregate cash distributions upon the payment of per common unit distributions that exceed specified threshold levels above the MQD. Due to the incentive distribution rights, GP MLPs have higher distribution growth prospects than their underlying MLPs, but quarterly incentive distribution payments would also decline at a greater rate than the decline rate in quarterly distributions to common and subordinated unit holders in the event of a reduction in the MLP's quarterly distribution. The ability of the limited partners or members to remove the general partner or managing member without cause is typically very limited. In addition, some MLPs permit the holder of incentive distribution rights to reset, under specified circumstances, the incentive distribution levels and receive compensation in exchange for the distribution rights given up in the reset.

I-Shares. I-Shares represent an ownership interest issued by an MLP affiliate. The MLP affiliate uses the proceeds from the sale of I-Shares to purchase limited partnership interests in the MLP in the form of I-units. Thus, I-Shares represent an indirect limited partner interest in the MLP. I-units have features similar to MLP common units in terms of voting rights, liquidation preference and distribution. I-Shares differ from MLP

common units primarily in that instead of receiving cash distributions, holders of I-Shares will receive distributions of additional I-Shares in an amount equal to the cash distributions received by common unit holders. I-Shares are traded on the NYSE or the AMEX. For purposes of the Fund's 80% policy, securities that are derivatives of interests in MLPs are I-Shares or other derivative securities that have economic characteristics of MLP securities.

*Other Natural Resources Companies.* The Fund may invest in businesses that operate and have the economic characteristics of MLP Investments but are organized and taxed as C corporations or as limited liability companies.



*Other Equity Securities.* The Fund may invest up to 20% of its Managed Assets in equity securities of issuers other than MLP and Other Natural Resources Companies, including issuers engaged in other sectors, including the finance and real estate sectors.

*Debt Securities.* The Fund may invest in debt securities rated, at the time of investment, at least (i) B3 by Moody's, (ii) B- by S&P or Fitch, or (iii) a comparable rating by another rating agency, provided, however, that the Fund may invest up to 5% of the Fund's Managed Assets in lower rated or unrated debt securities. Debt securities rated below investment grade are commonly known as "junk bonds" and are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligations, and involve major risk exposure to adverse conditions.

The credit quality policies noted above apply only at the time a security is purchased, and the Fund is not required to dispose of a security in the event that a rating agency downgrades its assessment of the credit characteristics of a particular issue. In determining whether to retain or sell such a security, the Investment Adviser may consider such factors as the Investment Adviser's assessment of the credit quality of the issuer of such security, the price at which such security could be sold and the rating, if any, assigned to such security by other rating agencies. Rating agencies are private services that provide ratings of the credit quality of debt obligations. Ratings assigned by a rating agency are not absolute standards of credit quality and do not evaluate market risks or the liquidity of securities. Rating agencies may fail to make timely changes in credit ratings; and an issuer's current financial condition may be better or worse than a rating indicates. To the extent that the issuer of a security pays a rating agency for the analysis of its security, an inherent conflict of interest may exist that could affect the reliability of the rating. See Appendix A: Description of Securities Ratings in the SAI.

*Preferred Stock.* Preferred stock generally has a preference as to distributions and upon liquidation over an issuer's common stock but ranks junior to other income securities in an issuer's capital structure. Preferred stock generally pays distributions in cash (or additional shares of preferred stock) at a defined rate but, unlike interest payments on other income securities, preferred stock distributions are payable only if declared by the issuer's board of directors. Distributions on preferred stock may be cumulative, meaning that, in the event the issuer fails to make one or more distribution payments on the preferred stock, no distributions may be paid on the issuer's common stock until all unpaid preferred stock distributions have been paid. Preferred stock also may provide that, in the event the issuer fails to make a specified number of distribution payments, the holders of the preferred stock will have the right to elect a specified number of directors to the issuer's board. Preferred stock also may be subject to optional or mandatory redemption provisions.

*Convertible Securities.* A convertible security is a bond, debenture, note, preferred stock or other security that may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock or other equity security of the same or a different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. A convertible security entitles the holder to receive interest paid or accrued on debt or the distribution paid on preferred stock until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Before conversion, convertible securities have characteristics similar to nonconvertible income securities in that they ordinarily provide a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than those of common stocks of the same or similar issuers, but lower yields than comparable nonconvertible securities. The value of a convertible security is influenced by changes in interest rates, with investment value declining as interest rates increase and increasing as interest rates decline. The credit standing of the issuer and other factors also may have an effect on the convertible security's investment value. Convertible securities rank senior to common stock in a corporation's capital structure but are usually subordinated to comparable nonconvertible securities. Convertible securities may be subject to redemption at the option of the issuer at a price established in the convertible security's governing instrument.

*Non-U.S. Securities.* The Fund may invest in non-U.S. securities, including, among other things, non-U.S. securities represented by ADRs. ADRs are certificates evidencing ownership of shares of a non-U.S. issuer that are issued by

depository banks and generally trade on an established market in the United States or elsewhere.

*Restricted Securities.* Restricted securities are securities that are unregistered, held by control persons of the issuer or are subject to contractual restrictions on resale. The Fund will typically acquire restricted securities in directly negotiated transactions. The Fund's investments in restricted securities may include privately issued securities of both public and private issuers.

## Investment Practices

In addition to holding the portfolio investments described above, the Fund may, but is not required to, use the following investment practices:

*Strategic Transactions.* The Fund may, but is not required to, use investment strategies (referred to herein as Strategic Transactions ) for hedging, risk management or portfolio management purposes or to earn income. Strategic Transactions may involve the purchase and sale of derivative instruments. The Fund may purchase and sell exchange-listed and over-the-counter put and call options on securities, indices and other instruments, enter into forward contracts, purchase and sell futures contracts and options thereon, enter into swap, cap, floor or collar transactions, purchase structured investment products and enter into transactions that combine multiple derivative instruments. The Fund's use of Strategic Transactions may also include newly developed or permitted instruments, strategies and techniques, consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and applicable regulatory requirements.

Strategic Transactions often have risks similar to the securities underlying the Strategic Transactions. However, the use of Strategic Transactions also involves risks that are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with other portfolio investments. Strategic Transactions may involve the use of highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from those associated with other portfolio investments. The Fund complies with applicable regulatory requirements when implementing Strategic Transactions, including the segregation of cash and/or liquid securities on the books of the Fund's custodian, as mandated by SEC rules or SEC staff positions. Although the Investment Adviser seeks to use Strategic Transactions to further the Fund's investment objective, no assurance can be given that the use of Strategic Transactions will achieve this result.

Examples of how the Fund may use Strategic Transactions include, but are not limited to:

Using derivative investments to hedge certain risks such as overall market, interest rate and commodity price risks. The Fund may engage in various interest rate and currency hedging transactions, including buying or selling options or futures, entering into other transactions including forward contracts, swaps or options on futures and other derivatives transactions.

Using Strategic Transactions to manage its effective interest rate exposure, including the effective yield paid on any leverage used by the Fund, protect against possible adverse changes in the market value of the securities held in or to be purchased for its portfolio, or otherwise protect the value of its portfolio.

Engaging in Strategic Transactions to hedge the currency risk to which it may be exposed by, for example, buying or selling options or futures or entering into other foreign currency transactions, including forward foreign currency contracts, currency swaps or options on currency and currency futures and other derivatives transactions.

Selling short Treasury securities to hedge its interest rate exposure. When shorting Treasury securities, the loss is limited to the principal amount that is contractually required to be repaid at maturity and the interest expense that must be paid at the specified times. See Risks Short Sales Risk.

Engaging in paired long-short trades to arbitrage pricing disparities in securities issued by MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, write (or sell) covered call options on securities held in its portfolio, write (or sell) uncovered call options on the securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, purchase call options or enter into swap contracts to increase its exposure to MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, or sell securities short.

Hedging transactions can be expensive and have risks, including the imperfect correlation between the value of such instruments and the underlying assets, the possible default of the other party to the transaction or illiquidity of the derivative instruments. Furthermore, the ability to successfully use hedging transactions depends on the Investment Adviser's ability to predict pertinent market movements, which cannot be assured. A more complete discussion of Strategic Transactions and their risks is included in the SAI under the heading Strategic Transactions.

*Other Investment Companies.* The Fund may invest in securities of other closed-end or open-end investment companies (including ETFs) that invest primarily in companies in which the Fund may invest directly to the extent

permitted by the 1940 Act. The Fund may invest in other investment companies during periods when it has large amounts of uninvested cash, such as the period shortly after the Fund receives the proceeds of the offering of its Securities, during periods when there is a shortage of attractive MLP and Other Natural Resource Company securities available in the market, or when the Investment Adviser believes share prices of other investment companies offer attractive values. The Fund may invest in investment companies that are advised by the Investment Adviser or its affiliates to the extent permitted by applicable law and/or pursuant to exemptive relief from the SEC. As a stockholder in an investment company, the Fund will bear its ratable share of that investment company's expenses, and would remain subject to payment of the Fund's management fees and other expenses with respect to assets so invested. Common Shareholders would therefore be subject to duplicative expenses to the extent the Fund invests in other investment companies. The Investment Adviser will take expenses into account when evaluating the investment merits of an investment in an investment company relative to other available investments. To the extent that the Fund invests in investment companies that invest primarily in MLP Investments, such investments will be counted for purposes of the Fund's policy of investing at least 80% of its Managed Assets in MLP Investments.

*Exchange-Traded Notes.* The Fund may invest in ETNs, which are typically unsecured, unsubordinated debt securities that trade on a securities exchange and are designed to replicate the returns of market benchmarks minus applicable fees. To the extent that the Fund invests in ETNs that are designed to replicate indices comprised primarily of MLP Investments, such investments will be counted for purposes of the Fund's policy of investing at least 80% of its Managed Assets in MLP Investments.

*New Securities and Other Investment Techniques.* New types of securities and other investment and hedging practices are developed from time to time. The Investment Adviser expects, consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies, to invest in such new types of securities and to engage in such new types of investment practices if the Investment Adviser believes that these investments and investment techniques may assist the Fund in achieving its investment objective. In addition, the Investment Adviser may use investment techniques and instruments that are not specifically described herein.

*Use of Arbitrage and Other Strategies.* The Fund may use short sales, arbitrage and other strategies to try to generate additional return. As part of such strategies, the Fund may engage in paired long-short trades to arbitrage pricing disparities in securities issued by MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, write (or sell) covered call options on the securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies or other securities held in its portfolio, write (or sell) uncovered call options on the securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, purchase call options or enter into swap contracts to increase its exposure to MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, or sell securities short. With a long position, the Fund purchases a stock outright, but with a short position, it would sell a security that it does not own and must borrow to meet its settlement obligations. The Fund will realize a profit or incur a loss from a short position depending on whether the value of the underlying stock decreases or increases, respectively, between the time the stock is sold and when the Fund replaces the borrowed security. To increase its exposure to certain issuers, the Fund may purchase call options or use swap agreements. The Fund expects to use these strategies on a limited basis. See *Risks Short Sales Risk* and *Risks Strategic Transactions Risk*.

*Lending of Portfolio Securities.* The Fund may lend its portfolio securities to broker-dealers and banks. Any such loan must be continuously secured by collateral in cash or cash equivalents maintained on a current basis in an amount at least equal to 102% of the value of the securities loaned. The Fund would continue to receive the equivalent of the interest or distributions paid by the issuer on the securities loaned and would also receive an additional return that may be in the form of a fixed fee or a percentage of the collateral. The Fund may pay reasonable fees for services in arranging these loans. The Fund would have the right to call the loan and obtain the securities loaned at any time on notice of not more than five (5) business days. The Fund would not have the right to vote the securities during the existence of the loan but would call the loan to permit voting of the securities, if, in the Investment Adviser's judgment, a material event requiring a shareholder vote would otherwise occur before the loans were repaid. In the event of bankruptcy or other default of the borrower, the Fund could experience both delays in liquidating the loan

collateral or recovering the loaned securities and losses, including (a) possible decline in the value of the collateral or in the value of the securities loaned during the period while the Fund seeks to enforce its rights to the collateral or loaned securities, (b) possible subnormal levels of income and lack of access to income during this period, and (c) expenses of enforcing its rights.

*Temporary Defensive Investments.* When market conditions dictate a more defensive investment strategy, the Fund may, on a temporary basis, hold cash or invest a portion or all of its assets in money-market instruments, including

obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, other high-quality debt securities, including prime commercial paper, repurchase agreements and bank obligations, such as bankers' acceptances and certificates of deposit. Under normal market conditions, the potential for capital appreciation on these securities will tend to be lower than the potential for capital appreciation on other securities that may be owned by the Fund. In taking such a defensive position, the Fund would temporarily not be pursuing its principal investment strategies and may not achieve its investment objective.

*Portfolio Turnover.* Portfolio turnover rate is not considered a limiting factor in the Investment Adviser's execution of investment decisions. The Fund anticipates that its annual portfolio turnover rate may vary greatly from year to year. For the fiscal years ended November 30, 2017 and November 30, 2016, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was approximately 63% and 98%, respectively. A higher portfolio turnover rate results in correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other transactional expenses that are borne by the Fund.

*Investment Restrictions.* The Fund has adopted certain other investment limitations designed to limit investment risk. These limitations are, unless otherwise indicated, fundamental and may not be changed without the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act. See "Investment Restrictions" in the SAI for a complete list of the fundamental investment policies of the Fund. The Fund's investment objective and percentage parameters are not fundamental policies of the Fund and may be changed without shareholder approval.

## USE OF LEVERAGE

The Fund generally seeks to increase income and total return by utilizing leverage. The Fund may utilize leverage through the Indebtedness, including through the issuance of commercial paper or notes and other forms of borrowing, or the issuance of preferred shares. The Fund may utilize leverage through Indebtedness or preferred shares to the maximum extent permitted by the 1940 Act. Under current market conditions, the Fund currently intends to utilize leverage principally through Indebtedness. The amount of Indebtedness outstanding is expected to vary over time, but will not exceed 33 1/3% of the Fund's Managed Assets (*i.e.*, 50% of its net assets attributable to the Fund's Common Shares), including the proceeds of such leverage.

The costs associated with the issuance and use of leverage will be borne by the holders of the Common Shares. Leverage is a speculative technique and investors should note that there are special risks and costs associated with leverage. There can be no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful during any period in which it is employed. The use of leverage creates risks and involves special considerations. See "Risks - Leverage Risk." To the extent that the Fund uses leverage, it expects to utilize hedging techniques such as swaps and caps on a portion of its leverage to mitigate potential interest rate risk. See "Risks - Interest Rate Hedging Risk."

## Indebtedness

Delaware trust law and the Fund's governing documents authorize the Fund, without prior approval of its Common Shareholders, to borrow money. In this regard, the Fund may issue notes or other evidence of Indebtedness (including bank borrowings or commercial paper) and may secure any such borrowings by mortgaging, pledging or otherwise subjecting as security its assets. In connection with any borrowing, the Fund may be required to maintain minimum average balances with the lender or to pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit. Any such requirements will increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate. The rights of the Fund's lenders to receive interest on and repayment of principal of borrowings will be senior to those of the Fund's Common Shareholders, and the terms of any such borrowings may contain provisions which limit certain of the Fund's activities, including the payment of distributions to the Fund's Common Shareholders in certain circumstances. A borrowing will likely be ranked senior or equal to all of the Fund's other existing and future borrowings.

Certain types of borrowings may result in the Fund being subject to covenants in credit agreements relating to asset coverage and portfolio composition requirements. The Fund may be subject to certain restrictions on investments imposed by guidelines of one or more rating agencies, which may issue ratings for Indebtedness issued by the Fund. These guidelines may impose asset coverage or portfolio composition requirements that are more stringent than those imposed by the 1940 Act. It is not anticipated that these covenants or guidelines will impede the Investment Adviser from managing the Fund's portfolio in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies.



The Fund may secure any borrowings by mortgaging, pledging or otherwise subjecting as security its assets. Except as set forth below, under the requirements of the 1940 Act the Fund, immediately after any issuance of Indebtedness, must have asset coverage of at least 300% (33% of Managed Assets, or 50% of its net assets attributable to the Fund's Common Shares). With respect to Indebtedness, asset coverage means the ratio which the value of the Fund's total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities (as defined in the 1940 Act), bears to the aggregate amount of such borrowing represented by senior securities issued by the Fund.

Under the 1940 Act, the Fund may not declare any distribution or other distribution on any class of its shares, or purchase any such shares, unless its aggregate Indebtedness has, at the time of the declaration of any such distribution or distribution, or at the time of any such purchase, an asset coverage of at least 300% after declaring the amount of such distribution, distribution or purchase price, as the case may be. Furthermore, the 1940 Act (in certain circumstances) grants the Fund's lenders certain voting rights in the event of default in the payment of interest on or repayment of principal. Such restrictions do not apply with respect to evidence of Indebtedness in consideration of a loan, extension or renewal thereof that is privately arranged and not intended for public distribution.

With the use of borrowings, there is a risk that the interest rates paid by the Fund on the amount it borrows will be higher than the return on the Fund's investments.

The Fund may also borrow money as a temporary measure for extraordinary or emergency purposes, including the payment of distributions and the settlement of securities transactions that otherwise might require untimely dispositions of its securities. Temporary borrowings not exceeding 5% of the Fund's total assets are not subject to the asset coverage limitation under the 1940 Act.

The Fund currently utilizes Indebtedness pursuant to a borrowing arrangement with Scotiabank<sup>TM</sup> (the Loan Agreements). The interest rate charged on such Indebtedness is 1-month LIBOR plus 1.00%. The Fund's Indebtedness under the Loan Agreements is collateralized by portfolio assets which are maintained by the Fund in a separate account with the Fund's custodian for the benefit of the lender, which collateral exceeds the amount borrowed. In the event of a default by the Fund under the Loan Agreements, the lender has the right to sell such collateral assets to satisfy the Fund's obligation to the lender. The Loan Agreements include usual and customary covenants. These covenants impose on the Fund asset coverage requirements, collateral requirements, investment strategy requirements, and certain financial obligations. As of November 30, 2017, the principal balance outstanding was approximately \$33.7 million, which represented 29.3% of the Fund's Managed Assets (or approximately 41.5% of its net assets attributable to the Fund's Common Shares).

### **Preferred Shares**

The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the Fund's Board of Trustees may authorize and issue preferred shares with rights as determined by the Board of Trustees, by action of the Board of Trustees without prior approval of the holders of the Common Shares. Common Shareholders have no preemptive right to purchase any preferred shares that might be issued. Any such preferred share offering would be subject to the limits imposed by the 1940 Act. Under the 1940 Act, the Fund is not permitted to issue preferred shares unless immediately after such issuance the value of its total assets is at least 200% of the liquidation value of the outstanding preferred shares (*i.e.*, the liquidation value may not exceed 50% of the Fund's total assets). In addition, the Fund is not permitted to declare any cash distribution or other distribution on its Common Shares unless, at the time of such declaration, the value of its total assets is at least 200% of such liquidation value. If the Fund issues preferred shares, it intends, to the extent possible, to purchase or redeem them from time to time to the extent necessary in order to maintain asset coverage on such preferred shares of at least 200%. In addition, as a condition to obtaining ratings on the preferred shares, the terms of any preferred shares issued are expected to include asset coverage maintenance provisions which will require the redemption of the preferred shares in the event of non-compliance by the Fund and may also prohibit distributions and other distributions on the Fund's Common Shares in such circumstances. In order to meet redemption requirements

to maintain asset coverage or otherwise, the Fund may have to liquidate portfolio securities. Such liquidations and redemptions would cause the Fund to incur related transaction costs and could result in capital losses to the Fund. If the Fund has preferred shares outstanding, two of its Trustees will be elected by the holders of preferred shares, voting as a separate class. The Fund's remaining Trustees will be elected by holders of its Common Shares and preferred shares voting together as a single class. In the event the Fund fails to pay distributions on its preferred shares for two years, holders of preferred shares would be entitled to elect a majority of the Fund's Trustees.

## Certain Portfolio Transactions

The Fund may engage in certain derivatives transactions that have economic characteristics similar to leverage. To the extent the terms of such transactions obligate the Fund to make payments, the Fund intends to earmark or segregate cash or liquid securities in an amount at least equal to the current value of the amount then payable by the Fund under the terms of such transactions or otherwise cover such transactions in accordance with applicable interpretations of the staff of the SEC. To the extent the terms of such transactions obligate the Fund to deliver particular securities to extinguish the Fund's obligations under such transactions the Fund may cover its obligations under such transactions by either (i) owning the securities or collateral underlying such transactions or (ii) having an absolute and immediate right to acquire such securities or collateral without additional cash consideration (or, if additional cash consideration is required, having earmarked or segregated cash or liquid securities). Such segregation or cover is intended to provide the Fund with available assets to satisfy its obligations under such transactions. As a result of such segregation or cover, the Fund's obligations under such transactions will not be considered senior securities representing indebtedness for purposes of the 1940 Act, or included in calculating the aggregate amount of the Fund's financial leverage. To the extent that the Fund's obligations under such transactions are not so segregated or covered, such obligations may be considered senior securities representing indebtedness under the 1940 Act and therefore subject to the 300% asset coverage requirement.

## Effects of Leverage

As of November 30, 2017, the Fund had outstanding Indebtedness of approximately \$33.7 million, which represented 29.3% of the Fund's Managed Assets (or approximately 41.5% of its net assets attributable to the Fund's Common Shares). The interest rate charged on such Indebtedness as of November 30, 2017 was 2.20%. Assuming that the Fund's leverage costs remain as described above, then the incremental income generated by the Fund's portfolio (net of estimated expenses including expenses related to the leverage) must exceed approximately 0.56% to cover such interest specifically related to the borrowing. These numbers are merely estimates used for illustration. Actual interest rates may vary frequently and in the future may be significantly higher or lower than the rate estimated above.

The following table is designed to assist the investor in understanding the effects of leverage by illustrating the effect on the return to a holder of the Fund's Common Shares of leverage in the amount of approximately 3 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of the Fund's Managed Assets (*i.e.*, 50% of its net assets attributable to the Fund's Common Shares), assuming hypothetical annual returns of the Fund's portfolio of minus 10% to plus 10%. As the table shows, leverage generally increases the return to holders of Common Shares when portfolio return is positive and greater than the cost of leverage and decreases the return when the portfolio return is negative or less than the cost of leverage. The figures appearing in the table are hypothetical and actual returns may be greater or less than those appearing in the table.

Assumed portfolio total return (net of expenses)	(10.00)%	(5.00)%	0.00%	5.00%	10.00%
Common Share total return	(14.80)%	(7.68)%	(0.56)%	6.56%	13.67%

Common Share total return is composed of two elements: distributions on Common Shares paid by the Fund (the amount of which is largely determined by the Fund's net investment income after paying distributions or interest on its outstanding leverage) and gains or losses on the value of the securities the Fund owns. As required by SEC rules, the table above assumes that the Fund is more likely to suffer capital losses than to enjoy capital appreciation. For example, to assume a total return of 0%, the Fund must assume that the distributions it receives on its investments are entirely offset by losses in the value of those securities.

During the time in which the Fund is utilizing leverage, the amount of the fees paid to the Investment Adviser for investment advisory services will be higher than if the Fund did not utilize such leverage because the fees paid will be

calculated based on the Fund's Managed Assets, which may create a conflict of interest between the Investment Adviser and the Common Shareholders. Because the Fund's leverage costs will be borne by the Fund at a specified rate, only the Fund's Common Shareholders will bear the cost associated with such leverage.

## RISKS

### Investment and Market Risk

An investment in the Fund's Common Shares is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of an investor's entire investment. The Fund's Common Shares at any point in time may be worth less than at the time of original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of the Fund's distributions. The Fund is primarily a long-term investment vehicle and should not be used for short-term trading. An investment in the Fund's Common Shares is not intended to constitute a complete investment program and should not be viewed as such.

### Common Stock Risk

The Fund will have exposure to common stocks. Although common stocks have historically generated higher average total returns than fixed-income securities over the long-term, common stocks also have experienced significantly more volatility in those returns and may significantly under-perform relative to fixed income securities during certain periods. An adverse event, such as an unfavorable earnings report, may depress the value of a particular common stock held by the Fund. Also, the price of common stocks is sensitive to general movements in the stock market and a drop in the stock market may depress the price of common stocks to which the Fund has exposure. Common stock prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, or when political or economic events affecting the issuers occur. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase.

### Concentration Risk

The Fund's investments will be concentrated in issuers in the natural resources sector. Because the Fund will be concentrated in the natural resources sector, it may be subject to more risks than if it were more broadly diversified over numerous industries and sectors of the economy. General changes in market sentiment towards MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may adversely affect the Fund, and the performance of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may lag behind the broader market as a whole. Also, the Fund's concentration in the natural resources sector may subject the Fund to a variety of risks associated with that sector.

### MLP and Other Natural Resources Company Risks

Under normal circumstances, the Fund concentrates its investments in MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. MLP and Other Natural Resources Companies are subject to certain risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

*Commodity Price Risk.* The return on the Fund's investments in MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies will be dependent on the operating margins received and cash flows generated by those companies from the exploration for, and development, production, gathering, transportation, processing, storage, refining, distribution, mining or marketing of, coal, natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil, refined petroleum products or other hydrocarbons. These operating margins and cash flows may fluctuate widely in response to a variety of factors, including global and domestic economic conditions, weather conditions, natural disasters, the supply and price of imported natural resources, political instability, conservation efforts and governmental regulation. Natural resources commodity prices have been very volatile in the past and such volatility is expected to continue. Fluctuations in commodity prices can result from changes in general economic conditions or political circumstances (especially of key energy-consuming countries); market conditions; weather patterns; domestic production levels; volume of imports; energy conservation; domestic and foreign governmental regulation; international politics; policies of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); taxation; tariffs; and the availability and costs of local, intrastate and interstate

transportation methods. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies engaged in crude oil and natural gas exploration, development or production, natural gas gathering and processing, crude oil refining and transportation and coal mining or sales may be directly affected by their respective natural resources commodity prices. The volatility of, and interrelationships between, commodity prices can also indirectly affect certain other MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies due to the potential impact on the volume of commodities transported, processed, stored or distributed. Some MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies that own the underlying energy commodity may be unable to effectively mitigate or manage direct margin exposure to commodity price levels. The prices of MLP and Other Natural Resources Companies securities can be adversely affected by market perceptions that their performance and distributions or dividends are directly tied to commodity prices.

Prices of oil and other energy commodities have experienced significant volatility during recent years. Companies engaged in crude oil and natural gas exploration, development or production, natural gas gathering and processing, crude oil refining and transportation and coal mining or sales may be directly affected by their respective natural resources commodity prices. The volatility of commodity prices may also indirectly affect certain companies engaged in the transportation, processing, storage or distribution of such commodities. Some companies that own the underlying commodities may be unable to effectively mitigate or manage direct margin exposure to commodity price levels. The natural resources sector as a whole may also be impacted by the perception that the performance of natural resources sector companies is directly linked to commodity prices. As a result, many companies in which the Fund may invest have been and may continue to be adversely impacted by volatility of prices of energy commodities. Demand for energy commodities has recently declined. Reductions in production of oil and other energy commodities may lag decreases in demand or declines in commodity prices, resulting in global oversupply in such commodities. Slower global growth may lower demand for oil and other energy commodities and increased exports by Iran with the end of sanctions may increase supply, exacerbating oversupply of such commodities and further reducing commodity prices. Continued volatility of commodity prices could further erode such companies' growth prospects and negatively impact such companies' ability to sustain attractive distribution levels.

*Cyclical Risk.* The operating results of companies in the broader natural resources sector are cyclical, with fluctuations in commodity prices and demand for commodities driven by a variety of factors. The highly cyclical nature of the natural resources sector may adversely affect the earnings or operating cash flows of the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund will invest.

*Supply Risk.* The profitability of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, particularly those involved in processing, gathering and pipeline transportation, may be materially impacted by the volume of natural gas or other energy commodities available for transportation, processing, storage or distribution. A significant decrease in the production of natural gas, crude oil, coal or other energy commodities, due to the decline of production from existing resources, import supply disruption, depressed commodity prices or otherwise, would reduce the revenue, operating income and operating cash flows of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies and, therefore, their ability to make distributions or pay dividends. The volume of production of energy commodities and the volume of energy commodities available for transportation, storage, processing or distribution could be affected by a variety of factors, including depletion of resources; depressed commodity prices; catastrophic events; labor relations; increased environmental or other governmental regulation; equipment malfunctions and maintenance difficulties; import volumes; international politics; policies of OPEC; and increased competition from alternative energy sources.

*Demand Risk.* A sustained decline in demand for coal, natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil and refined petroleum products could adversely affect an MLP's or an Other Natural Resources Company's revenues and cash flows. Factors that could lead to a sustained decrease in market demand include a recession or other adverse economic conditions, an increase in the market price of the underlying commodity that is not, or is not expected to be, merely a short-term increase, higher taxes or other regulatory actions that increase costs, or a shift in consumer demand for such products. Demand may also be adversely affected by consumer sentiment with respect to global warming and by state or federal legislation intended to promote the use of alternative energy sources.

*Risks Relating to Expansions and Acquisitions.* MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies employ a variety of means to increase cash flow, including increasing utilization of existing facilities, expanding operations through new construction or development activities, expanding operations through acquisitions, or securing additional long-term contracts. Thus, some MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies may be subject to construction risk, development risk, acquisition risk or other risks arising from their specific business strategies. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies that attempt to grow through acquisitions may not be able to effectively integrate acquired operations with their existing operations. In addition, acquisition or expansion projects may not perform as anticipated. A significant slowdown in merger and acquisition activity in the natural resources sector could reduce the growth rate of cash flows received by the Fund from MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies that grow through acquisitions.





*Competition Risk.* The natural resources sector is highly competitive. The MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund will invest will face substantial competition from other companies, many of which will have greater financial, technological, human and other resources, in acquiring natural resources assets, obtaining and retaining customers and contracts and hiring and retaining qualified personnel. Larger companies may be able to pay more for assets and may have a greater ability to continue their operations during periods of low commodity prices. To the extent that the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund will invest are unable to compete effectively, their operating results, financial position, growth potential and cash flows may be adversely affected, which could in turn adversely affect the results of the Fund.

*Weather Risk.* Extreme weather conditions could result in substantial damage to the facilities of certain MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies located in the affected areas and significant volatility in the supply of natural resources, commodity prices and the earnings of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, and could therefore adversely affect their securities.

*Interest Rate Risk.* The prices of the equity and debt securities of the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies the Fund expects to hold in its portfolio are susceptible in the short-term to a decline when interest rates rise. Rising interest rates could limit the capital appreciation of securities of certain MLPs as a result of the increased availability of alternative investments with yields comparable to those of MLPs. Rising interest rates could adversely impact the financial performance of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies by increasing their cost of capital. This may reduce their ability to execute acquisitions or expansion projects in a cost effective manner.

*MLP Structure Risk.* Holders of MLP units are subject to certain risks inherent in the structure of MLPs, including (i) tax risks (described further below), (ii) the limited ability to elect or remove management or the general partner or managing member (iii) limited voting rights, except with respect to extraordinary transactions, and (iv) conflicts of interest between the general partner or managing member and its affiliates, on the one hand, and the limited partners or members, on the other hand, including those arising from incentive distribution payments or corporate opportunities

*Cash Flow Risk.* The Fund will derive substantially all of its cash flow from investments in equity securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. The amount of cash that the Fund has available to distribute to shareholders will depend on the ability of the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund has an interest to make distributions or pay dividends to their investors and the tax character of those distributions or dividends. The Fund will likely have no influence over the actions of the MLPs in which it invests with respect to the payment of distributions or dividends, and may only have limited influence over Other Natural Resources Companies in that regard. The amount of cash that any individual MLP or Other Natural Resources Company can distribute to its investors, including the Fund, will depend on the amount of cash it generates from operations, which will vary from quarter to quarter depending on factors affecting the natural resources sector generally and the particular business lines of the issuer. Available cash will also depend on the MLP's or Other Natural Resources Company's operating costs, capital expenditures, debt service requirements, acquisition costs (if any), fluctuations in working capital needs and other factors. The cash that an MLP will have available for distribution will also depend on the incentive distributions payable to its general partner or managing member in connection with distributions paid to its equity investors.

*Regulatory Risk.* The profitability of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies could be adversely affected by changes in the regulatory environment. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are subject to significant foreign, federal, state and local regulation in virtually every aspect of their operations, including with respect to how facilities are constructed, maintained and operated, environmental and safety controls, and the prices they may charge for the products and services they provide. Such regulation can change over time in both scope and intensity. For example, a particular by-product may be declared hazardous by a regulatory agency and unexpectedly increase production costs. Various governmental authorities have the power to enforce compliance with these regulations and the permits issued under them, and violators are subject to administrative, civil and criminal penalties, including civil fines, injunctions or both. Stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could be enacted in the future which

would likely increase compliance costs and may adversely affect the financial performance of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may be adversely affected by future regulatory requirements. While the nature of such regulations cannot be predicted at this time, they may impose additional costs or limit certain operations by MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies operating in various sectors.

Specifically, the operations of wells, gathering systems, pipelines, refineries and other facilities are subject to stringent and complex federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. These include, for example:

the federal Clean Air Act and comparable state laws and regulations that impose obligations related to air emissions;

the federal Clean Water Act and comparable state laws and regulations that impose obligations related to discharges of pollutants into regulated bodies of water;

the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ( RCRA ) and comparable state laws and regulations that impose requirements for the handling and disposal of waste from facilities; and

the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 ( CERCLA ), also known as Superfund, and comparable state laws and regulations that regulate the cleanup of hazardous substances that may have been released at properties currently or previously owned or operated by MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies or at locations to which they have sent waste for disposal.

Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may trigger a variety of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement measures, including the assessment of monetary penalties, the imposition of remedial requirements, and the issuance of orders enjoining future operations. Certain environmental statutes, including RCRA, CERCLA, the federal Oil Pollution Act and analogous state laws and regulations, impose strict, joint and several liability for costs required to clean up and restore sites where hazardous substances have been disposed of or otherwise released. Moreover, it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by the release of hazardous substances or other waste products into the environment.

There is an inherent risk that MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may incur environmental costs and liabilities due to the nature of their businesses and the substances they handle. For example, an accidental release from wells or gathering pipelines could subject them to substantial liabilities for environmental cleanup and restoration costs, claims made by neighboring landowners and other third parties for personal injury and property damage, and fines or penalties for related violations of environmental laws or regulations. Moreover, the possibility exists that stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could significantly increase the compliance costs of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, and the cost of any remediation that may become necessary. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may not be able to recover these costs from insurance.

Proposals for voluntary initiatives and mandatory controls are being discussed both in the United States and worldwide to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, a by-product of burning fossil fuels, and methane, the major constituent of natural gas, which many scientists and policymakers believe contribute to global climate change. These measures, if adopted, could result in increased costs to certain companies in which the Fund may invest to operate and maintain natural resources facilities and administer and manage a greenhouse gas emissions program.

In the wake of a recent Supreme Court decision holding that the EPA has some legal authority to deal with climate change under the Clean Air Act, the federal government announced on May 14, 2007 that the EPA and the Departments of Transportation, Energy, and Agriculture would jointly write regulations to cut gasoline use and control greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. These measures if adopted could reduce demand for energy or

raise prices, which may adversely affect the total return of certain of the Fund's investments.

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Voluntary initiatives and mandatory controls have been adopted or are being discussed both in the United States and worldwide to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, a by-product of burning fossil fuels, and methane, the major constituent of natural gas. These measures and future measures could result in increased costs to certain companies in which the Fund may invest to operate and maintain facilities and administer and manage a greenhouse gas emissions program and may reduce demand for fuels that generate greenhouse gases and that are managed or produced by companies in which the Fund may invest.

In the wake of a Supreme Court decision holding that the EPA has some legal authority to deal with climate change under the federal Clean Air Act of 1990, as amended (the Clean Air Act ), the EPA and the Department of Transportation jointly wrote regulations to cut gasoline use and control greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. These measures, and other programs addressing greenhouse gas emissions, could reduce demand for energy or raise prices, which may adversely affect the total return of certain of the Fund's investments.

The types of regulations described above can change over time in both scope and intensity, may have adverse effects on MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies and may be implemented in unforeseen manners on an emergency basis in response to catastrophes or other events.

*Affiliated Party Risk.* Certain MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are dependent on their parents or sponsors for a majority of their revenues. Any failure by an MLP's or an Other Natural Resources Company's parents or sponsors to satisfy their payments or obligations would impact the MLP's or Other Natural Resources Company's

revenues and cash flows and ability to make distributions. Moreover, the terms of an MLP's or an Other Natural Resources Company's transactions with its parent or sponsor are typically not arrived at on an arm's-length basis, and may not be as favorable to the MLP or Other Natural Resources Company as a transaction with a non-affiliate.

*Catastrophe Risk.* The operations of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are subject to many hazards inherent in the exploration for, and development, production, gathering, transportation, processing, storage, refining, distribution, mining or marketing of, coal, natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil, refined petroleum products or other hydrocarbons, including: damage to production equipment, pipelines, storage tanks or related equipment and surrounding properties caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires and other natural disasters or by acts of

terrorism; inadvertent damage from construction or other equipment; leaks of natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil, refined petroleum products or other hydrocarbons; and fires and explosions. Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the U.S. government has issued warnings that energy assets, specifically U.S. pipeline infrastructure, may be targeted in future terrorist attacks. These dangers give rise to risks of substantial losses as a result of loss or destruction of commodity reserves; damage to or destruction of property, facilities and equipment; pollution and environmental damage; and personal injury or loss of life. Any occurrence of such catastrophic events could bring about a limitation, suspension or discontinuation of the operations of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may not be fully insured against all risks inherent in their business operations and therefore accidents and catastrophic events could adversely affect such companies' operations, financial conditions and ability to pay distributions to shareholders.

*Technology Risk.* Some MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies are focused on developing new technologies and are strongly influenced by technological changes. Technology development efforts by MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies may not result in viable methods or products. MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies may bear high research and development costs, which can limit their ability to maintain operations during periods of organizational growth or instability. Some MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies may be in the early stages of operations and may have limited operating histories and smaller market capitalizations on average than companies in other sectors. As a result of these and other factors, the value of investments in such MLPs or Other Natural Resources Companies may be considerably more volatile than that in more established segments of the economy.

*Sub-Sector Specific Risk.* MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies are also subject to risks that are specific to the particular sub-sector of the natural resources sector in which they operate.

Pipelines. Pipeline companies are subject to the demand for natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil or refined products in the markets they serve, changes in the availability of products for gathering, transportation, processing or sale due to natural declines in reserves and production in the supply areas serviced by the companies' facilities, sharp decreases in crude oil or natural gas prices that cause producers to curtail production or reduce capital spending for exploration activities, and environmental regulation. Demand for gasoline, which accounts for a substantial portion of refined product transportation, depends on price, prevailing economic conditions in the markets served, and demographic and seasonal factors. Companies that own interstate pipelines that transport natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil or refined petroleum products are subject to regulation by FERC with respect to the tariff rates they may charge for transportation services. An adverse determination by FERC with respect to the tariff rates of such a company could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of those companies and their ability to pay cash distributions or dividends. In addition, FERC has a tax allowance policy, which permits such companies to include in their cost of service an income tax allowance to the extent that their owners have an actual or potential tax liability on the income generated by them. If FERC's income tax allowance policy were to change in the future to disallow a material portion of the income tax allowance taken by such interstate pipeline companies, it would adversely impact the maximum tariff rates that such companies are permitted to charge for their transportation services, which would in turn adversely affect the results of operations and cash flows of those companies and their ability to pay cash distributions or dividends to their unit holders or shareholders.

Gathering and Processing. Gathering and processing companies are subject to natural declines in the production of oil and natural gas fields, which utilize their gathering and processing facilities as a way to market their production, prolonged declines in the price of natural gas or crude oil, which curtails drilling activity and therefore production, and declines in the prices of natural gas liquids and refined petroleum products, which cause lower processing margins. In addition, some gathering and processing contracts subject the gathering or processing company to direct commodities price risk.

Exploration and Production. Exploration, development and production companies are particularly vulnerable to declines in the demand for and prices of crude oil and natural gas. Reductions in prices for crude oil and natural gas can cause a given reservoir to become uneconomic for continued production earlier than it would if prices were higher, resulting in the plugging and abandonment of, and cessation of production from, that reservoir. In addition, lower commodity prices not only reduce revenues but also can result in



substantial downward adjustments in reserve estimates. The accuracy of any reserve estimate is a function of the quality of available data, the accuracy of assumptions regarding future commodity prices and future exploration and development costs and engineering and geological interpretations and judgments. Different reserve engineers may make different estimates of reserve quantities and related revenue based on the same data. Actual oil and gas prices, development expenditures and operating expenses will vary from those assumed in reserve estimates, and these variances may be significant. Any significant variance from the assumptions used could result in the actual quantity of reserves and future net cash flow being materially different from those estimated in reserve reports. In addition, results of drilling, testing and production and changes in prices after the date of reserve estimates may result in downward revisions to such estimates. Substantial downward adjustments in reserve estimates could have a material adverse effect on a given exploration and production company's financial position and results of operations. In addition, due to natural declines in reserves and production, exploration and production companies must economically find or acquire and develop additional reserves in order to maintain and grow their revenues and distributions.

Propane. Propane companies are subject to earnings variability based upon weather patterns in the locations where they operate and increases in the wholesale price of propane which reduce profit margins. In addition, propane companies are facing increased competition due to the growing availability of natural gas, fuel oil and alternative energy sources for residential heating.

Coal. Coal companies are subject to declines in the demand for and prices of coal. Demand variability can be based on weather conditions, the strength of the domestic economy, the level of coal stockpiles in their customer base, and the prices of competing sources of fuel for electric generation. They are also subject to supply variability based on geological conditions that reduce the productivity of mining operations, the availability of regulatory permits for mining activities and the availability of coal that meets the standards of the Clean Air Act. Demand and prices for coal may also be affected by current and proposed regulatory limitations on emissions from coal-fired power plants and the facilities of other coal end users. Such limitations may reduce demand for the coal produced and transported by coal companies. Certain coal companies could face declining revenues if they are unable to acquire additional coal reserves or other mineral reserves that are economically recoverable.

Marine Shipping. Marine shipping companies are subject to supply of and demand for, and level of consumption of, natural gas, liquefied natural gas, crude oil, refined petroleum products and liquefied petroleum gases in the supply areas and market areas they serve, which affect the demand for marine shipping services and therefore charter rates. Shipping companies' vessels and cargoes are also subject to the risk of being damaged or lost due to marine disasters, extreme weather, mechanical failures, grounding, fire, explosions, collisions, human error, piracy, war and terrorism. Some vessels may also require replacement or significant capital improvements earlier than otherwise required due to changing regulatory standards. Shipping companies or their ships may be chartered in any country and the Fund's investments in such issuers may be subject to risks similar to risks related to investments in non-U.S. securities.

#### **Risks Associated with an Investment in IPOs**

The Fund may invest in initial public offerings (IPOs). Securities purchased in IPOs are often subject to the general risks associated with investments in companies with small market capitalizations, and typically to a heightened degree. Securities issued in IPOs have no trading history, and information about the companies may be available for very limited periods. In addition, the prices of securities sold in an IPO may be highly volatile. At any particular time or from time to time, the Fund may not be able to invest in IPOs, or to invest to the extent desired, because, for example, only a small portion (if any) of the securities being offered in an IPO may be available to the Fund. In

addition, under certain market conditions, a relatively small number of companies may issue securities in IPOs. The investment performance of the Fund during periods when it is unable to invest significantly or at all in IPOs may be lower than during periods when it is able to do so. IPO securities may be volatile, and the Fund cannot predict whether investments in IPOs will be successful.

**Risks Associated with an Investment in PIPE Transactions**

The Fund may invest in private investment in public equity ( PIPE ) transactions. PIPE investors purchase securities directly from a publicly traded company in a private placement transaction, typically at a discount to the

market price of the company's common stock. Because the sale of the securities is not registered under the Securities Act, the securities are restricted and cannot be immediately resold by the investors into the public markets. Accordingly, the company typically agrees as part of the PIPE deal to register the restricted securities with the SEC. PIPE securities may be deemed illiquid.

### **Privately Held Company Risk**

Investing in privately held companies involves risk. For example, privately held companies are not subject to SEC reporting requirements, are not required to maintain their accounting records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and are not required to maintain effective internal controls over financial reporting. As a result, the Investment Adviser may not have timely or accurate information about the business, financial condition and results of operations of the privately held companies in which the Fund invests. In addition, the securities of privately held companies are generally illiquid, and entail the risks described under **Liquidity Risk** below.

### **MLP Risks**

An investment in MLP units involves some risks that differ from an investment in the common stock of a corporation. As compared to common stockholders of a corporation, holders of MLP units have more limited control and limited rights to vote on matters affecting the partnership. In addition, there are certain tax risks associated with an investment in MLP units and conflicts of interest may exist between common unit holders and the general partner, including those arising from incentive distribution payments.

A portion of the benefit the Fund derives from its investment in equity securities of MLPs is a result of MLPs generally being treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Partnerships do not pay U.S. federal income tax at the partnership level. Rather, each partner of a partnership, in computing its U.S. federal income tax liability, will include its allocable share of the partnership's income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses. A change in current tax law, or a change in the business of a given MLP, could result in an MLP being treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which would result in such MLP being required to pay U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income. The classification of an MLP as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes would have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by the MLP and causing any such distributions received by the Fund to be taxed as distribution income to the extent of the MLP's current or accumulated earnings and profits. Thus, if any of the MLPs owned by the Fund were treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the after-tax return to the Fund with respect to its investment in such MLPs would be materially reduced, which could cause a decline in the value of the Common Shares. Recently, a number of MLPs have reduced, suspended or eliminated their distributions.

To the extent that the Fund invests in the equity securities of an MLP treated as a partnership under the Code, the Fund will be a partner in such MLP. Accordingly, the Fund will be required to include in its taxable income the Fund's allocable share of the income, gains, losses, deductions and credits recognized by each such MLP, regardless of whether the MLP distributes cash to the Fund. Historically, MLPs have been able to offset a significant portion of their income with tax deductions. The Fund will incur a current tax liability on its allocable share of an MLP's income and gains that is not offset by the MLP's tax deductions, losses and credits. The portion, if any, of a distribution received by the Fund from an MLP that is offset by the MLP's tax deductions, losses or credits is essentially treated as a return of capital. However, those distributions will reduce the Fund's adjusted tax basis in the equity securities of the MLP, which will result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the Fund for tax purposes upon the sale of any such equity securities, and may increase the amount of income or gain that will be recognized by the Fund upon subsequent distributions in respect of such equity securities. The percentage of an MLP's income and gains that is offset by tax deductions, losses and credits will fluctuate over time for various reasons. A significant slowdown in acquisition activity or capital spending by MLPs held in the Fund's portfolio could result in a reduction of accelerated depreciation generated by new acquisitions, which may result in a

decrease in the portion of the MLP's distributions that is offset by tax deductions.

Because of the Fund's investments in equity securities of MLPs, the Fund's earnings and profits may be calculated using accounting methods that are different from those used for calculating taxable income. Because of these differences, the Fund may make distributions out of its current or accumulated earnings and profits, which will be treated as distributions, in years in which the Fund's distributions exceed its taxable income. See U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

In addition, changes in tax laws or regulations, or future interpretations of such laws or regulations, could adversely affect the Fund or the MLP investments in which the Fund invests.

Adverse developments in the natural resources sector may result in MLPs seeking to restructure debt or file for bankruptcy. Limited partners in such MLPs, such as the Fund, may owe taxes on debt that is forgiven in a bankruptcy or an out-of-court restructuring, as cancellation of debt income, which creates a tax liability for investors without an associated cash distribution. While an MLP facing a debt restructuring may seek to implement structures that would limit the tax liability associated with the debt restructuring, there can be no assurance that such structures could be successfully implemented or would not have other adverse impacts on the Fund as an investor in the MLP.

### **Tax Risks of MLPs**

The Fund's ability to meet its investment objective will depend partially on the amounts of taxable income, distributions and dividends it receives from the securities in which it will invest, a factor over which it has no control. The benefit the Fund will derive from its investment in MLPs is largely dependent on the MLPs being treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. As a partnership, an MLP has no U.S. federal income tax liability at the entity level. Rather, each partner of a partnership, in computing its U.S. federal income tax liability, will include its allocable share of the partnership's income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses. If, as a result of a change in current law or a change in an MLP's business, an MLP were to be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be subject to federal income tax on its income at the graduated tax rates applicable to corporations (generally 35% for taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2017, and 21% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017). In addition, if an MLP were to be classified as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the amount of cash available for distribution by it would be reduced and distributions received by the Fund from it would be taxed under U.S. federal income tax laws applicable to corporate distributions (as dividend income, return of capital, or capital gain). Therefore, treatment of MLPs as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes would result in a reduction in the after-tax return to the Fund, likely causing a reduction in the value of the Fund's common shares.

In addition, recently enacted legislation (effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) generally requires that taxes, penalties, and interest associated with an audit of a partnership be assessed and collected at the partnership level. Accordingly, even if an MLP in which the Fund invests were to remain classified as a partnership, it could be required to pay additional taxes, interest and penalties as a result of an audit adjustment, and the Fund, as a direct or indirect partner of such MLP, could be required to bear the economic burden of those taxes, interest and penalties, which would reduce the value of the Common Shares.

As a limited partner or member in the MLPs in which the Fund will invest, the Fund will be required to include in its taxable income its allocable share of income, gains, losses, deductions, and credits from those MLPs, regardless of whether they distribute any cash to the Fund. Historically, a significant portion of the income from MLPs has been offset by tax deductions. The Fund will incur a current tax liability on its allocable share of an MLP's income and gains that is not offset by tax deductions, losses and credits, or its net operating loss carryforwards, if any. The portion, if any, of a distribution received by the Fund from an MLP that is offset by the MLP's tax deductions, losses or credits will be treated as a tax-advantaged return of capital. However, those distributions will reduce the Fund's adjusted tax basis in the equity securities of the MLP, which will result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the Fund for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the sale of any such equity securities or upon subsequent distributions in respect of such equity securities. The percentage of an MLP's income and gains that is offset by tax deductions, losses and credits will fluctuate over time for various reasons. A significant slowdown in acquisition activity or capital spending by MLPs held in the Fund's portfolio could result in a reduction of accelerated depreciation generated by new acquisitions, which may result in increased current tax liability for the Fund.

As a C corporation, the Fund previously accrued deferred income taxes for its future tax liability associated with that portion of MLP distributions considered to be a tax-advantaged return of capital, as well as for its future tax liability associated with the capital appreciation of its investments. As a C corporation, upon the Fund's sale of an MLP security, the Fund may be liable for previously deferred taxes. The Fund will rely to some extent on

information provided by MLPs, which is not necessarily timely, to estimate deferred tax liability for purposes of financial statement reporting and determining its net asset value. From time to time, the Fund will modify its estimates or assumptions regarding its deferred tax liability as new information becomes available.

### **Liquidity Risk**

The investments made by the Fund may be illiquid and consequently the Fund may not be able to sell such investments at prices that reflect the Investment Adviser's assessment of their value, the amount paid for such investments by the Fund or at prices approximating the value at which the Fund is carrying the securities on its books. Furthermore, the nature of the Fund's investments may require a long holding period prior to profitability.

Although the equity securities of the companies in which the Fund invests generally trade on major stock exchanges, certain securities may trade less frequently, particularly those with smaller capitalizations. Securities with limited trading volumes may display volatile or erratic price movements. Investment of the Fund's capital in securities that are less actively traded or over time experience decreased trading volume may restrict the Fund's ability to take advantage of other market opportunities.

The Fund may invest in unregistered or otherwise restricted securities. Unregistered securities are securities that cannot be sold publicly in the United States without registration under the Securities Act, unless an exemption from such registration is available. Restricted securities may be more difficult to value and the Fund may have difficulty disposing of such assets either in a timely manner or for a reasonable price. In order to dispose of an unregistered security, the Fund, where it has contractual rights to do so, may have to cause such security to be registered. A considerable period may elapse between the time the decision is made to sell the security and the time the security is registered so that the Fund could sell it. Contractual restrictions on the resale of securities vary in length and scope and are generally the result of a negotiation between the issuer and acquiror of the securities. The Fund would, in either case, bear the risks of any downward price fluctuation during that period. The difficulties and delays associated with selling restricted securities could result in the Fund's inability to realize a favorable price upon disposition of such securities, and at times might make disposition of such securities impossible.

### **Non-U.S. Securities Risk**

Investing in non-U.S. securities involves certain risks not involved in domestic investments, including, but not limited to: fluctuations in foreign exchange rates; future foreign economic, financial, political and social developments; different legal systems; the possible imposition of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions, including expropriation; lower trading volume; much greater price volatility and illiquidity of certain non-U.S. securities markets; different trading and settlement practices; less governmental supervision; changes in currency exchange rates; high and volatile rates of inflation; fluctuating interest rates; less publicly available information; and different accounting, auditing and financial recordkeeping standards and requirements.

Certain countries in which the Fund may invest, especially emerging market countries, historically have experienced, and may continue to experience, high rates of inflation, high interest rates, exchange rate fluctuations, large amounts of external debt, balance of payments and trade difficulties and extreme poverty and unemployment. Many of these countries are also characterized by political uncertainty and instability. The cost of servicing external debt will generally be adversely affected by rising international interest rates because many external debt obligations bear interest at rates that are adjusted based upon international interest rates. In addition, with respect to certain foreign countries, there is a risk of: the possibility of expropriation or nationalization of assets; confiscatory taxation; difficulty in obtaining or enforcing a court judgment; restrictions on currency repatriation; economic, political or social instability; and diplomatic developments that could affect investments in those countries.

Because the Fund may invest in securities denominated or quoted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates may affect the value of securities in the Fund and the unrealized appreciation or depreciation of investments. Currencies of certain countries may be volatile and therefore may affect the value of securities denominated in such currencies, which means that the Fund's net asset value or current income could decline as a result of changes in the exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar. Certain investments in non-U.S. securities also may be subject to foreign withholding taxes. Distribution income from non-U.S. corporations may not be eligible for the reduced U.S. income tax rate currently available for qualified distribution income. These risks often are heightened for investments in smaller, emerging capital markets. In



addition, individual foreign economies may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as: growth of gross domestic product; rates of inflation; capital reinvestment; resources; self-sufficiency; and balance of payments position.

Investing in securities of issuers based in underdeveloped emerging markets entails all of the risks of investing in securities of non-U.S. issuers to a heightened degree. Emerging market countries generally include every nation in the world except developed countries, that is the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and most countries located in Western Europe. These heightened risks include: greater risks of expropriation, confiscatory taxation, nationalization, and less social, political and economic stability; the smaller size of the market for such securities and a lower volume of trading, resulting in lack of liquidity and an increase in price volatility; and certain national policies that may restrict the Fund's investment opportunities including restrictions on investing in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to relevant national interests. As a result of these potential risks, the Investment Adviser may determine that, notwithstanding otherwise favorable investment criteria, it may not be practicable or appropriate to invest in a particular country.

### **Interest Rate Risk**

The costs associated with any leverage used by the Fund are likely to increase when interest rates rise. Accordingly, the market price of the Fund's Common Shares may decline when interest rates rise.

### **Interest Rate Hedging Risk**

The Fund may from time to time hedge against interest rate risk resulting from the Fund's portfolio holdings and any financial leverage it may incur. Interest rate transactions the Fund may use for hedging purposes will expose the Fund to certain risks that differ from the risks associated with its portfolio holdings. There are economic costs of hedging reflected in the price of interest rate swaps, caps and similar techniques, the cost of which can be significant. In addition, the Fund's success in using hedging instruments is subject to the Investment Adviser's ability to correctly predict changes in the relationships of such hedging instruments to the Fund's leverage risk, and there can be no assurance that the Investment Adviser's judgment in this respect will be accurate. Depending on the state of interest rates in general, the Fund's use of interest rate hedging instruments could enhance or decrease investment company taxable income available to the holders of its Common Shares. To the extent there is a decline in interest rates, the value of interest rate swaps or caps could decline, and result in a decline in the net asset value of the Fund's Common Shares. In addition, if the counterparty to an interest rate swap or cap defaults, the Fund would not be able to use the anticipated net receipts under the interest rate swap or cap to offset its cost of financial leverage.

### **Arbitrage Risk**

A part of the Investment Adviser's investment operations may involve spread positions between two or more securities, or derivatives positions including commodities hedging positions, or a combination of the foregoing. The Investment Adviser's trading operations also may involve arbitraging between two securities or commodities, between the security, commodity and related options or derivatives markets, between spot and futures or forward markets, and/or any combination of the above. To the extent the price relationships between such positions remain constant, no gain or loss on the positions will occur. These offsetting positions entail substantial risk that the price differential could change unfavorably, causing a loss to the position.

### **Equity Securities Risk**

Master limited partnership common units and other equity securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies can be affected by macroeconomic, political, global and other factors affecting the stock market in general, expectations of interest rates, investor sentiment towards MLPs or the natural resources sector, changes in a

particular company's financial condition, or the unfavorable or unanticipated poor performance of a particular MLP or Other Natural Resources Company (which, in the case of an MLP, is generally measured in terms of distributable cash flow). Prices of common units and other equity securities of individual MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies can also be affected by fundamentals unique to the partnership or company, including earnings power and coverage ratios.

*MLP Subordinated Units.* Master limited partnership subordinated units are not typically listed on an exchange or publicly traded. Holders of MLP subordinated units are entitled to receive a distribution only after the MQD has been paid to holders of common units, but prior to payment of incentive distributions to the general partner or managing member. Master limited partnership subordinated units generally do not provide arrearage rights. Most MLP subordinated units are convertible into common units after the passage of a specified period of time or upon the achievement by the MLP of specified financial goals.

*General Partner and Managing Member Interests.* General partner and managing member interests are not publicly traded, though they may be owned by publicly traded entities such as GP MLPs. A holder of general partner or managing member interests can be liable in certain circumstances for amounts greater than the amount of the holder's investment. In addition, while a general partner or managing member's incentive distribution rights can mean that general partners and managing members have higher distribution growth prospects than their underlying MLPs, these incentive distribution payments would decline at a greater rate than the decline rate in quarterly distributions to common or subordinated unit holders in the event of a reduction in the MLP's quarterly distribution. A general partner or managing member interest can be redeemed by the MLP if the MLP unit holders choose to remove the general partner, typically by a supermajority vote of the limited partners or members.

### **Small-Cap and Mid-Cap Company Risk**

Certain of the MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies in which the Fund may invest may have small or medium-sized market capitalizations (small-cap and mid-cap companies, respectively). Investing in the securities of small-cap or mid-cap MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies presents some particular investment risks. These MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may have limited product lines and markets, as well as shorter operating histories, less experienced management and more limited financial resources than larger MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, and may be more vulnerable to adverse general market or economic developments. Stocks of these MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies may be less liquid than those of larger MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, and may experience greater price fluctuations than larger MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. In addition, small-cap or mid-cap company securities may not be widely followed by investors, which may result in reduced demand.

### **Leverage Risk**

The Fund may use leverage through the issuance of Indebtedness or the issuance of preferred shares. The use of leverage magnifies both the favorable and unfavorable effects of price movements in the investments made by the Fund. Insofar as the Fund employs leverage in its investment operations, the Fund will be subject to increased risk of loss. In addition, the Fund will pay (and the holders of Common Shares will bear) all costs and expenses relating to the issuance and ongoing maintenance of leverage, including higher advisory fees. Similarly, any decline in the net asset value of the Fund's investments will be borne entirely by the holders of Common Shares. Therefore, if the market value of the Fund's portfolio declines, the leverage will result in a greater decrease in net asset value to the holders of Common Shares than if the Fund were not leveraged. This greater net asset value decrease will also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for the Common Shares.

Leverage creates a greater risk of loss, as well as potential for more gain, for the Fund's Common Shares than if leverage is not used. Preferred shares or debt issued by the Fund would have complete priority upon distribution of assets over Common Shares. Depending on the type of leverage involved, the Fund's use of financial leverage may require the approval of its Board of Trustees. The Fund expects to invest the net proceeds derived from any leveraging according to the investment objective and policies described in this Prospectus. So long as the Fund's portfolio is invested in securities that provide a higher rate of return than the distribution rate or interest rate of the leverage instrument or other borrowing arrangements, after taking its related expenses into consideration, the leverage will cause the Fund's Common Shareholders to receive a higher rate of income than if it were not leveraged. There is no

assurance that the Fund will continue to utilize leverage or, if leverage is utilized, that it will be successful in enhancing the level of the Fund's total return. The net asset value of the Fund's Common Shares will be reduced by the fees and issuance costs of any leverage.

Leverage creates risk for holders of the Fund's Common Shares, including the likelihood of greater volatility of net asset value and market price of the shares. Risk of fluctuations in distribution rates or interest rates on leverage instruments or other borrowing arrangements may affect the return to the holders of the Fund's Common Shares. To

the extent the return on securities purchased with funds received from the use of leverage exceeds the cost of leverage (including increased expenses to the Fund), the Fund's returns will be greater than if leverage had not been used. Conversely, if the return derived from such securities is less than the cost of leverage (including increased expenses to the Fund), the Fund's returns will be less than if leverage had not been used, and therefore, the amount available for distribution to the Fund's Common Shareholders will be reduced. In the latter case, the Investment Adviser in its best judgment nevertheless may determine to maintain the Fund's leveraged position if it expects that the benefits to the Fund's Common Shareholders of so doing will outweigh the current reduced return. Under normal market conditions, the Fund anticipates that it will be able to invest the proceeds from leverage at a higher rate than the costs of leverage (including increased expenses to the Fund), which would enhance returns to the Fund's Common Shareholders. The fees paid to the Investment Adviser will be calculated on the basis of the Fund's Managed Assets, which include proceeds from leverage instruments and other borrowings. During periods in which the Fund uses financial leverage, the investment management fee payable to the Investment Adviser will be higher than if the Fund did not use a leveraged capital structure. Consequently, the Fund and the Investment Adviser may have differing interests in determining whether to leverage the Fund's assets. The Board of Trustees will monitor the Fund's use of leverage and this potential conflict.

### **Securities Lending Risk**

The Fund may lend its portfolio securities (up to a maximum of one-third of Managed Assets) to banks or dealers which meet the creditworthiness standards established by the Board of Trustees of the Fund. Securities lending is subject to the risk that loaned securities may not be available to the Fund on a timely basis and the Fund may, therefore, lose the opportunity to sell the securities at a desirable price. Any loss in the market price of securities loaned by the Fund that occurs during the term of the loan would be borne by the Fund and would adversely affect the Fund's performance. In addition, there may be delays in recovery, or no recovery, of securities loaned or even a loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially while the loan is outstanding. These risks may be greater for non-U.S. securities.

### **Non-Diversification Risk**

The Fund is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company under the 1940 Act. Accordingly, the Fund may invest a greater portion of its assets in a more limited number of issuers than a diversified fund. An investment in the Fund may present greater risk to an investor than an investment in a diversified portfolio because changes in the financial condition or market assessment of a single issuer may cause greater fluctuations in the value of the Fund's shares.

### **Valuation Risk**

Market prices may not be readily available for certain of the Fund's investments, and the value of such investments will ordinarily be determined based on fair valuations determined by the Board of Trustees or its designee pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. Restrictions on resale or the absence of a liquid secondary market may adversely affect the Fund's ability to determine its net asset value. The sale price of securities that are not readily marketable may be lower or higher than the Fund's most recent determination of their fair value.

In addition, the value of these securities typically requires more reliance on the judgment of the Investment Adviser than that required for securities for which there is an active trading market. Due to the difficulty in valuing these securities and the absence of an active trading market for these investments, the Fund may not be able to realize these securities' true value or may have to delay their sale in order to do so.

When determining the fair value of an asset, the Investment Adviser seeks to determine the price that the Fund might reasonably expect to receive from the current sale of that asset in an arm's length transaction. Fair value pricing,

however, involves judgments that are inherently subjective and inexact, since fair valuation procedures are used only when it is not possible to be sure what value should be attributed to a particular asset or when an event will affect the market price of an asset and to what extent. As a result, there can be no assurance that fair value pricing will reflect actual market value, and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security will be materially different from the value that actually could be or is realized upon the sale of that asset.

### **Portfolio Turnover Risk**

Portfolio turnover rate is not considered a limiting factor in the Investment Adviser's execution of investment decisions. The Fund anticipates that its annual portfolio turnover rate may vary greatly from year to year. A higher portfolio turnover rate results in correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other transactional expenses that are borne by the Fund. High portfolio turnover may result in an increased realization of net short-term capital gains or capital losses by the Fund.

### **Strategic Transactions Risk**

The Fund's use of Strategic Transactions may involve the purchase and sale of derivative instruments. The Fund may purchase and sell exchange-listed and over-the-counter put and call options on securities, indices and other instruments, enter into forward contracts, purchase and sell futures contracts and options thereon, enter into swap, cap, floor or collar transactions, purchase structured investment products and enter into transactions that combine multiple derivative instruments. Strategic Transactions often have risks similar to the securities underlying the Strategic Transactions. However, the use of Strategic Transactions also involves risks that are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with other portfolio investments. Strategic Transactions may involve the use of highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from those associated with other portfolio investments. The use of derivative instruments has risks, including the imperfect correlation between the value of the derivative instruments and the underlying assets, the possible default of the counterparty to the transaction or illiquidity of the derivative investments. Furthermore, the ability to successfully use these techniques depends on the Investment Adviser's ability to predict pertinent market movements, which cannot be assured. Thus, the use of Strategic Transactions may result in losses greater than if they had not been used, may require the Fund to sell or purchase portfolio securities at inopportune times or for prices other than current market values, may limit the amount of appreciation the Fund can realize on an investment or may cause the Fund to hold a security that it might otherwise sell. In addition, amounts paid by the Fund as premiums and cash, or other assets held in margin accounts with respect to Strategic Transactions, are not otherwise available to the Fund for investment purposes. It is possible that government regulation of various types of derivative instruments, including regulations enacted pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, which was signed into law in July 2010, may impact the availability, liquidity and cost of derivative instruments. There can be no assurance that such regulation will not have a material adverse effect on the Fund or will not impair the ability of the Fund to implement certain Strategic Transactions or to achieve its investment objective. Although the Investment Adviser seeks to use Strategic Transactions to further the Fund's investment objective, no assurance can be given that the use of Strategic Transactions will achieve this result. A more complete discussion of Strategic Transactions and their risks is included in the SAI under the heading "Strategic Transactions."

### **Counterparty Risk**

The Fund will be subject to credit risk with respect to the counterparties to the derivative contracts entered into by the Fund. If a counterparty becomes bankrupt or otherwise fails to perform its obligations under a derivative contract due to financial difficulties, the Fund may experience significant delays in obtaining any recovery under the derivative contract in bankruptcy or other reorganization proceedings. The Fund may obtain only a limited recovery, or may obtain no recovery, in such circumstances.

### **Short Sales Risk**

Short selling involves selling securities which may or may not be owned and borrowing the same securities for delivery to the purchaser, with an obligation to replace the borrowed securities at a later date. Short selling allows the short seller to profit from declines in market prices to the extent such declines exceed the transaction costs and the costs of borrowing the securities. A naked short sale creates the risk of an unlimited loss because the price of the

underlying security could theoretically increase without limit, thus increasing the cost of buying those securities to cover the short position. There can be no assurance that the securities necessary to cover a short position will be available for purchase. Purchasing securities to close out the short position can itself cause the price of the securities to rise, further exacerbating the loss.

The Fund's obligation to replace the borrowed security will be secured by collateral deposited with the broker-dealer, usually cash, U.S. government securities or other liquid securities similar to those borrowed. The Fund also will be



required to segregate similar collateral to the extent, if any, necessary so that the value of both collateral amounts in the aggregate is at all times equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the security sold short. Depending on arrangements made with the broker-dealer from which the Fund borrowed the security regarding repaying amounts received by the Fund on such security, the Fund may not receive any payments (including interest) on the Fund's collateral deposited with such broker-dealer.

### **Inflation Risk**

Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investment will be worth less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the real value of the Fund's Common Shares and distributions can decline.

### **Deflation Risk**

Deflation risk is the risk that prices throughout the economy decline over time, which may have an adverse effect on the market valuation of companies, their assets and their revenues. In addition, deflation may have an adverse effect on the creditworthiness of issuers and may make issuer default more likely, which may result in a decline in the value of the Fund's portfolio.

### **Debt Securities Risk**

Debt securities are subject to many of the risks described elsewhere in this section. In addition, they are subject to credit risk, prepayment risk and, depending on their quality, other special risks.

*Credit Risk.* An issuer of a debt security may be unable to make interest payments and repay principal. The Fund could lose money if the issuer of a debt obligation is, or is perceived to be, unable or unwilling to make timely principal and/or interest payments, or to otherwise honor its obligations. The downgrade of a security may further decrease its value.

*Prepayment Risk.* Certain debt instruments, particularly below investment grade securities, may contain call or redemption provisions which would allow the issuer of the debt instrument to prepay principal prior to the debt instrument's stated maturity. This is also sometimes known as prepayment risk. Prepayment risk is greater during a falling interest rate environment as issuers can reduce their cost of capital by refinancing higher yielding debt instruments with lower yielding debt instruments. An issuer may also elect to refinance its debt instruments with lower yielding debt instruments if the credit standing of the issuer improves. To the extent debt securities in the Fund's portfolio are called or redeemed, the Fund may be forced to reinvest in lower yielding securities.

### **Preferred Stock Risk**

Preferred stocks combine some of the characteristics of both common stocks and debt securities. Preferred stocks generally pay a fixed rate of return and are sold on the basis of current yield, like debt securities. However, because they are equity securities, preferred stock provides equity ownership of a company, and the income is paid in the form of distributions. Preferred stocks typically have a yield advantage over common stocks as well as comparably-rated fixed income investments. Preferred stocks are typically subordinated to bonds and other debt instruments in a company's capital structure, in terms of priority to corporate income, and therefore will be subject to greater credit risk than those debt instruments. Unlike interest payments on debt securities, preferred stock distributions are payable only if declared by the issuer's board of directors. Preferred stocks also may be subject to optional or mandatory redemption provisions. Certain of the preferred stocks in which the Fund may invest may be convertible preferred stocks, which have risks similar to convertible securities as described below in [Convertible Instruments Risk](#).

**Convertible Instruments Risk**

The Fund may invest in convertible instruments. A convertible instrument is a bond, debenture, note, preferred stock or other security that may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of Common Shares of the same or a different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. Convertible debt instruments have characteristics of both fixed income and equity investments. Convertible instruments are subject both to the stock

market risk associated with equity securities and to the credit and interest rate risks associated with fixed-income securities. As the market price of the equity security underlying a convertible instrument falls, the convertible instrument tends to trade on the basis of its yield and other fixed-income characteristics. As the market price of such equity security rises, the convertible security tends to trade on the basis of its equity conversion features. The Fund may invest in convertible instruments that have varying conversion values. Convertible instruments are typically issued at prices that represent a premium to their conversion value. Accordingly, the value of a convertible instrument increases (or decreases) as the price of the underlying equity security increases (or decreases). If a convertible instrument held by the Fund is called for redemption, the Fund will be required to permit the issuer to redeem the instrument, or convert it into the underlying stock, and will hold the stock to the extent the Investment Adviser determines that such equity investment is consistent with the investment objective of the Fund.

### **Below Investment Grade Securities Risk**

Below investment grade and unrated debt securities generally pay a premium above the yields of U.S. government securities or debt securities of investment grade issuers because they are subject to greater risks than those securities. These risks, which reflect their speculative character, include the following: greater yield and price volatility; greater credit risk and risk of default; potentially greater sensitivity to general economic or industry conditions; potential lack of attractive resale opportunities (illiquidity); and additional expenses to seek recovery from issuers who default. Debt securities rated below investment grade are commonly known as junk bonds and are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligations, and involve major risk exposure to adverse conditions.

The prices of these below investment grade and unrated debt securities are more sensitive to negative developments, such as a decline in the issuer's revenues, downturns in profitability in the natural resources industry or a general economic downturn, than are the prices of higher-grade securities. Below investment grade and unrated debt securities tend to be less liquid than investment grade securities and the market for below investment grade and unrated debt securities could contract further under adverse market or economic conditions. In such a scenario, it may be more difficult for the Fund to sell these securities in a timely manner or for as high a price as could be realized if such securities were more widely traded. The market value of below investment grade and unrated debt securities may be more volatile than the market value of investment grade securities and generally tends to reflect the market's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and short-term market developments to a greater extent than investment grade securities, which primarily reflect fluctuations in general levels of interest rates. In the event of a default by a below investment grade or unrated debt security held in the Fund's portfolio in the payment of principal or interest, the Fund may incur additional expense to the extent the Fund is required to seek recovery of such principal or interest. For a description of the ratings categories of certain rating agencies, see Appendix A: Description of Securities Ratings in the SAI.

### **Other Investment Companies Risk**

The Fund may invest in securities of other investment companies, including other closed-end or open-end investment companies (including ETFs). The market value of their shares may differ from the net asset value of the particular fund. To the extent the Fund invests a portion of its assets in investment company securities, those assets will be subject to the risks of the purchased investment company's portfolio securities. In addition, if the Fund invests in such investment companies or investment funds, the Fund's shareholders will bear not only their proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund (including operating expenses and the fees of the investment adviser), but also will indirectly bear similar expenses of the underlying investment company. In addition, the securities of other investment companies may also be leveraged and will therefore be subject to the same leverage risks described herein. As described in the section entitled Leverage Risk, the net asset value and market value of leveraged shares will be more volatile and the yield to stockholders will tend to fluctuate more than the yield generated by unleveraged shares. Other investment companies may have investment policies that differ from those of the Fund. In addition, to the extent the Fund invests

in other investment companies, the Fund will be dependent upon the investment and research abilities of persons other than the Investment Adviser.

**ETN and ETF Risk**

An exchange-traded note ( ETN ) or exchange-traded fund ( ETF ) that is based on a specific index may not be able to replicate and maintain exactly the composition and relative weighting of securities in the index. An ETN or

ETF also incurs certain expenses not incurred by its applicable index. The market value of an ETN or ETF share may differ from its net asset value; the share may trade at a premium or discount to its net asset value, which may be due to, among other things, differences in the supply and demand in the market for the share and the supply and demand in the market for the underlying assets of the ETN or ETF. In addition, certain securities that are part of the index tracked by an ETN or ETF may, at times, be unavailable, which may impede the ETN's or ETF's ability to track its index. An ETF that uses leverage can, at times, be relatively illiquid, which can affect whether its share price approximates net asset value. As a result of using leverage, an ETF is subject to the risk of failure in the futures and options markets it uses to obtain leverage and the risk that a counterparty will default on its obligations, which can result in a loss to the Fund. If the Fund invests in ETFs, the Fund's shareholders will bear not only their proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund, but also will indirectly bear similar expenses of the underlying ETF. Although an ETN is a debt security, it is unlike a typical bond, in that there are no periodic interest payments and principal is not protected.

### **Investment Management Risk**

The Fund's portfolio is subject to investment management risk because it will be actively managed. The Investment Adviser will apply investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for the Fund, but there can be no guarantee that they will produce the desired results.

The decisions with respect to the management of the Fund are made exclusively by the Investment Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board of Trustees. Investors have no right or power to take part in the management of the Fund. The Investment Adviser also is responsible for all of the trading and investment decisions of the Fund. In the event of the withdrawal or bankruptcy of the Investment Adviser, generally the affairs of the Fund will be wound-up and its assets will be liquidated.

### **Dependence on Key Personnel of the Investment Adviser**

The Fund is dependent upon the Investment Adviser's key personnel for its future success and upon their access to certain individuals and investments in the natural resources sector. In particular, the Fund will depend on the diligence, skill and network of business contacts of the personnel of the Investment Adviser and its portfolio managers, who will evaluate, negotiate, structure, close and monitor the Fund's investments. The portfolio managers have equity interests and other financial incentives to remain with the firm. The Fund will also depend on the senior management of the Investment Adviser, including particularly Jerry V. Swank. The departure of Mr. Swank or another of the Investment Adviser's senior management could have a material adverse effect on the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective. In addition, the Fund can offer no assurance that the Investment Adviser will remain its investment adviser, or that the Fund will continue to have access to the Investment Adviser's industry contacts and deal flow.

### **Conflicts of Interest with the Investment Adviser**

Conflicts of interest may arise because the Investment Adviser and its affiliates generally will be carrying on substantial investment activities for other clients, including, but not limited to, other client accounts and funds managed or advised by the Investment Adviser, in which the Fund will have no interest. The Investment Adviser or its affiliates may have financial incentives to favor certain of such accounts over the Fund. Any of their proprietary accounts and other customer accounts may compete with the Fund for specific trades. The Investment Adviser or its affiliates may buy or sell securities for the Fund which differ from securities bought or sold for other accounts and customers, even though their investment objectives and policies may be similar to the Fund's. Situations may occur when the Fund could be disadvantaged because of the investment activities conducted by the Investment Adviser and its affiliates for their other accounts. Such situations may be based on, among other things, legal or internal restrictions on the combined size of positions that may be taken for the Fund and the other accounts, limiting the size of the Fund's position, or the difficulty of liquidating an investment for the Fund and the other accounts where the market cannot

absorb the sale of the combined position. Notwithstanding these potential conflicts of interest, the Fund's Board of Trustees and officers have a fiduciary obligation to act in the Fund's best interest.

The Fund's investment opportunities may be limited by affiliations of the Investment Adviser or its affiliates with MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. In addition, to the extent that the Investment Adviser sources and structures private investments in MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, certain employees of the

Investment Adviser may become aware of actions planned by MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies, such as acquisitions that may not be announced to the public. It is possible that the Fund could be precluded from investing in a company about which the Investment Adviser has material non-public information; however, it is the Investment Adviser's intention to ensure that any material non-public information available to certain of the Investment Adviser's employees not be shared with those employees responsible for the purchase and sale of publicly traded securities.

The Investment Adviser manages several other client accounts and funds. Some of these other client accounts and funds have investment objectives that are similar to or overlap with the Fund. Furthermore, the Investment Adviser may at some time in the future manage additional client accounts and investment funds with the same investment objective as the Fund.

The Investment Adviser and its affiliates generally will be carrying on substantial investment activities for other clients' accounts and funds in which the Fund will have no interest. Investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of such other clients; however, from time to time, the same investment decision may be made for more than one fund or account. When two or more clients advised by the Investment Adviser or its affiliates seek to purchase or sell the same publicly traded securities, the securities actually purchased or sold will be allocated among the clients on a good faith equitable basis by the Investment Adviser in its discretion in accordance with the clients' various investment objectives and procedures adopted by the Investment Adviser and approved by the Fund's Board of Trustees. In some cases, this system may adversely affect the price or size of the position the Fund may obtain.

The Fund's investment opportunities may be limited by investment opportunities that the Investment Adviser is evaluating for other clients' accounts and funds. To the extent a potential investment is appropriate for the Fund and one or more of the Investment Adviser's other client accounts or funds, the Investment Adviser will need to fairly allocate that investment to the Fund or another client account or fund, or both, depending on its allocation procedures and applicable law related to combined or joint transactions. There may occur an attractive limited investment opportunity suitable for the Fund in which the Fund cannot invest under the particular allocation method being used for that investment.

Under the 1940 Act, the Fund and such other client accounts or funds managed or advised by the Investment Adviser may be precluded from co-investing in certain private placements of securities. Except as permitted by law or positions of the staff of the SEC, the Investment Adviser will not co-invest its other clients' assets in private transactions in which the Fund invests. To the extent the Fund is precluded from co-investing, the Investment Adviser will allocate private investment opportunities among its clients, including but not limited to the Fund and its other client accounts and funds, based on allocation policies that take into account several suitability factors, including the size of the investment opportunity, the amount each client has available for investment and the client's investment objectives. These allocation policies may result in the allocation of investment opportunities to another client account or fund managed or advised by the Investment Adviser rather than to the Fund.

The management fee payable to the Investment Adviser is based on the value of the Fund's Managed Assets, as periodically determined. A portion of the Fund's Managed Assets may be illiquid securities acquired in private transactions for which market quotations will not be readily available. Although the Fund will adopt valuation procedures designed to determine valuations of illiquid securities in a manner that reflects their fair value, there typically is a range of possible prices that may be established for each individual security. See *Net Asset Value*.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, counsel to the Fund in this offering, also represents the Investment Adviser. Such counsel does not purport to represent the separate interests of the investors and has assumed no obligation to do so. Accordingly, the investors have not had the benefit of independent counsel in the structuring of the Fund or determination of the relative interests, rights and obligations of the Investment Adviser and the investors.

**Reliance on Service Providers**

The Fund relies upon service providers to perform certain functions, which may include functions that are integral to the operations and financial performance of the Fund. Fees and expenses of these service providers are borne by the Fund, and therefore indirectly by Common Shareholders. Failure by any service provider to carry out its obligations to the Fund in accordance with the terms of its appointment, to exercise due care and skill, or to perform its



obligations to the Fund at all as a result of insolvency, bankruptcy or other causes could have a material adverse effect on the Fund's performance and ability to achieve its investment objective. The termination of the Fund's relationship with any service provider, or any delay in appointing a replacement for such service provider, could materially disrupt the business of the Fund and could have a material adverse effect on the Fund's performance and ability to achieve its investment objective.

### **Technology Risk**

Markets and market participants are increasingly reliant upon both publicly available and proprietary information data systems. Data imprecision, software or other technology malfunctions, programming inaccuracies, unauthorized use or access, and similar circumstances may impair the performance of these systems and may have an adverse impact upon a single issuer, a group of issuers, or the market at large. As the use of internet technology has become more prevalent, the Fund, the Investment Adviser and their respective service providers have become more susceptible to potential operational risks through breaches in cyber security (generally, intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund, or a service provider to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity). There can be no guarantee that any risk management systems established by the Fund, the Investment Adviser, their service providers, or issuers of the securities in which the Fund invests that are intended to reduce cyber security risks will succeed. The Fund cannot control such systems put in place by service providers or other third parties whose operations may affect the Fund and Common Shareholders.

### **Market Discount from Net Asset Value**

Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a discount from their net asset value, which is a risk separate and distinct from the risk that the Fund's net asset value could decrease as a result of its investment activities. Although the value of the Fund's net assets is generally considered by market participants in determining whether to purchase or sell Common Shares, whether investors will realize gains or losses upon the sale of Common Shares will depend entirely upon whether the market price of Common Shares at the time of sale is above or below the investor's purchase price for Common Shares. Because the market price of Common Shares will be determined by factors such as net asset value, distribution and distribution levels (which are dependent, in part, on expenses), supply of and demand for Common Shares, stability of distributions or distributions, trading volume of Common Shares, general market and economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the Fund, the Fund cannot predict whether Common Shares will trade at, below or above net asset value or at, below or above the initial public offering price. This risk may be greater for investors expecting to sell their Common Shares soon after the completion of the public offering, as the net asset value of the Common Shares will be reduced immediately following the offering as a result of the payment of certain offering costs. Common Shares of the Fund are designed primarily for long-term investors; investors in Common Shares should not view the Fund as a vehicle for trading purposes.

### **Recent Economic Events Risk**

Global and domestic financial markets have experienced periods of unprecedented turmoil. During the recession of 2007-2009 and for a period thereafter, the debt and equity capital markets to borrow for investment purposes and increase the cost of such borrowings, which would reduce returns to common shareholders. Worsening economic conditions may also adversely affected the broader economy, which in turn may adversely affect issuers of securities owned by the Fund, which may reduce the value of securities owned by the Fund and adversely affect the net asset value of the common shares. Financial market conditions, as well as various social and political tensions in the United States and around the world, may contribute to increased market volatility and may have long-term effects and cause economic uncertainties or deterioration in the United States and worldwide. Global economies and financial markets are also becoming increasingly interconnected, which increases the possibilities that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issuers in a different country or region. Federal Reserve policy, including with respect to certain interest rates, may adversely affect the value, volatility and liquidity of dividend-and interest-paying

securities.

**Legislation and Regulatory Risks**

At any time after the date of this Prospectus, legislation may be enacted that could negatively affect the assets of the Fund or the issuers of such assets. Changing approaches to regulation may have a negative impact on entities in which the Fund invests, which may adversely impact the value of the Fund's portfolio holdings, and on derivative

transactions entered into by the Fund. There can be no assurance that future legislation, regulation or deregulation will not have a material adverse effect on the Fund or will not impair the ability of the issuers of the assets held in the Fund to achieve their business goals, and hence, for the Fund to achieve its investment objective.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act), which was signed into law in July 2010, has resulted in significant revisions to the U.S. financial regulatory framework. The Dodd-Frank Act covered a broad range of topics, including, among many others: a reorganization of federal financial regulators; the creation of a process designed to ensure financial system stability and the resolution of potentially insolvent financial firms; the enactment of new rules for derivatives trading; the creation of a consumer financial protection watchdog; the registration and regulation of managers of private funds; the regulation of rating agencies; and the enactment of new federal requirements for residential mortgage loans.

The Financial CHOICE Act, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in June 2017, would, if enacted, roll back parts of the Dodd-Frank Act. Other potential changes that could be pursued could include the United States withdrawal from, or attempt to renegotiate, various trade agreements or the taking of other actions that would change current trade policies of the United States. It is not possible to predict which, if any, of these actions will be taken or, if taken, their effect on the economy, securities markets or the financial stability of the United States.

The recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, among other things, significantly changes the taxation of business entities (including by significantly lowering corporate tax rates), the deductibility of interest expense, and the timing in which certain income items are recognized (potentially including, in certain cases, income from debt and other financial instruments).

FERC previously had a tax allowance policy, which permitted MLPs to include in their cost of service an income tax allowance to the extent that their owners have an actual or potential tax liability on the income generated by them. On March 15, 2018, FERC issued a release disallowing the income tax allowance taken by MLPs. This change may adversely impact the maximum tariff rates that MLPs are permitted to charge for their transportation services, which would in turn adversely affect the results of operations and cash flows and its ability to pay cash distributions to their unit holders.

Additionally, regulatory actions taken may impact different sectors of the energy and natural resources markets in disparate ways or may impact specific issuers in a given sector in differing ways. The Adviser cannot predict the effects of changing regulations or policies on MLPs, MLP Entities, or the Fund's portfolio, and the Fund may be affected by governmental action in ways that are not foreseeable. There is a possibility that such actions could have a significant adverse effect on the Fund and its ability to achieve its investment objective.

### **Geopolitical and Market Disruption Risk**

The aftermath of the war in Iraq, instability in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Russia, Ukraine and the Middle East, possible terrorist attacks in the United States and around the world, growing social and political discord in the United States, continued tensions between North Korea and the United States and the international community generally, new and continued political unrest in various countries, such as Venezuela, the United Kingdom's pending withdrawal from the European Union and the resulting profound and uncertain impacts on the economic and political future of the United Kingdom, the European Union and global financial markets, further downgrade of U.S. Government securities and other similar events, may have long-term effects on the U.S. and worldwide financial markets and may cause further economic uncertainties in the United States and worldwide. The Fund does not know and cannot predict how long the securities markets may be affected by these events and the effects of these and similar events in the future on the U.S. economy and securities markets. The Fund may be adversely affected by abrogation of international agreements and national laws which have created the market instruments in which the Fund may invest, failure of the designated national and international authorities to enforce compliance with the same laws and

agreements, failure of local, national and international organization to carry out their duties prescribed to them under the relevant agreements, revisions of these laws and agreements which dilute their effectiveness or conflicting interpretation of provisions of the same laws and agreements. The Fund may be adversely affected by uncertainties such as terrorism, international political developments, and changes in government policies, taxation, restrictions on foreign investment and currency repatriation, currency fluctuations and other developments in the laws and regulations of the countries in which it is invested.

### **Not a Complete Investment Program**

The Fund is intended for investors seeking a high level of total return with an emphasis on current income. The Fund is not meant to provide a vehicle for those who wish to exploit short-term swings in the stock market and is intended for long-term investors. An investment in shares of the Fund should not be considered a complete investment program. Each shareholder should take into account the Fund's investment objective as well as the shareholder's other investments when considering an investment in the Fund.

### **Tax Risks**

In conjunction with certain changes to the Fund's non-fundamental investment policies that became effective on February 20, 2018, the Fund manages its portfolio in a manner intended to allow the Fund to qualify and elect to be treated as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes beginning in the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. In order to qualify as a RIC, the Fund must, among other things, satisfy income, asset diversification and distribution requirements. The Fund satisfied the asset diversification requirements applicable to a RIC as of February 28, 2018, the end of the first quarter of the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be eligible to make a RIC election, or that the Fund will continue to qualify as a RIC if such an election is made. Until the Fund elects and qualifies to be treated as a RIC, the Fund will continue to be treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Fund qualifies and elects to be treated as a RIC, the Fund would be subject to tax on any net unrealized appreciation as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation. Also, the Fund would be required to distribute any earnings and profits accumulated as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation.

In the event that the Fund experiences an ownership change for purposes of Section 382 of the Code, which generally is any change in ownership of more than 50% the Fund's common stock over a three-year period, the Fund's ability to use net operating loss and capital loss carryovers to offset future taxable income will be substantially limited. Although the Fund does not expect that this offering of Common Shares should constitute an ownership change for purposes of Section 382 of the Code, it is possible that future issuances or sales of Common Shares or other securities, or certain other direct or indirect changes in ownership may result in an ownership change.

In addition to other risk considerations, an investment in the Fund's common shares will involve certain tax risks, including, but not limited to, the risks summarized below and discussed in more detail elsewhere in this Prospectus. Tax matters are complicated, and the foreign and U.S. federal, state and local tax consequences of the purchase and ownership of the Fund's common shares will depend on the facts of each investor's situation. Prospective investors are encouraged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the specific tax consequences that may affect such investors.

### **Risks Associated with Offerings of Additional Common Shares**

The voting power of current Common Shareholders will be diluted to the extent that current Common Shareholders do not purchase Common Shares in any future offerings of Common Shares or do not purchase sufficient Common Shares to maintain their percentage interest. If the Fund is unable to invest the proceeds of such offering as intended, the Fund's per Common Share distribution may decrease and the Fund may not participate in market advances to the same extent as if such proceeds were fully invested as planned. If the Fund sells Common Shares at a price below net asset value per share pursuant to the consent of Common Shareholders, shareholders will experience a dilution of the aggregate net asset value per Common Share because the sale price will be less than the Fund's then-current net asset value per Common Share. Similarly, were the expenses of the offering to exceed the amount by which the sale price exceeded the Fund's then current net asset value per Common Share, shareholders would experience a dilution of the aggregate net asset value per Common Share. This dilution will be experienced by all shareholders, irrespective of whether they purchase Common Shares in any such offering. See Description of Shares Common Shares Issuance of Additional Common Shares.

**Additional Risks of Rights**

There are additional risks associated with an offering of Rights. Shareholders who do not exercise their Rights may, at the completion of such an offering, own a smaller proportional interest in the Fund than if they exercised their Rights. As a result of such an offering, a shareholder may experience dilution in net asset value per share if the

subscription price per share is below the net asset value per share on the expiration date. If the subscription price per share is below the net asset value per share of the Fund's Common Shares on the expiration date, a shareholder will experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of such shareholder's Common Shares if the shareholder does not participate in such an offering and the shareholder will experience a reduction in the net asset value per share of such shareholder's Common Shares whether or not the shareholder participates in such an offering. Such a reduction in net asset value per share may have the effect of reducing market price of the Common Share. The Fund cannot state precisely the extent of this dilution (if any) if the shareholder does not exercise such shareholder's Rights because the Fund does not know what the net asset value per share will be when the offer expires or what proportion of the Rights will be exercised. If the subscription price is substantially less than the then current net asset value per Common Share at the expiration of a rights offering, such dilution could be substantial. Any such dilution or accretion will depend upon whether (i) such shareholders participate in the Rights offering and (ii) the Fund's net asset value per Common Share is above or below the subscription price on the expiration date of the Rights offering. In addition to the economic dilution described above, if a Common Shareholder does not exercise all of their rights, the Common Shareholder will incur voting dilution as a result of this rights offering. This voting dilution will occur because the Common Shareholder will own a smaller proportionate interest in the Fund after the rights offering than prior to the rights offering. There is a risk that changes in market conditions may result in the underlying Common Shares purchasable upon exercise of the subscription rights being less attractive to investors at the conclusion of the subscription period. This may reduce or eliminate the value of the subscription rights. If investors exercise only a portion of the rights, the number of Common Shares issued may be reduced, and the Common Shares may trade at less favorable prices than larger offerings for similar securities. Subscription rights issued by the Fund may be transferable or non-transferable rights. In a non-transferable rights offering, Common Shareholders who do not wish to exercise their rights will be unable to sell their rights. In a transferrable rights offering, the Fund will use its best efforts to ensure an adequate trading market for the rights; however, investors may find that there is no market to sell rights they do not wish to exercise.

### **Anti-Takeover Provisions Risk**

The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws include provisions that could have the effect of limiting the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or to change the composition of its Board of Trustees. For example, the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust limits the ability of persons to beneficially own (within the meaning of Section 382 of the Code) more than 4.99% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Fund. This restriction is intended to reduce the risk of the Fund undergoing an ownership change within the meaning of Section 382 of the Code, which would limit the Fund's ability to use a capital loss carryforward and certain unrealized losses (if such tax attributes exist). In general, an ownership change occurs if 5% shareholders (and certain persons or groups treated as 5% shareholders) of the Fund increase their ownership percentage in the Fund by more than 50 percentage points in the aggregate within any three-year period ending on certain defined testing dates. If an ownership change were to occur, Section 382 would impose an annual limitation on the amount of post-ownership change gains that the Fund may offset with pre-ownership change losses, and might impose restrictions on the Fund's ability to use certain unrealized losses existing at the time of the ownership change. Such a limitation arising under Section 382 could reduce the benefit of the Fund's then existing capital loss carryforward or unrealized losses, if any. These ownership restrictions could have the effect of depriving shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control over the Fund. Such attempts could have the effect of increasing the expenses of the Fund and disrupting the normal operation of the Fund. In addition, these ownership restrictions may reduce market demand for the Fund's Common Shares, which could have the effect of increasing the likelihood that the Fund's Common Shares trade at a discount to net asset value and increasing the amount of any such discount. See Anti-Takeover Provisions in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and Certain Provisions of Delaware Law, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND**

**Trustees and Officers**

The Board of Trustees of the Fund provides broad oversight over the operations and affairs of the Fund and protects the interests of shareholders. The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility to manage and control the business affairs of the Fund, including the complete and exclusive authority to establish policies regarding the management, conduct and operation of the Fund's business. The Fund's officers, who are all officers or employees of the



Investment Adviser or its affiliates, are responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the Fund's operations. The names and ages of the Trustees and officers of the Fund, the year each was first elected or appointed to office, their principal business occupations during the last five years, the number of funds overseen by each Trustee and other directorships or trusteeships during the last five years are set forth under "Management of the Fund" in the SAI.

### **Investment Adviser**

Subject to the overall supervision of the Board of Trustees, the Fund is managed by Cushing® Asset Management, LP., the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser is an SEC-registered investment adviser headquartered in Dallas, Texas. The Investment Adviser serves as investment adviser to separately managed accounts, registered and unregistered funds, which invest primarily in securities of MLPs and Other Natural Resources Companies. The Investment Adviser continues to seek to expand its platform of energy-related investment products, leveraging extensive industry contacts and significant research depth to drive both passive and actively managed investment opportunities for individual and institutional investors. The Investment Adviser seeks to identify and exploit investment niches that it believes are generally less understood and less followed by the broader investor community. The Investment Adviser's principal business address is 8117 Preston Road, Suite 440, Dallas, Texas 75225. The Investment Adviser is indirectly controlled by Jerry V. Swank.

The Investment Adviser considers itself one of the principal professional institutional investors in the natural resources sector based on the following:

An investment team with extensive experience in analysis, portfolio management, risk management, and private securities transactions.

A focus on bottom-up, fundamental analysis performed by its experienced investment team is core to the Investment Adviser's investment process.

The investment team's wide range of professional backgrounds, market knowledge, industry relationships, and experience in the analysis, financing, and structuring of energy income investments give the Investment Adviser insight into, and the ability to identify and capitalize on, investment opportunities.

Its central location in Dallas, Texas and proximity to major players and assets in the natural resources sector. The Investment Adviser acts as the investment adviser to the Fund pursuant to an investment management agreement (the "Investment Management Agreement"). Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, the Fund has agreed to pay the Investment Adviser a fee, payable at the end of each calendar month, at an annual rate equal to 1.25% of the average weekly value of the Fund's Managed Assets during such month (the "Management Fee") for the services and facilities provided by the Investment Adviser to the Fund. "Managed Assets" means the total assets of the Fund, minus all accrued expenses incurred in the normal course of operations other than liabilities or obligations attributable to investment leverage, including, without limitation, investment leverage obtained through (i) indebtedness of any type (including, without limitation, borrowing through a credit facility or the issuance of debt securities), (ii) the issuance of shares of preferred stock or other similar preference securities and/or (iii) the reinvestment of collateral received for securities loaned in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

The Investment Adviser has agreed to waive a portion of the management fee in an amount equal to 0.25% of the Fund's Managed Assets through February 1, 2019.

Because the Management Fee is based upon a percentage of the Fund's Managed Assets, the Management Fee will be higher if the Fund employs leverage. Therefore, the Investment Adviser will have a financial incentive to use leverage, which may create a conflict of interest between the Investment Adviser and the Fund's Common Shareholders.

Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, the Investment Adviser is responsible for managing the portfolio of the Fund in accordance with its stated investment objective and policies, making investment decisions for the Fund, placing orders to purchase and sell securities on behalf of the Fund and managing the other business

and affairs of the Fund, all subject to the supervision and direction of the Fund's Board of Trustees. In addition, the Investment Adviser furnishes offices, necessary facilities and equipment on behalf of the Fund; provides personnel, including certain officers required for the Fund's administrative management; and pays the compensation of all officers and Trustees of the Fund who are its affiliates.

In addition to the Management Fee, the Fund pays all other costs and expenses of its operations, including the compensation of its Trustees (other than those affiliated with the Investment Adviser); the fees and expenses of the Fund's administrator, the custodian and transfer and distribution disbursing agent; legal fees; leverage expenses (if any); rating agency fees (if any); listing fees and expenses; fees of independent auditors; expenses of repurchasing shares; expenses of preparing, printing and distributing shareholder reports, notices, proxy statements and reports to governmental agencies; and taxes, if any.

A discussion regarding the basis for the approval of the Investment Management Agreement by the Board of Trustees is available in the Fund's semi-annual report to shareholders for the period ended May 31, 2017.

### **Portfolio Management**

Jerry V. Swank, Founder, Managing Partner and Co-Chief Investment Officer of the Investment Adviser, and Paul Euseppi, Portfolio Manager of the Investment Adviser, are primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio.

*Jerry V. Swank.* Mr. Swank formed Swank Capital, LLC in 2000 and the Investment Adviser in 2003 to provide proprietary energy research to a select group of institutional investors, emphasizing in-depth independent research. Prior to forming Swank Capital, LLC and the Investment Adviser, Mr. Swank spent five years with John S. Herold, Inc. and oil and gas research and consulting company that is now part of IHS Markit. He joined John S. Herold in 1995 and served as Managing Director heading up its sales and new product development team until May 1998, when he assumed the position of President. During this period, Mr. Swank developed an in-depth knowledge of the worldwide energy industry, sector profitability, global growth prospects and supply/demand dynamics. Prior to joining Herold, Mr. Swank spent 14 years with Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation in Institutional Equity and Fixed Income Sales in its Dallas office from 1980 to 1995. From 1985 to 1995 he was a Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation Director and Southwestern Regional Sales Manager. Prior to Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, Mr. Swank worked from 1976 to 1980 on the buy side as an analyst and portfolio manager with Mercantile Texas Corp. Mr. Swank received a B.A. from the University of Missouri (Economics) and an M.B.A. from the University of North Texas. Mr. Swank has previously served on the Board of Directors of John S. Herold, Inc., Matador Petroleum Corporation and Advantage Acceptance, Inc. Mr. Swank is also Chairman of the Board, CEO, President, Co-Chief Investment Officer and a Portfolio Manager of The Cushing<sup>®</sup> Renaissance Fund, The Cushing<sup>®</sup> Energy & Income Fund, and Cushing<sup>®</sup> MLP Infrastructure Fund, a series of the Cushing Mutual Funds Trust.

*Paul Euseppi.* Mr. Euseppi joined the Investment Adviser in 2008 and has worked in investment analysis and management in the energy industry since 2006. Previously, Mr. Euseppi worked in Citigroup's investment banking division where he focused on corporate finance and mergers & acquisitions in a wide range of industries, including energy MLPs. Prior to Citigroup he worked in the accounting industry as a senior associate in PricewaterhouseCoopers Transaction Services division. Mr. Euseppi earned his M.B.A. from Texas Tech University and his B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Euseppi has earned the right to use the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

The SAI provides additional information about the portfolio managers' compensation, other accounts managed by the portfolio managers and the portfolio managers' ownership of securities of the Fund.

### **NET ASSET VALUE**

The Fund will determine the net asset value of its Common Shares as of the close of regular session trading on the New York Stock Exchange (normally 4:00 p.m. eastern time) on each day on which there is a regular trading session on the NYSE. The Fund calculates net asset value per Common Share by subtracting liabilities (including accrued expenses or distributions) from the total assets of the Fund (the value of the securities plus cash or other assets, including interest accrued but not yet received) and dividing the result by the total number of outstanding Common Shares of the Fund.

The Fund will use the following valuation methods to determine either current market value for investments for which market quotations are available, or if not available, the fair value, as determined in good faith pursuant to such policies and procedures as may be approved by the Board of Trustees from time to time. The valuation of the portfolio securities of the Fund currently includes the following processes:

The market value of each security listed or traded on any recognized securities exchange or automated quotation system will be the last reported sale price at the relevant valuation date on the composite tape or on the principal exchange on which such security is traded. If no sale is reported on that date, the last reported bid price is used. If the Investment Adviser determines that the price is not representative of the actual market price, the Investment Adviser's valuation committee may determine the fair value of the security.

Generally, the Fund's loan and bond positions are not traded on exchanges and consequently are valued based on market prices received from third-party pricing services or broker-dealer sources.

Distributions declared but not yet received, and rights in respect of securities which are quoted ex-distribution or ex-rights, will be recorded at the fair value of those distributions or rights, as determined by the Investment Adviser, which may (but need not) be the value so determined on the day such securities are first quoted ex-distribution or ex-rights.

Listed options, or over-the-counter options for which representative brokers' quotations are available, will be valued in the same manner as listed or over-the-counter securities. Premiums for the sale of such options written by the Fund will be included in the assets of the Fund, and the market value of such options will be included as a liability.

The Fund's non-marketable investments will generally be valued in such manner as the Investment Adviser determines in good faith to reflect their fair values under procedures established by, and under the general supervision and responsibility of, the Board of Trustees. The pricing of all assets that are fair valued in this manner will be subsequently reported to and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

When determining the fair value of an asset, the Investment Adviser seeks to determine the price that the Fund might reasonably expect to receive from the current sale of that asset in an arm's length transaction. Fair value determinations will be based upon all available factors that the Investment Adviser deems relevant.

Trading in securities on many foreign securities exchanges and over-the-counter markets is normally completed before the close of business on each U.S. business day. In addition, securities trading in a particular country or countries may not take place on all U.S. business days or may take place on days which are not U.S. business days. If events occur between the time when a security's price was last determined on a securities exchange or market and the time when the Fund's net asset value is last calculated that the Investment Adviser deems materially affect the price of such security (for example, (i) movements in certain U.S. securities indices which demonstrate strong correlation to movements in certain foreign securities markets, (ii) a foreign securities market closes because of a natural disaster or some other reason, (iii) a halt in trading of the securities of an issuer on an exchange during the trading day or (iv) a significant event affecting an issuer occurs), such securities may be valued at their fair value as determined in good faith in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Trustees, an effect of which may be to foreclose opportunities available to market timers or short-term traders. For purposes of calculating net asset value per share, all assets and liabilities initially expressed in foreign currencies will be converted into U.S. dollars at the mean of the bid price and

asked price of such currencies against the U.S. dollar, as quoted by a major bank.

The Fund determines the value of derivative instruments based on bid and ask prices, when available, or otherwise at fair value, in accordance with the Fund's valuation policies and procedures. Any derivative transaction that the Fund enters into may, depending on the applicable market environment, have a positive or negative value for purposes of calculating net asset value. In addition, accrued payments to the Fund under such transactions will be assets of the Fund and accrued payments by the Fund will be liabilities of the Fund.

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## DISTRIBUTIONS

The Fund intends to pay substantially all of its net investment income to Common Shareholders through monthly distributions. In addition, the Fund intends to distribute any net long-term capital gains to Common Shareholders at least annually. The Fund expects that distributions paid on the Common Shares will consist primarily of (i) investment company taxable income, which includes, among other things, ordinary income, net short-term capital gain and income from certain hedging and interest rate transactions, and (ii) net capital gain (which is the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss). A portion of the Fund's distributions may also be characterized as return of capital. The Fund may invest no more than 25% of Managed Assets in MLPs that are qualified publicly traded partnerships under the Code and a portion of the cash distributions received by the Fund from the MLPs in which it invests may be characterized as return of capital. If, for any calendar year, the Fund's total distributions exceed both current earnings and profits and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will generally be treated as a return of capital for U.S. federal income tax purposes up to the amount of a shareholder's tax basis in the Common Shares, reducing that basis accordingly, which will generally increase the Common Shareholder's potential gain, or reduce the Common Shareholder's potential loss, on any subsequent sale or other disposition of Common Shares. The Fund cannot assure you as to what percentage, if any, of the distributions paid on the Common Shares will consist of net capital gain, which is taxed at reduced rates for non-corporate shareholders, or return of capital.

For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, 100% of the Fund's distributions were treated as a return of capital for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, effective on February 20, 2018, the Fund adopted a policy to limit its investments in securities of MLPs that are qualified publicly traded partnerships under the Code to no more than 25% of the Fund's Managed Assets in order to allow the Fund to manage its portfolio in a manner intended to allow the Fund to qualify and elect to be treated as RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes beginning in the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. As a result, the Fund expects that a lesser percentage of future distributions will be treated as a return of capital for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Pursuant to the requirements of the 1940 Act, in the event the Fund makes distributions from sources other than income, a notice will accompany each distribution with respect to the estimated source of the distribution made. Such notices will describe the portion, if any, of the distribution which, in the Fund's good faith judgment, constitutes long-term capital gain, short-term capital gain, investment income or a return of capital. The actual character of such distributions for U.S. federal income tax purposes, however, will only be determined finally by the Fund at the close of its fiscal year, based on the Fund's full year performance and its actual net income and net capital gains for the year, which may result in a recharacterization of amounts distributed during such fiscal year from the characterization in the estimates.

Because of the nature of the Fund's investments and changes in market conditions from time to time, the distributions paid by the Fund for any particular month may be more or less than the amount of net investment income from that monthly period. As a result, all or a portion of a distribution may be a return of capital, which is in effect a partial return of the amount a Common Shareholder invested in the Fund.

If the Fund's total distributions in any year exceed the amount of its investment company taxable income and net capital gain for the year, any such excess would generally be characterized as a return of capital for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For example, because of the nature of the Fund's investments, the Fund may distribute net short-term capital gains early in the calendar year, but incur net short-term capital losses later in the year, thereby offsetting the short-term net capital gains for which distributions have already been made by the Fund. In such a situation, the amount by which the Fund's total distributions exceed investment company taxable income and net capital gain would generally be treated as a tax-free return of capital up to the amount of the Common Shareholder's tax basis in their Common Shares, which would reduce such tax basis, with any amounts exceeding such basis treated as a gain from the sale of their Common Shares. Consequently, although a return of capital may not be taxable, it will generally increase the Common Shareholder's potential gain, or reduce the Common Shareholder's potential loss, on

any subsequent sale or other disposition of Common Shares.

To permit the Fund to maintain a more stable distribution rate, the Fund may distribute less or more than the income it earns on its investments in a particular period. Any undistributed income would be available to supplement future distributions and, until distributed, would add to the Fund's net asset value. Correspondingly, such amounts, once distributed, will be deducted from the Fund's net asset value. The Fund expects that over time it will distribute all of its investment company taxable income.



The Fund reserves the right to change its distribution policy and the basis for establishing the rate of distributions at any time and may do so without prior notice to Common Shareholders.

Payment of future distributions is subject to approval by the Fund's Board of Trustees, as well as meeting the covenants of any outstanding Indebtedness or preferred shares and the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act.

### **DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN**

Unless the registered owner of Common Shares elects to receive cash by contacting the Plan Agent, all distributions declared for your Common Shares of the Fund will be automatically reinvested by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (the Plan Agent), agent for shareholders in administering the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan (the Plan), in additional Common Shares of the Fund. If a registered owner of Common Shares elects not to participate in the Plan, you will receive all distributions in cash paid by check mailed directly to you (or, if the shares are held in street or other nominee name, then to such nominee) by the Plan Agent, as distribution disbursing agent. You may elect not to participate in the Plan and to receive all distributions in cash by sending written instructions or by contacting the Plan Agent, as distribution disbursing agent, at the address set out below. Participation in the Plan is completely voluntary and may be terminated or resumed at any time without penalty by contacting the Plan Agent before the distribution record date; otherwise such termination or resumption will be effective with respect to any subsequently declared distribution. Some brokers may automatically elect to receive cash on your behalf and may reinvest that cash in additional Common Shares of the Fund for you.

Whenever the Fund declares a distribution payable in cash, non-participants in the Plan will receive cash and participants in the Plan will receive the equivalent in Common Shares. The Common Shares will be acquired by the Plan Agent for the participants' accounts, depending upon the circumstances described below, either (i) through receipt of additional unissued but authorized Common Shares from the Fund (newly-issued Common Shares) or (ii) by purchase of outstanding Common Shares on the open market (open-market purchases) on the New York Stock Exchange or elsewhere.

If, on the payment date for any distribution, the market price per Common Share plus estimated brokerage commissions is greater than the net asset value per Common Share (such condition being referred to in this Prospectus as market premium), the Plan Agent will invest the distribution amount in newly-issued Common Shares, including fractions, on behalf of the participants. The number of newly-issued Common Shares to be credited to each participant's account will be determined by dividing the dollar amount of the distribution by the net asset value per Common Share on the payment date; provided that, if the net asset value per Common Share is less than 95% of the market price per Common Share on the payment date, the dollar amount of the distribution will be divided by 95% of the market price per Common Share on the payment date.

If, on the payment date for any distribution, the net asset value per Common Share is greater than the market value per Common Share plus estimated brokerage commissions (such condition being referred to in this Prospectus as market discount), the Plan Agent will invest the distribution amount in Common Shares acquired on behalf of the participants in open-market purchases.

In the event of a market discount on the payment date for any distribution, the Plan Agent will have until the last business day before the next date on which the Common Shares trade on an ex-distribution basis or 120 days after the payment date for such distribution, whichever is sooner (the last purchase date), to invest the distribution amount in Common Shares acquired in open-market purchases. The period during which open-market purchases can be made will exist only from the payment date of each distribution through the date before the ex-distribution date of the following distribution. If, before the Plan Agent has completed its open-market purchases, the market price of a Common Share exceeds the net asset value per Common Share, the average per Common Share purchase price paid by the Plan Agent may exceed the net asset value of the Common Shares, resulting in the acquisition of fewer

Common Shares than if the distribution had been paid in newly-issued Common Shares on the distribution payment date. Because of the foregoing difficulty with respect to open market purchases, if the Plan Agent is unable to invest the full distribution amount in open market purchases during the purchase period or if the market discount shifts to a market premium during the purchase period, the Plan Agent may cease making open-market purchases and may

invest the uninvested portion of the distribution amount in newly-issued Common Shares at the net asset value per Common Share at the close of business on the last purchase date; provided that, if the net asset value per Common Share is less than 95% of the market price per Common Share on the payment date, the dollar amount of the distribution will be divided by 95% of the market price per Common Share on the payment date.

The Plan Agent maintains all shareholders' accounts in the Plan and furnishes written confirmation of all transactions in the accounts, including information needed by shareholders for tax records. Common Shares in the account of each Plan participant will be held by the Plan Agent on behalf of the Plan participant, and each shareholder proxy will include those shares purchased or received pursuant to the Plan. The Plan Agent or its designee will forward all proxy solicitation materials to participants and vote proxies for shares held under the Plan in accordance with the instructions of the participants.

In the case of shareholders such as banks, brokers or nominees which hold shares for others who are the beneficial owners, the Plan Agent will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of Common Shares certified from time to time by the record shareholder's name and held for the account of beneficial owners who participate in the Plan.

There will be no brokerage charges with respect to Common Shares issued directly by the Fund. However, each participant will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred in connection with open-market purchases. The automatic reinvestment of distributions will not relieve participants of any federal, state or local income tax that may be payable (or required to be withheld) on such distributions. Accordingly, any taxable distribution received by a participant that is reinvested in additional Common Shares will be subject to federal (and possibly state and local) income tax even though such participant will not receive a corresponding amount of cash with which to pay such taxes. See U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan. There is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan; however, the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants.

For more information about the Plan you may contact the Plan Agent in writing at PO Box 708, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-0701, or by calling the Plan Agent.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SHARES**

The following is a brief description of the terms of the securities which may be issued by the Fund. This description does not purport to be complete and is qualified by reference to the Fund's governing documents. The Fund is a statutory trust organized under the laws of Delaware pursuant to a Certificate of Trust dated May 23, 2007, as filed with the State of Delaware on May 23, 2007 and as amended through the date hereof.

### **Common Shares**

The Fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of Common Shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.001 per share. Each Common Share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of this offering, will be fully paid and non-assessable, except that the Board of Trustees will have the power to cause shareholders to pay expenses of the Fund by setting off charges due from shareholders from declared but unpaid distributions owed the shareholders and/or by reducing the number of Common Shares owned by each respective shareholder. The Fund currently is not aware of any expenses that will be paid pursuant to this provision, except to the extent fees payable under its dividend reinvestment plan are deemed to be paid pursuant to this provision.

The Fund intends to hold annual meetings of shareholders so long as the Common Shares are listed on a national securities exchange and such meetings are required as a condition to such listing. All Common Shares are equal as to distributions, assets and voting privileges and have no conversion, preemptive or other subscription rights. The Fund

will send annual and semi-annual reports, including financial statements, to all holders of its shares.

Unlike open-end funds, closed-end funds like the Fund do not continuously offer shares and do not provide daily redemptions. Rather, if a shareholder determines to buy additional Common Shares or sell shares already held, the shareholder may do so by trading through a broker on the NYSE or otherwise. Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade on an exchange at prices lower than net asset value. Because the market value of the Common Shares may be influenced by such factors as distribution levels (which are in turn affected by expenses), distribution stability, net

asset value, relative demand for and supply of such shares in the market, general market and economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the Fund, the Fund cannot assure you that Common Shares will trade at a price equal to or higher than net asset value in the future. The Common Shares are designed primarily for long-term investors, and you should not purchase the Common Shares if you intend to sell them soon after purchase.

*Issuance of Additional Common Shares.* The provisions of the 1940 Act generally require that the public offering price (less underwriting commissions and discounts) of common shares sold by a closed-end investment company must equal or exceed the net asset value of such company's common shares (calculated within 48 hours of the pricing of such offering), unless such sale is made with the consent of a majority of its common shareholders. The Fund may, from time to time, seek the consent of Common Shareholders to permit the issuance and sale by the Fund of Common Shares at a price below the Fund's then-current net asset value, subject to certain conditions. If such consent is obtained, the Fund may, contemporaneous with and in no event more than one year following the receipt of such consent, sell Common Shares at price below net asset value in accordance with any conditions adopted in connection with the giving of such consent. Additional information regarding any consent of Common Shareholders obtained by the Fund and the applicable conditions imposed on the issuance and sale by the Fund of Common Shares at a price below net asset value will be disclosed in the Prospectus Supplement relating to any such offering of Common Shares at a price below net asset value. Until such consent of Common Shareholders, if any, is obtained, the Fund may not sell Common Shares at a price below net asset value. Because the Fund's advisory fee is based upon average Managed Assets, the Investment Adviser's interest in recommending the issuance and sale of Common Shares at a price below net asset value may conflict with the interests of the Fund and its Common Shareholders.

### **Subscription Rights to Purchase Common Shares**

The Fund may issue subscription rights to holders of Common Shares to purchase Common Shares. Subscription rights may be issued independently or together with any other offered security and may or may not be transferable by the person purchasing or receiving the subscription rights. In connection with a subscription rights offering to holders of Common Shares, the Fund would distribute certificates evidencing the subscription rights and a Prospectus Supplement to our common or preferred shareholders as of the record date that we set for determining the shareholders eligible to receive subscription rights in such subscription rights offering. For complete terms of the subscription rights, please refer to the actual terms of such subscription rights which will be set forth in the subscription rights agreement relating to such subscription rights.

The applicable Prospectus Supplement would describe the following terms of subscription rights in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered:

the period of time the offering would remain open (which will be open a minimum number of days such that all record holders would be eligible to participate in the offering and will not be open longer than 120 days);

the exercise price for such subscription rights (or method of calculation thereof);

the number of such subscription rights issued in respect of each Common Share;

the extent to which such subscription rights are transferable and the market on which they may be traded if they are transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the issuance or exercise of such subscription rights;

the date on which the right to exercise such subscription rights will commence, and the date on which such right will expire (subject to any extension);

the extent to which such subscription rights include an over-subscription privilege with respect to unsubscribed securities and the terms of such over-subscription privilege;

any termination right the Fund may have in connection with such subscription rights offering;

the expected trading market, if any, for rights; and

any other terms of such subscription rights, including exercise, settlement and other procedures and limitations relating to the transfer and exercise of such subscription rights.

*Exercise of Subscription Rights.* Each subscription right would entitle the holder of the subscription right to purchase for cash such number of shares at such exercise price as in each case is set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in the Prospectus Supplement relating to the subscription rights offered thereby. Subscription rights would be exercisable at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date for such subscription rights set forth in the Prospectus Supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, all unexercised subscription rights would become void.

Upon expiration of the rights offering and the receipt of payment and the subscription rights certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the subscription rights agent or any other office indicated in the Prospectus Supplement, the Fund would issue, as soon as practicable, the Common Shares purchased as a result of such exercise. To the extent permissible under applicable law, the Fund may determine to offer any unsubscribed offered securities directly to persons other than shareholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, as set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement

*Transferable Rights Offering.* Subscription rights issued by the Fund may be transferrable. The distribution to Common Shareholders of transferable rights, which may themselves have intrinsic value, also will afford non-participating Common Shareholders the potential of receiving cash payment upon the sale of the rights, receipt of which may be viewed as partial compensation for any dilution of their interests that may occur as a result of the rights offering. There can be no assurance that a market for transferable rights will develop or, if such a market does develop, what the price of the transferable rights will be. In a transferrable rights offering, the subscription ratio will not be less than 1-for-3, that is the holders of Common Shares of record on the record date of the rights offering will receive one right for each outstanding Common Share owned on the record date and the rights will entitle their holders to purchase one new Common Share for every three rights held (provided that any Common Shareholder who owns fewer than three Common Shares as of the record date may subscribe for one full Common Share). Assuming the exercise of all rights, such a rights offering would result in an approximately 33 1/3% increase in the Fund's Common Shares outstanding.

## **Preferred Shares**

The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the Board of Trustees may authorize and issue preferred shares with rights as determined by the Board of Trustees, by action of the Board of Trustees without the approval of the holders of the Common Shares. Holders of Common Shares have no preemptive right to purchase any preferred shares that might be issued pursuant to such provision. Whenever preferred shares are outstanding, the holders of Common Shares will not be entitled to receive any distributions from the Fund unless all accrued distributions on preferred shares have been paid, unless asset coverage (as defined in the 1940 Act) with respect to preferred shares would be at least 200% after giving effect to the distributions and unless certain other requirements imposed by any rating agencies rating the preferred shares have been met. If the Board of Trustees determines to proceed with such an offering, the terms of the preferred shares may be the same as, or different from, the terms described below, subject to applicable law and the Agreement and Declaration of Trust. The Board of Trustees, without the approval of the holders of Common Shares, may authorize an offering of preferred shares or may determine not to authorize such an offering and may fix the terms of the preferred shares to be offered. As of the date of this Prospectus, the Fund has not issued any preferred shares.

*Distributions.* Holders of preferred shares will be entitled to receive cash distributions, when, as and if authorized by the Board of Trustees and declared by the Fund, out of funds legally available therefor. The Prospectus Supplement for any offering of preferred shares will describe the distributions payment provisions for those shares. Distributions

so declared and payable shall be paid to the extent permitted under Delaware law and to the extent available and in preference to and priority over any distribution declared and payable on the Common Shares.



*Limitations on Distributions.* So long as the Fund has Indebtedness outstanding, holders of preferred shares will not be entitled to receive any distributions unless asset coverage (as defined in the 1940 Act) with respect to outstanding Indebtedness would be at least 300% after giving effect to such distributions.

*Liquidation Preference.* In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Fund, the holders of preferred shares will be entitled to receive a preferential liquidating distribution, which is expected to equal the original purchase price per preferred share plus accrued and unpaid distributions, whether or not declared, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of Common Shares. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred shares will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of assets by the Fund.

*Voting Rights.* The 1940 Act requires that the holders of any preferred shares, voting separately as a single class, have the right to elect at least two trustees at all times. The remaining trustees will be elected by holders of Common Shares and preferred shares, voting together as a single class. In addition, subject to the prior rights, if any, of the holders of any other class of senior securities outstanding, the holders of any preferred shares have the right to elect a majority of the trustees of the Fund at any time two years of distributions on any preferred shares are unpaid. The 1940 Act also requires that, in addition to any approval by shareholders that might otherwise be required, the approval of the holders of a majority of any outstanding preferred shares, voting separately as a class, would be required to (i) adopt any plan of reorganization that would adversely affect the preferred shares, and (ii) take any action requiring a vote of security holders under Section 13(a) of the 1940 Act, including, among other things, changes in the Fund's sub-classification as a closed-end fund or changes in its fundamental investment restrictions. As a result of these voting rights, the Fund's ability to take any such actions may be impeded to the extent that there are any preferred shares outstanding.

## **Debt Securities**

The Board of Trustees (subject to applicable law and the Agreement and Declaration of Trust) may authorize an offering, without the approval of the holders of either Common Shares or preferred shares, of other classes of shares, or other classes or series of shares, as they determine to be necessary, desirable or appropriate, having such terms, rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions as the Board of Trustees deems appropriate. The Fund currently does not expect to issue any other classes of shares, or series of shares, except for the Common Shares.

Under Delaware law and the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, the Board of Trustees may cause the Fund to borrow money, without prior approval of holders of common and preferred stock to the extent permitted by the Fund's investment restrictions and the 1940 Act. The Fund may issue debt securities or other evidence of Indebtedness (including bank borrowings or commercial paper) and may secure any such notes or borrowings by mortgaging, pledging or otherwise subjecting as security Fund assets to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or rating agency guidelines. Any borrowings will rank senior to the preferred shares and the Common Shares.

Under the 1940 Act, the Fund may only issue one class of senior securities representing Indebtedness.

*Limitations.* Under the requirements of the 1940 Act the Fund, immediately after any issuance of debt securities, must have asset coverage of at least 300% (*i.e.* for every dollar of Indebtedness outstanding, the Fund is required to have at least three dollars of assets). The issuance of debt securities also may result in the Fund being subject to covenants that may be more stringent than the restrictions imposed by the 1940 Act.

*Voting Rights.* Debt securities are not expected to have any voting rights, except to the extent required by law or as otherwise provided in any documents governing the debt securities. The 1940 Act does, in certain circumstances, grant to the lenders certain voting rights in the event of default in the payment of interest on or repayment of principal.

## **Capitalization**

The following information regarding the Fund's authorized shares is as of November 30, 2017:

<b>Title of Class</b>	<b>Amount Authorized</b>	<b>Amount Held by Fund for its own Account</b>	<b>Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Amounts held by Fund</b>
Common Shares of Beneficial Interest	Unlimited	None	6,734,302

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## ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS IN THE AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF TRUST

The Agreement and Declaration of Trust includes provisions that could have the effect of limiting the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or to change the composition of its Board of Trustees. This could have the effect of depriving shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control over the Fund. Such attempts could have the effect of increasing the expenses of the Fund and disrupting the normal operation of the Fund. In addition, these ownership restrictions may reduce market demand for the Fund's Common Shares, which could have the effect of increasing the likelihood that the Fund's Common Shares trade at a discount to net asset value and increasing the amount of any such discount.

The Board of Trustees is divided into two classes, with the terms of one class expiring at each annual meeting of shareholders. At each annual meeting, one class of Trustees is elected to a two-year term. This provision could delay for up to two years the replacement of a majority of the Board of Trustees. A Trustee may be removed from office (with or without cause) by the action of a majority of the remaining Trustees followed by a vote of the holders of at least 75% of the shares then entitled to vote for the election of the respective Trustee.

In addition, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust requires the favorable vote of a majority of the Fund's Board of Trustees followed by the favorable vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding shares of each affected class or series of the Fund, voting separately as a class or series, to approve, adopt or authorize certain transactions with 5% or greater holders of a class or series of shares and their associates, unless the transaction has been approved by at least 75% of the Trustees, in which case a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund will be required. For purposes of these provisions, a 5% or greater holder of a class or series of shares (a Principal Shareholder) refers to any person who, whether directly or indirectly and whether alone or together with its affiliates and associates, beneficially owns 5% or more of the outstanding shares of all outstanding classes or series of shares of beneficial interest of the Fund.

The 5% holder transactions subject to these special approval requirements are: the merger or consolidation of the Fund or any subsidiary of the Fund with or into any Principal Shareholder; the issuance of any securities of the Fund to any Principal Shareholder for cash, except pursuant to any automatic dividend reinvestment plan; the sale, lease or exchange of any assets of the Fund to any Principal Shareholder, except assets having an aggregate fair market value of less than \$1,000,000, aggregating for the purpose of such computation all assets sold, leased or exchanged in any series of similar transactions within a twelve-month period; or the sale, lease or exchange to the Fund or any subsidiary of the Fund, in exchange for securities of the Fund, of any assets of any Principal Shareholder, except assets having an aggregate fair market value of less than \$1,000,000, aggregating for purposes of such computation all assets sold, leased or exchanged in any series of similar transactions within a twelve-month period.

The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust limits the ability of persons to beneficially own (within the meaning of Section 382 of the Code) more than 4.99% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Fund and could have an anti-takeover effect on the Fund, which could decrease the Fund's market price in certain circumstances or limit the ability of certain shareholders to influence the management of the Fund. This restriction is intended to reduce the risk of the Fund undergoing an ownership change within the meaning of Section 382 of the Code, which would limit the Fund's ability to use a capital loss carryforward and certain unrealized losses (if such tax attributes exist). In general, an ownership change occurs if 5% shareholders (and certain persons or groups treated as 5% shareholders) of the Fund increase their ownership percentage in the Fund by more than 50 percentage points in the aggregate within any three-year period ending on certain defined testing dates. If an ownership change were to occur, Section 382 would impose an annual limitation on the amount of post-ownership change gains that the Fund may offset with pre-ownership change losses, and might impose restrictions on the Fund's ability to use certain unrealized losses existing at the time of the ownership change. Such a limitation arising under Section 382 could reduce the benefit of the Fund's then existing capital loss carryforward or unrealized losses, if any.

To convert the Fund to an open-end investment company, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust requires the favorable vote of a majority of the board of the Trustees followed by the favorable vote of the holders of at least

75% of the outstanding shares of each affected class or series of shares of the Fund, voting separately as a class or series, unless such amendment has been approved by 75% of the Trustees, in which case a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund will be required. The foregoing vote would satisfy a separate requirement in the 1940 Act that any conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company be approved by the shareholders.

For the purposes of calculating a majority of the outstanding voting securities under the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, each class and series of the Fund will vote together as a single class, except to the extent required by the 1940 Act or the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, with respect to any class or series of shares. If a separate class vote is required, the applicable proportion of shares of the class or series, voting as a separate class or series, also will be required.

The Agreement and Declaration of Trust also provides that the Fund may be dissolved and terminated upon the approval of 75% of the Trustees by written notice to the shareholders.

The Board of Trustees has determined that provisions with respect to the Board of Trustees and the shareholder voting requirements described above, which voting requirements are greater than the minimum requirements under Delaware law or the 1940 Act, are in the best interest of shareholders generally. Reference should be made to the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, on file with the SEC for the full text of these provisions.

## **CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF DELAWARE LAW, THE AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF TRUST AND BY-LAWS**

### **Classified Board of Trustees**

The Fund's Board of Trustees is divided into two classes of trustees serving staggered two-year terms. Upon expiration of their current terms, Trustees of each class will be elected to serve for two-year terms and until their successors are duly elected and qualified or the Fund terminates, and each year one class of Trustees will be elected by the shareholders. A classified board may render a change in control of the Fund or removal of the Fund's incumbent management more difficult. The Fund believes, however, that the longer time required to elect a majority of a classified Board of Trustees will help to ensure the continuity and stability of its management and policies.

### **Election of Trustees**

The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the affirmative vote of the holders of a plurality of the outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of Trustees will be required to elect a Trustee.

### **Number of Trustees; Vacancies; Removal**

The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the number of Trustees will be set by the Board of Trustees. The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that a majority of the Fund's Trustees then in office may at any time increase or decrease the number of Trustees provided there will be at least one Trustee. As soon as any such Trustee has accepted his appointment in writing, the trust estate will vest in the new Trustee, together with the continuing Trustees, without any further act or conveyance, and he will be deemed a Trustee thereunder. The Trustees' power of appointment is subject to Section 16(a) of the 1940 Act. Whenever a vacancy in the number of Trustees will occur, until such vacancy is filled as provided, the Trustees in office, regardless of their number, will have all the powers granted to the Trustees and will discharge all the duties imposed upon the Trustees by the Agreement and Declaration of Trust.

### **Action by Shareholders**

Shareholder action can be taken only at an annual or special meeting of shareholders or by written consent in lieu of a meeting.

**Advance Notice Provisions for Shareholder Nominations and Shareholder Proposals**

The Fund's By-Laws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of shareholders, nominations of persons for election to the Board of Trustees and the proposal of business to be considered by shareholders may be made only (1)

pursuant to the Fund's notice of the meeting, (2) by the Board of Trustees or (3) by a shareholder of record both at the time of giving of notice and at the time of the annual meeting who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of the By-Laws. With respect to special meetings of shareholders, only the business specified in the Fund's notice of the meeting may be brought before the meeting. Nominations of persons for election to the Board of Trustees at a special meeting may be made only (1) pursuant to the Fund's notice of the meeting, (2) by the Board of Trustees or (3) provided that the Board of Trustees has determined that Trustees will be elected at the meeting, by a shareholder of record both at the time of giving of notice and at the time of the annual meeting who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice provisions of the By-Laws.

### **Calling of Special Meetings of Shareholders**

The Fund's By-Laws provide that special meetings of shareholders may be called at any time by the Chairman, the President or the Trustees of the Fund. By following certain procedures, a special meeting of shareholders will also be called by the Secretary of the Fund upon the written request of the Common Shareholders entitled to cast not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at such meeting.

### **CLOSED-END FUND STRUCTURE**

Closed-end funds differ from open-end management investment companies (commonly referred to as mutual funds). Closed-end funds generally list their shares for trading on a securities exchange and do not redeem their shares at the option of the shareholder. In contrast, mutual funds issue securities redeemable at net asset value at the option of the shareholder and typically engage in a continuous offering of their shares. Although mutual funds are subject to continuous asset in-flows and out-flows that can complicate portfolio management, closed-end funds generally can stay more fully invested in securities consistent with the closed-end fund's investment objective and policies. Accordingly, closed-end funds have greater flexibility than open-end funds to make certain types of investments, including investments in illiquid securities.

Shares of closed-end funds listed for trading on a securities exchange frequently trade at discounts to their net asset value, but in some cases trade at a premium. The market price may be affected by net asset value, distribution levels (which are dependent, in part, on expenses), supply of and demand for the shares, stability of distributions, trading volume of the shares, general market and economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the closed-end fund. The foregoing factors may result in the market price of the Fund's Common Shares being greater than, less than or equal to net asset value. The Board of Trustees has reviewed the Fund's structure in light of its investment objective and policies and has determined that the closed-end structure is in the best interests of the Fund's shareholders. However, the Board of Trustees may periodically review the trading range and activity of the Fund's shares with respect to their net asset value and may take certain actions to seek to reduce or eliminate any such discount. Such actions may include open market repurchases or tender offers for the Fund's Common Shares at net asset value or the Fund's possible conversion to an open-end mutual fund. There can be no assurance that the Board of Trustees will decide to undertake any of these actions or that, if undertaken, such actions would result in the Fund's Common Shares trading at a price equal to or close to net asset value per share of its Common Shares.

To convert the Fund to an open-end investment company, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust requires the favorable vote of a majority of the board of the Trustees followed by the favorable vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding shares of each affected class or series of shares of the Fund, voting separately as a class or series, unless such amendment has been approved by 75% of the Trustees, in which case a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund will be required. The foregoing vote would satisfy a separate requirement in the 1940 Act that any conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company be approved by the shareholders. Following any such conversion, it is possible that certain of the Fund's investment policies and strategies would have to be modified to assure sufficient portfolio liquidity. In the event of conversion, the Fund would be

required to redeem any preferred shares then outstanding (requiring in turn that it liquidate a portion of its investment portfolio) and the Common Shares would cease to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange or other national securities exchanges or market systems. Shareholders of an open-end investment company may require the investment company to redeem their shares at any time (except in certain circumstances as authorized by or permitted under the 1940 Act) at their net asset value, less such redemption charge, if any, as might be in effect at the time of redemption. In order to avoid maintaining large cash positions or liquidating favorable investments to meet redemptions, open-end investment companies typically engage in a continuous offering of their



shares. Open-end investment companies are thus subject to periodic asset in-flows and out-flows that can complicate portfolio management. The Fund's Board of Trustees may at any time propose the Fund's conversion to open-end status, depending upon its judgment regarding the advisability of such action in light of circumstances then prevailing. However, based on the determination of the Board of Trustees in connection with this initial offering of the Fund's Common Shares that the closed-end structure is desirable in light of the Fund's investment objective and policies, it is highly unlikely that the Board of Trustees would vote to convert the Fund to an open-end investment company.

### **REPURCHASE OF COMMON SHARES**

In recognition of the possibility that the Fund's Common Shares might trade at a discount to net asset value and that any such discount may not be in the interest of the Fund's Common Shareholders, the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Investment Adviser, from time to time may, but is not required to, review possible actions to reduce any such discount. The Board of Trustees also may, but is not required to, consider from time to time open market repurchases of and/or tender offers for the Fund's Common Shares, as well as other potential actions, to seek to reduce any market discount from net asset value that may develop. After any consideration of potential actions to seek to reduce any significant market discount, the Board of Trustees may, subject to its applicable duties and compliance with applicable U.S. state and federal laws, authorize the commencement of a share-repurchase program or tender offer. The size and timing of any such share repurchase program or tender offer will be determined by the Board of Trustees in light of the market discount of the Fund's Common Shares, trading volume of the Fund's Common Shares, information presented to the Board of Trustees regarding the potential impact of any such share repurchase program or tender offer, general market and economic conditions and applicable law. There can be no assurance that the Fund will in fact effect repurchases of or tender offers for any of its Common Shares. The Fund may, subject to its investment limitation with respect to borrowings, incur debt to finance such repurchases or a tender offer or for other valid purposes. Interest on any such borrowings would increase the Fund's expenses and reduce its net income.

There can be no assurance that repurchases of the Fund's Common Shares or tender offers, if any, will cause its Common Shares to trade at a price equal to or in excess of their net asset value. Nevertheless, the possibility that a portion of the Fund's outstanding Common Shares may be the subject of repurchases or tender offers may reduce the spread between market price and net asset value that might otherwise exist. Sellers may be less inclined to accept a significant discount in the sale of their Common Shares if they have a reasonable expectation of being able to receive a price of net asset value for a portion of their Common Shares in conjunction with an announced repurchase program or tender offer for the Fund's Common Shares.

Although the Board of Trustees believes that repurchases or tender offers generally would have a favorable effect on the market price of the Fund's Common Shares, the acquisition of Common Shares by the Fund will decrease its total assets and therefore will have the effect of increasing its expense ratio and decreasing the asset coverage with respect to any preferred shares outstanding. Because of the nature of the Fund's investment objective, policies and portfolio, particularly its investment in illiquid or otherwise restricted securities, it is possible that repurchases of Common Shares or tender offers could interfere with the Fund's ability to manage its investments in order to seek its investment objective. Further, it is possible that the Fund could experience difficulty in borrowing money or be required to dispose of portfolio securities to consummate repurchases of or tender offers for Common Shares.

### **U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of Common Shares of the Fund. This discussion is based upon current provisions of the Code, the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder and judicial and administrative authorities, all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations by the courts or the Internal Revenue Service ( IRS ), possibly with retroactive effect. This discussion does not address any other U.S. federal tax considerations (such as estate, gift, or net investment taxes) or any state, local or non-U.S. tax considerations. Except as otherwise stated herein, no ruling

has been or will be sought from the IRS regarding any matter discussed herein. The Fund's counsel has not rendered any legal opinion regarding any tax consequences relating to the Fund or an investment in the Fund. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position different from any of the tax aspects set forth below. This discussion assumes that Common Shareholders hold their Common Shares as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes (generally, assets held for investment). No attempt is made to present a

detailed explanation of all U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax concerns affecting the Fund and its Common Shareholders (including Common Shareholders subject to special provisions of the Code). The discussion set forth herein does not constitute tax advice. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors to determine the tax consequences to them of investing in the Fund.

### **Taxation of the Fund**

Since its inception and through the Fund's fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Fund has been treated as a regular corporation, or a C corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, as a result, unlike most investment companies, has been subject to corporate income tax to the extent the Fund recognizes taxable income. However, in conjunction with certain changes to the Fund's non-fundamental investment policies that became effective on February 20, 2018, the Fund manages its portfolio in a manner intended to allow the Fund to qualify and elect to be treated as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes beginning in the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. In order to qualify as a RIC, the Fund must, among other things, satisfy income, asset diversification and distribution requirements. The Fund satisfied the asset diversification requirements applicable to a RIC as of February 28, 2018, the end of the first quarter of the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be eligible to make a RIC election, or that the Fund will continue to qualify as a RIC if such an election is made. Until the Fund elects and qualifies to be treated as a RIC, the Fund will continue to be treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Fund qualifies and elects to be treated as a RIC, the Fund would be subject to tax on any net unrealized appreciation as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation. Also, the Fund would be required to distribute any earnings and profits accumulated as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation.

*C Corporation.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to the Fund if the Fund is treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

For each taxable year the Fund is treated as a regular corporation, or C corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Fund generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income at a 21 percent rate for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. In addition, as a regular corporation, the Fund will be subject to state income tax by reason of its investments in equity securities of MLPs. Therefore, the Fund may have state income tax liabilities in multiple states, which will reduce the Fund's cash available to make distributions on the Common Shares. For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2018, the Fund may be subject to an alternative minimum tax on its alternative minimum taxable income to the extent that the alternative minimum tax exceeds the Fund's regular income tax liability. The extent to which the Fund is required to pay U.S. corporate income tax or alternative minimum tax could materially reduce the Fund's cash available to make distributions on the Common Shares.

*RIC.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to the Fund if the Fund qualifies and elects to be a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

In order to qualify as a RIC, the Fund must, among other things, satisfy certain income, asset diversification and distribution requirements. As long as it so qualifies, the Fund will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax to the extent that it distributes annually its investment company taxable income (which includes ordinary income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) and its net capital gain (*i.e.*, the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss). The Fund intends to distribute at least annually substantially all of such income and gain. If the Fund retains any investment company taxable income or net capital gain, it will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the retained amount at regular corporate tax rates. In addition, if the Fund fails to qualify as a RIC for any taxable year and relief is not available, it will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on all of its income and gains at regular corporate tax rates. Furthermore, if the Fund makes a RIC election, the Fund will be required to distribute any undistributed earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) from the period in which the Fund was a C corporation, and the Fund may continue to be subject to a corporate-level

income tax on certain built-in gains existing at the time the Fund makes a RIC election for the five-year period following the election.

## Taxation of Common Shareholders

*C Corporation.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to Common Shareholders if the Fund is treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

For each taxable year the Fund is treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, distributions by the Fund of cash or property in respect of the Common Shares will be treated as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from the Fund's current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). Any such dividend will be eligible for the dividends received deduction if received by an otherwise qualifying corporate Common Shareholder that meets the holding period and other requirements for the dividends received deduction.

If the amount of a Fund distribution exceeds the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, such excess will be treated first as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the Common Shareholder's tax basis in the Common Shares, and thereafter as capital gain. Any such capital gain will be long-term capital gain if such Common Shareholder has held the applicable Common Shares for more than one year.

Common Shareholders that participate in the Fund's Plan will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as having (i) received a cash distribution equal to the reinvested amount and (ii) reinvested such amount in Common Shares.

Upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of Common Shares, a Common Shareholder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition and the Common Shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the Common Shares, as applicable. Any such capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Common Shareholder has held the Common Shares for more than one year at the time of disposition. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

*RIC.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to Common Shareholders if the Fund qualifies and elects to be a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

For each taxable year the Fund is treated as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, distributions paid to you by the Fund from its investment company taxable income are generally taxable to you as ordinary income to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Certain properly designated distributions may, however, qualify (provided that holding period and other requirements are met by both the Fund and the Common Shareholder) (i) for the distributions received deduction in the case of corporate Common Shareholders to the extent that the Fund's income consists of distribution income from U.S. corporations or (ii) in the case of individual Common Shareholders, as qualified distribution income eligible to be taxed at a reduced maximum rate to the extent that the Fund receives qualified distribution income. Qualified distribution income is, in general, distribution income from taxable domestic corporations and certain foreign corporations. There can be no assurance as to what portion of the Fund's distributions will qualify for the distributions received deduction or for treatment as qualified distribution income.

Distributions made to you from an excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss ( capital gain distributions ), including capital gain distributions credited to you but retained by the Fund, are taxable to you as long-term capital gains if they have been properly reported by the Fund, regardless of the length of time you have owned Common Shares. For individuals, long-term capital gains are generally taxed at a reduced maximum rate.

If, for any calendar year, the Fund's total distributions exceed both the current taxable year's earnings and profits and accumulated earnings and profits from prior years, the excess will generally be treated as a tax-free return of capital up

to the amount of a Common Shareholder's tax basis in the Common Shares, reducing that basis accordingly. Such distributions exceeding the Common Shareholder's basis will be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of the Common Shares. When you sell your Common Shares, the amount, if any, by which your sales price exceeds your basis in the Common Shares is gain subject to tax. Because a return of capital reduces your basis in the Common Shares, it will increase the amount of your gain or decrease the amount of your loss when you sell the Common Shares. Generally, after the end of each year, you will be provided with a written notice designating the amount of ordinary distribution income, capital gain distributions and other distributions (if relevant).

The sale or other disposition of Common Shares will generally result in capital gain or loss to you which will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Common Shares have been held for more than one year at the time of sale. Any loss upon the sale or exchange of Common Shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any capital gain distributions received by you (including amounts credited to you as an undistributed capital gain distribution). Any loss realized on a sale or exchange of Common Shares will be disallowed if other substantially identical shares are acquired (whether through the automatic reinvestment of distributions or otherwise) within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date of disposition of Common Shares. In such case, the basis of the Common Shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Present law taxes both long-term and short-term capital gain of corporations at the rates applicable to ordinary income. For non-corporate taxpayers, under current law short-term capital gain is taxed at the U.S. federal income tax rates applicable to ordinary income, while long-term capital gain generally is taxed at a reduced maximum U.S. federal income tax rate.

Dividends and other taxable distributions are taxable to Common Shareholders. If the Fund pays you a distribution in January that was declared in the previous October, November or December to Common Shareholders of record on a specified date in one of such months, then such distribution will be treated for tax purposes as being paid by the Fund and received by you on December 31 of the year in which the distribution was declared.

### **Backup Withholding**

The Fund may be required to withhold, for U.S. federal backup withholding purposes, on all taxable distributions to any non-corporate holders of the Common Shares who (1) do not furnish the Fund with their correct taxpayer identification number (in the case of individuals, generally their social security number) or a certificate that such Common Shareholder is exempt from withholding, or (2) with respect to whom the IRS notifies the Fund that such Common Shareholder has failed to properly report certain interest and dividend income to the IRS and to respond to notices to that effect. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld from payments made to you may be refunded or credited against your U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS. In addition, the Fund may be required to withhold on distributions to non-U.S. shareholders.

**The foregoing is a general and abbreviated summary of the provisions of the Code and the Treasury regulations in effect as they directly govern the taxation of the Fund and its Common Shareholders. These provisions are subject to change by legislative, judicial or administrative action, and any such change may be retroactive. A more complete discussion of the tax rules applicable to the Fund and its Common Shareholders can be found in the SAI that is incorporated by reference into this Prospectus. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, foreign, state and local tax consequences of investing in the Fund.**

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The Fund may sell up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in aggregate initial offering price of Common Shares or Rights from time to time under this Prospectus and any related Prospectus Supplement (1) directly to one or more purchases, including existing shareholders in a Rights offering; (2) through agents; (3) through underwriters; (4) through dealers; or (5) pursuant to the Plan. Each Prospectus Supplement relating to an offering of securities will state the terms of the offering, including:

the names of any agents, underwriters or dealers;

any sales loads or other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

any discounts, commissions, or fees allowed or paid to dealers or agents;

the public offering or purchase price of the offered Securities and the net proceeds the Fund will receive from the sale; and

any securities exchange on which the offered Securities may be listed.

In the case of a Rights offering, the applicable Prospectus Supplement will set forth the number of Common Shares issuable upon the exercise of each right and the other terms of such rights offering.

### Direct Sales

The Fund may sell Securities directly to, and solicit offers from, institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act for any resales of the securities. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. The Fund may use electronic media, including the Internet, to sell offered securities directly. The Fund will describe the terms of any of those sales in a Prospectus Supplement.

### By Agents

The Fund may offer Securities through agents that the Fund may designate. The Fund will name any agent involved in the offer and sale and describe any commissions payable by the Fund in the Prospectus Supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the Prospectus Supplement, the agents will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of their appointment.

### By Underwriters

The Fund may offer and sell Securities from time to time to one or more underwriters who would purchase the Securities as principal for resale to the public, either on a firm commitment or best efforts basis. If the Fund sells Securities to underwriters, the Fund will execute an underwriting agreement with them at the time of the sale and will name them in the Prospectus Supplement. In connection with these sales, the underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from the Fund in the form of underwriting discounts and commissions. The underwriters also may receive commissions from purchasers of Securities for whom they may act as agent. Unless otherwise stated in the Prospectus Supplement, the underwriters will not be obligated to purchase the Securities unless the conditions set



forth in the underwriting agreement are satisfied, and if the underwriters purchase any of the Securities, they will be required to purchase all of the offered Securities. The underwriters may sell the offered Securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters as well as from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

In connection with an offering of Common Shares, if a Prospectus Supplement so indicates, the Fund may grant the underwriters an option to purchase additional Common Shares at the public offering price, less the underwriting discounts and commissions, within 45 days from the date of the Prospectus Supplement, to cover any overallocments.

## **By Dealers**

The Fund may offer and sell Securities from time to time to one or more dealers who would purchase the securities as principal. The dealers then may resell the offered Securities to the public at fixed or varying prices to be determined by those dealers at the time of resale. The Fund will set forth the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction in the Prospectus Supplement.

## **General Information**

Agents, underwriters, or dealers participating in an offering of Securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commission received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the offered Securities for whom they act as agent, may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

The Fund may offer to sell securities either at a fixed price or at prices that may vary, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

To facilitate an offering of Common Shares in an underwritten transaction and in accordance with industry practice, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the market price of the Common Shares or any other Security. Those transactions may include overallotment, entering stabilizing bids, effecting syndicate covering transactions, and reclaiming selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer.

An overallotment in connection with an offering creates a short position in the common stock for the underwriter's own account.

An underwriter may place a stabilizing bid to purchase the Common Shares for the purpose of pegging, fixing, or maintaining the price of the Common Shares.

Underwriters may engage in syndicate covering transactions to cover overallotments or to stabilize the price of the Common Shares by bidding for, and purchasing, the Common Shares or any other Securities in the open market in order to reduce a short position created in connection with the offering.

The managing underwriter may impose a penalty bid on a syndicate member to reclaim a selling concession in connection with an offering when the Common Shares originally sold by the syndicate member is purchased in syndicate covering transactions or otherwise.

Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the Securities above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

In connection with any Rights offering, the Fund may also enter into a standby underwriting arrangement with one or more underwriters pursuant to which the underwriter(s) will purchase Common Shares remaining unsubscribed for after the Rights offering.

Any underwriters to whom the offered Securities are sold for offering and sale may make a market in the offered Securities, but the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market-making at any time without notice. There can be no assurance that there will be a liquid trading market for the offered Securities.

Under agreements entered into with the Fund, underwriters and agents may be entitled to indemnification by the Fund and the Investment Adviser against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution for payments the underwriters or agents may be required to make.

The underwriters, agents, and their affiliates may engage in financial or other business transactions with the Fund in the ordinary course of business.

Pursuant to a requirement of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ( FINRA ) the maximum compensation to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer may not be greater than eight percent (8%) of the gross proceeds received by the Fund for the sale of any securities being registered pursuant to SEC Rule 415 under the Securities Act.

The aggregate offering price specified on the cover of this Prospectus relates to the offering of the Securities not yet issued as of the date of this Prospectus.

To the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the underwriters may from time to time act as a broker or dealer and receive fees in connection with the execution of portfolio transactions on behalf of the Fund after the underwriters have ceased to be underwriters and, subject to certain restrictions, each may act as a broker while it is an underwriter.

A Prospectus and accompanying Prospectus Supplement in electronic form may be made available on the websites maintained by underwriters. The underwriters may agree to allocate a number of Securities for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Such allocations of Securities for internet distributions will be made on the same basis as other allocations. In addition, Securities may be sold by the underwriters to securities dealers who resell Securities to online brokerage account holders.

### **OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, has entered into a transfer agent servicing agreement with the Fund. Under this agreement, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC serves as the Fund's transfer agent, registrar and distribution disbursing agent.

U.S. Bank National Association, which is located at 1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212, acts as custodian of the Fund's securities and other assets.

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services LLC, the Administrator, which is located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, serves as the Fund's administrator pursuant to a fund administration servicing agreement. Pursuant to this agreement, the Administrator provides the Fund with, among other things, compliance oversight, financial reporting oversight and tax reporting. The Administrator acts as the Fund's fund accountant. The Administrator will assist in the calculation of the Fund's net asset value. The Administrator will also maintain and keep current the accounts, books, records and other documents relating to the Fund's financial and portfolio transactions.

### **LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters will be passed on for the Fund by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Chicago, Illinois.

### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Ernst & Young LLP, Dallas, Texas, is the independent registered public accounting firm of the Fund and is expected to render an opinion annually on the financial statements of the Fund.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Fund is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the 1940 Act and in accordance with those requirements is required to file reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any such reports and other information, including the Fund and Investment Adviser's code of ethics, can be inspected and copied at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Public Reference Room, Washington, D.C. 20549-0102. Information on the operation of such public reference facilities may be obtained by calling the Securities and Exchange Commission at (202) 551-8090. Copies of such materials can be obtained from the Securities and Exchange Commission's Public Reference Room, at prescribed rates, or by electronic request at [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov). The Securities and Exchange Commission maintains a website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) containing reports and information statements and other information regarding registrants, including the Fund, that file

electronically with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Reports, proxy statements and other information concerning the Fund can also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Copies of the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained, without charge, upon request mailed to The Cushing® MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund, c/o Cushing® Asset Management, LP, 8117 Preston Road, Suite 440, Dallas, Texas 75225 or by calling toll free at (888) 777-2346 and

also are made available on the Fund's website at [www.cushingcef.com](http://www.cushingcef.com). You may also call this toll-free telephone number to request other information about the Fund or to make shareholder inquiries. Information on, or accessible through, the Fund's website is not a part of, and is not incorporated into, this Prospectus.

Additional information regarding the Fund is contained in the registration statement on Form N-2, including the SAI and amendments, exhibits and schedules to the registration statement relating to such shares filed by the Fund with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. This Prospectus does not contain all of the information set out in the registration statement, including the SAI and any amendments, exhibits and schedules to the registration statement. For further information with respect to the Fund and the Common Shares offered hereby, reference is made to the registration statement and the SAI. Statements contained in this Prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to are not necessarily complete and in each instance reference is made to the copy of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference. A copy of the registration statement and the SAI may be inspected without charge at the Securities and Exchange Commission's principal office in Washington, D.C., and copies of all or any part of the registration statement may be obtained from the Securities and Exchange Commission upon the payment of certain fees prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

You may request a free copy of the Statement of Additional Information, the table of contents of which is on page 82 of this Prospectus, by calling toll-free at (888) 777-2346, or you may obtain a copy (and other information regarding the Fund) from the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>). The SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this Prospectus.

## PRIVACY POLICY

In order to conduct its business, the Fund collects and maintains certain nonpublic personal information about its shareholders with respect to their transactions in shares of the Fund. This information includes:

information the Fund receives from you on or in applications or other forms, correspondence, or conversations, including, but not limited to, your name, address, phone number, social security number, assets, income and date of birth; and

information about your transactions with the Fund, its affiliates or others, including, but not limited to, your account number and balance, payment history, parties to transactions, cost basis information and other financial information.

The Fund does not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you, the Fund's other shareholders or the Fund's former shareholders to third parties unless necessary to process a transaction, service an account, or as otherwise permitted by law. To protect your personal information internally, the Fund restricts access to nonpublic personal information about the Fund's shareholders to those employees who need to know that information to provide services to the Fund's shareholders. The Fund also maintains certain other safeguards to protect your nonpublic personal information.

In the event that you hold shares of the Fund through a financial intermediary, including, but not limited to, a broker-dealer, bank or trust company, the privacy policy of your financial intermediary would govern how your non-public personal information would be shared with nonaffiliated third parties.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

<b><u>The Fund</u></b>	<b>S-1</b>
<b><u>Investment Strategies and Risks</u></b>	<b>S-1</b>
<b><u>Strategic Transactions</u></b>	<b>S-4</b>
<b><u>Investment Restrictions</u></b>	<b>S-14</b>
<b><u>Management of the Fund</u></b>	<b>S-15</b>
<b><u>Portfolio Management</u></b>	<b>S-21</b>
<b><u>Investment Management Agreement</u></b>	<b>S-22</b>
<b><u>Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage</u></b>	<b>S-23</b>
<b><u>U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u></b>	<b>S-24</b>
<b><u>Service Providers</u></b>	<b>S-32</b>
<b><u>General Information</u></b>	<b>S-33</b>
<b><u>Financial Statements</u></b>	<b>S-34</b>



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**The Cushing<sup>®</sup> MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund**

**Common Shares**

**Subscription Rights for Common Shares**

**The information in this Statement of Additional Information is not complete and may be changed. The Fund may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This Statement of Additional Information is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

**Subject to Completion, dated June 8, 2018**

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**The Cushing® MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund**

**Common Shares**

**Subscription Rights for Common Shares**

**Statement of Additional Information**

The Cushing® MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund (the Fund) was formed as a Delaware statutory trust on May 23, 2007 and is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund's investment objective is to seek high total return with an emphasis on current income. No assurance can be given that the Fund's investment objective will be achieved.

This Statement of Additional Information (SAI) is not a prospectus, but should be read in conjunction with the prospectus for the Fund dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 (the Prospectus). Investors should obtain and read the Prospectus prior to purchasing common shares. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained, without charge, by calling the Fund at (877) 965-7386.

The Prospectus and this SAI omit certain of the information contained in the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The registration statement may be obtained from the Securities and Exchange Commission upon payment of the fee prescribed, or inspected at the Securities and Exchange Commission's office or via its website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)) at no charge. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Prospectus.

The Fund is managed by Cushing® Asset Management, LP (the Investment Adviser).

**This Statement of Additional Information is dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>The Fund</u></b>	<b>S-1</b>
<b><u>Investment Strategies and Risks</u></b>	<b>S-1</b>
<b><u>Strategic Transactions</u></b>	<b>S-4</b>
<b><u>Investment Restrictions</u></b>	<b>S-14</b>
<b><u>Management of the Fund</u></b>	<b>S-15</b>
<b><u>Portfolio Management</u></b>	<b>S-21</b>
<b><u>Investment Management Agreement</u></b>	<b>S-22</b>
<b><u>Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage</u></b>	<b>S-23</b>
<b><u>U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u></b>	<b>S-24</b>
<b><u>Service Providers</u></b>	<b>S-32</b>
<b><u>General Information</u></b>	<b>S-33</b>
<b><u>Financial Statements</u></b>	<b>S-34</b>

## THE FUND

The Fund was formed as a Delaware statutory trust on May 23, 2007 and is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act ). The Fund commenced investment operations on August 27, 2007.

### INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

The sections below describe, in greater detail than in the Prospectus, some of the different types of investments that may be made by the Fund and the investment practices in which the Fund may engage. The Fund may make the following investments, among others, some of which are part of its principal investment strategies and some of which are not. The principal risks of the Fund's principal investment strategies are discussed in the Prospectus. The Fund may not buy all of the types of securities or use all of the investment techniques that are described.

#### Master Limited Partnership Interests

Master limited partnerships are formed as limited partnerships or limited liability companies and are treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The equity securities issued by many MLPs are listed and traded on a U.S. exchange. An MLP typically issues general partner and limited partner interests. The general partner manages and often controls, has an ownership stake in, and is normally eligible to receive incentive distribution payments from, the MLP. To be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, an MLP must derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from certain qualifying sources as described in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). These qualifying sources include natural resources-based activities such as the exploration, development, mining, production, processing, refining, transportation, storage and certain marketing of mineral or natural resources. The general partner may be structured as a private or publicly-traded corporation or other entity. The general partner typically controls the operations and management of the entity through an up to 2% general partner interest in the entity plus, in many cases, ownership of some percentage of the outstanding limited partner interests. The limited partners, through their ownership of limited partner interests, provide capital to the entity, are intended to have no role in the operation and management of the entity and receive cash distributions. Due to their structure as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and the expected character of their income, MLPs generally do not pay U.S. federal income taxes. Thus, unlike investors in corporate securities, direct MLP investors are generally not subject to double taxation (*i.e.*, corporate level tax and tax on corporate dividends).

Certain MLPs are dependent on their parents or sponsors for a majority of their revenues. Any failure by an MLP's parents or sponsors to satisfy their payments or obligations would impact the MLP's revenues and cash flows and ability to make distributions. Moreover, the terms of an MLP's transactions with its parent or sponsor are typically not arrived at on an arm's-length basis, and may not be as favorable to the MLP as a transaction with a non-affiliate.

#### MLP Equity Securities

Equity securities issued by MLPs typically consist of common units, subordinated units and general partner interests.

*Common Units.* The common units of many MLPs are listed and traded on national securities exchanges, including the NYSE, the NYSE America and the NASDAQ Stock Market (the NASDAQ ). Holders of MLP common units typically have very limited control and voting rights. Holders of such common units are typically entitled to receive the minimum quarterly distribution (the MQD ), including arrearage rights, from the issuer. In the event of a liquidation, common unit holders are intended to have a preference to the remaining assets of the issuer over holders of subordinated units. The Fund may invest in different classes of common units that may have different voting, trading, and distribution rights.

*Subordinated Units.* Subordinated units, which, like common units, represent limited partner interests, are not typically listed on an exchange or publicly traded. Holders of such subordinated units are generally entitled to receive a distribution only after the MQD and any arrearages from prior quarters have been paid to holders of common units. Holders of subordinated units typically have the right to receive distributions before any incentive distributions are payable to the general partner. Subordinated units generally do not provide arrearage rights. Most MLP subordinated units are convertible into common units after the passage of a specified period of time or upon the achievement by the issuer of specified financial goals. The Fund may invest in different classes of subordinated units that may have different voting, trading, and distribution rights.

S-1

**General Partner Interests.** The general partner interest in MLPs is typically retained by the original sponsors of an MLP, such as its founders, corporate partners and entities that sell assets to the MLP. The holder of the general partner interest can be liable in certain circumstances for amounts greater than the amount of the holder's investment. General partner interests often confer direct board participation rights in, and in many cases control over the operations of, the MLP. General partner or managing member interests receive cash distributions, typically in an amount of up to 2% of available cash, which is contractually defined in the partnership or limited liability company agreement. In addition, holders of general partner or managing member interests typically receive incentive distribution rights, which provide them with an increasing share of the entity's aggregate cash distributions upon the payment of per common unit distributions that exceed specified threshold levels above the MQD. Due to the incentive distribution rights, GP MLPs have higher distribution growth prospects than their underlying MLPs, but quarterly incentive distribution payments would also decline at a greater rate than the decline rate in quarterly distributions to common and subordinated unit holders in the event of a reduction in the MLP's quarterly distribution.

### **I-Shares**

I-Shares represent an ownership interest issued by an MLP affiliate. The MLP affiliate uses the proceeds from the sale of I-Shares to purchase limited partnership interests in the MLP in the form of I-units. Thus, I-Shares represent an indirect limited partner interest in the MLP. I-units have features similar to MLP common units in terms of voting rights, liquidation preference and distribution. I-Shares differ from MLP common units primarily in that instead of receiving cash distributions, holders of I-Shares will receive distributions of additional I-Shares in an amount equal to the cash distributions received by common unit holders. I-Shares are traded on the NYSE.

### **Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may engage in repurchase agreements with broker-dealers, banks and other financial institutions to earn a return on temporarily available cash. A repurchase agreement is a short-term investment in which the purchaser (*i.e.*, the Fund) acquires ownership of a security and the seller agrees to repurchase the obligation at a future time and set price, thereby determining the yield during the holding period. Repurchase agreements involve certain risks in the event of default by the other party. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with broker-dealers, banks and other financial institutions deemed to be creditworthy by the Investment Adviser under guidelines approved by the Board of Trustees. The Fund does not bear the risk of a decline in the value of the underlying security unless the seller defaults under its repurchase obligation. In the event of the bankruptcy or other default of a seller of a repurchase agreement, the Fund could experience both delays in liquidating the underlying securities and losses including: (a) possible decline in the value of the underlying security during the period while the Fund seeks to enforce its rights thereto; (b) possible lack of access to income on the underlying security during this period; and (c) expenses of enforcing its rights.

Repurchase agreements are fully collateralized by the underlying securities and are considered to be loans under the 1940 Act. The Fund pays for such securities only upon physical delivery or evidence of book entry transfer to the account of a custodian or bank acting as agent. The seller under a repurchase agreement will be required to maintain the value of the underlying securities marked-to-market daily at not less than the repurchase price. The underlying securities (normally securities of the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities) may have maturity dates exceeding one year.

### **Reverse Repurchase Agreements**

A reverse repurchase agreement involves the sale of a portfolio-eligible security by the Fund, coupled with its agreement to repurchase the instrument at a specified time and price. Under a reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund continues to receive any principal and interest payments on the underlying security during the term of the agreement. The Fund typically will segregate cash and/or liquid securities equal (on a daily mark-to-market basis) to its

obligations under reverse repurchase agreements. However, reverse repurchase agreements involve the risk that the market value of securities retained by the Fund may decline below the repurchase price of the securities sold by the Fund which it is obligated to repurchase. To the extent that positions in reverse repurchase agreements are not covered through the segregation of cash and/or liquid securities at least equal to the amount of any purchase commitment, such transactions would be subject to the Fund's limitations on borrowings.

S-2

## **Rights and Warrants**

The Fund may invest in rights and warrants. Warrants are in effect longer-term call options. They give the holder the right to purchase a given number of shares of a particular company at specified prices within certain periods of time. Rights are similar to warrants except that they have a substantially shorter term. The purchaser of a warrant expects that the market price of the security will exceed the purchase price of the warrant plus the exercise price of the warrant, thus producing a profit. Of course, since the market price may never exceed the exercise price before the expiration date of the warrant, the purchaser of the warrant risks the loss of the entire purchase price of the warrant. Warrants generally trade in the open market and may be sold rather than exercised.

Warrants are sometimes sold in unit form with other securities of an issuer. Units of warrants and common stock may be employed in financing young, unseasoned companies. The purchase price of a warrant varies with the exercise price of the warrant, the current market value of the underlying security, the life of the warrant and various other investment factors. Rights and warrants may be considered more speculative and less liquid than certain other types of investments in that they do not entitle a holder to dividends or voting rights with respect to the underlying securities nor do they represent any rights in the assets of the issuing company and may lack a secondary market.

## **Depositary Receipts**

The Fund may invest in both sponsored and unsponsored American Depositary Receipts ( ADRs ), European Depositary Receipts ( EDRs ), Global Depositary Receipts ( GDRs ) and other similar global instruments. ADRs typically are issued by an American bank or trust company and evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a non-U.S. corporation. EDRs, which are sometimes referred to as Continental Depositary Receipts, are receipts issued in Europe, typically by non-U.S. banks and trust companies, that evidence ownership of either non-U.S. or domestic underlying securities. GDRs are depositary receipts structured like global debt issues to facilitate trading on an international basis. Unsponsored ADR, EDR and GDR programs are organized independently and without the cooperation of the issuer of the underlying securities. As a result, available information concerning the issuer may not be as current as for sponsored ADRs, EDRs and GDRs, and the prices of unsponsored ADRs, EDRs and GDRs may be more volatile than if such instruments were sponsored by the issuer. Investments in ADRs, EDRs and GDRs present additional investment considerations of non-U.S. securities.

## **When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Transactions**

The Fund may purchase and sell portfolio securities on a when-issued and delayed delivery basis. No income accrues to the Fund on securities in connection with such purchase transactions prior to the date the Fund actually takes delivery of such securities. These transactions are subject to market fluctuation; the value of the securities at delivery may be more or less than their purchase price, and yields generally available on comparable securities when delivery occurs may be higher or lower than yields on the securities obtained pursuant to such transactions. Because the Fund relies on the buyer or seller, as the case may be, to consummate the transaction, failure by the other party to complete the transaction may result in the Fund missing the opportunity of obtaining a price or yield considered to be advantageous. When the Fund is the buyer in such a transaction, however, it will segregate cash and/or liquid securities having an aggregate value at least equal to the amount of such purchase commitments until payment is made. The Fund will make commitments to purchase securities on such basis only with the intention of actually acquiring these securities, but the Fund may sell such securities prior to the settlement date if such sale is considered to be advisable. To the extent the Fund engages in when-issued and delayed delivery transactions, it will do so for the purpose of acquiring securities for the Fund's portfolio consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and policies and not for the purpose of investment leverage.

Since the market value of both the securities or currency subject to the commitment and the securities or currency held as segregated assets may fluctuate, the use of commitments may magnify the impact of interest rate changes on the



Fund's net asset value. A commitment sale is covered if the Fund owns or has the right to acquire the underlying securities or currency subject to the commitment. A commitment sale is for cross-hedging purposes if it is not covered, but is designed to provide a hedge against a decline in value of a security or currency which the Fund owns or has the right to acquire. By entering into a commitment sale transaction, the Fund foregoes or reduces the potential for both gain and loss in the security which is being hedged by the commitment sale.

S-3

### **Short Sales Against the Box**

The Fund may from time to time make short sales of securities it owns or has the right to acquire. A short sale is against the box to the extent that the Fund contemporaneously owns or has the right to obtain at no added cost securities identical to those sold short. In a short sale, the Fund does not immediately deliver the securities sold and does not receive the proceeds from the sale. The Fund is required to recognize gain from the short sale for federal income tax purposes at the time it enters into the short sale, even though it does not receive the sales proceeds until it delivers the securities. The Fund is said to have a short position in the securities sold until it delivers such securities at which time it receives the proceeds of the sale. The Fund may close out a short position by purchasing and delivering an equal amount of the securities sold short, rather than by delivering securities already held by the Fund, because the Fund may want to continue to receive interest and dividend payments on securities in its portfolio.

### **STRATEGIC TRANSACTIONS**

The Fund may, but is not required to, use various investment strategies as described below ( Strategic Transactions ). Strategic Transactions may be used for a variety of purposes including hedging, risk management, portfolio management or to earn income. Any or all of the investment techniques described herein may be used at any time and there is no particular strategy that dictates the use of one technique rather than another, as the use of any Strategic Transaction by the Fund is a function of numerous variables including market conditions. The Fund complies with applicable regulatory requirements when implementing Strategic Transactions, including the segregation of liquid assets when mandated by SEC rules or SEC staff positions. Although the Investment Adviser seeks to use Strategic Transactions to further the Fund's investment objective, no assurance can be given that the use of Strategic Transactions will achieve this result.

### **General Risks of Derivatives**

Strategic Transactions may involve the purchase and sale of derivative instruments. A derivative is a financial instrument the value of which depends upon (or derives from) the value of another asset, security, interest rate, or index. Derivatives may relate to a wide variety of underlying instruments, including equity and debt securities, indexes, interest rates, currencies and other assets. Certain derivative instruments which the Fund may use and the risks of those instruments are described in further detail below. The Fund may in the future also utilize derivatives techniques, instruments and strategies that may be newly developed or permitted as a result of regulatory changes, consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies. Such newly developed techniques, instruments and strategies may involve risks different than or in addition to those described herein. No assurance can be given that any derivatives strategy employed by the Fund will be successful.

The risks associated with the use of derivatives are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the instruments underlying such derivatives. Derivatives are highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from other portfolio investments. The use of derivative instruments requires an understanding not only of the underlying instrument but also of the derivative itself. Certain risk factors generally applicable to derivative transactions are described below.

Derivatives are subject to the risk that the market value of the derivative itself or the market value of underlying instruments will change in a way adverse to the Fund's interests. The Fund bears the risk that the Investment Adviser may incorrectly forecast future market trends and other financial or economic factors or the value of the underlying security, index, interest rate or currency when establishing a derivatives position for the Fund.

Derivatives may be subject to pricing or basis risk, which exists when a derivative becomes extraordinarily expensive (or inexpensive) relative to historical prices or corresponding instruments. Under such market conditions, it may not be economically feasible to initiate a transaction or liquidate a position at an advantageous time or price.

S-4

Many derivatives are complex and often valued subjectively. Improper valuations can result in increased payment requirements to counterparties or a loss of value to the Fund.

Using derivatives as a hedge against a portfolio investment presents the risk that the derivative will have imperfect correlation with the portfolio investment, which could result in the Fund incurring substantial losses. This correlation risk may be greater in the case of derivatives based on an index or other basket of securities, as the portfolio securities being hedged may not duplicate the components of the underlying index or the basket may not be of exactly the same type of obligation as those underlying the derivative. The use of derivatives for cross hedging purposes (using a derivative based on one instrument as a hedge on a different instrument) may also involve greater correlation risks.

While using derivatives for hedging purposes can reduce the Fund's risk of loss, it may also limit the Fund's opportunity for gains or result in losses by offsetting or limiting the Fund's ability to participate in favorable price movements in portfolio investments.

Derivatives transactions for non-hedging purposes involve greater risks and may result in losses which would not be offset by increases in the value of portfolio securities or declines in the cost of securities to be acquired. In the event that the Fund enters into a derivatives transaction as an alternative to purchasing or selling the underlying instrument or in order to obtain desired exposure to an index or market, the Fund will be exposed to the same risks as are incurred in purchasing or selling the underlying instruments directly.

The use of certain derivatives transactions involves the risk of loss resulting from the insolvency or bankruptcy of the other party to the contract (the counterparty) or the failure by the counterparty to make required payments or otherwise comply with the terms of the contract. In the event of default by a counterparty, the Fund may have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction.

Liquidity risk exists when a particular derivative is difficult to purchase or sell. If a derivative transaction is particularly large or if the relevant market is illiquid, the Fund may be unable to initiate a transaction or liquidate a position at an advantageous time or price.

Certain derivatives transactions, including over-the-counter (OTC) options, swaps, forward contracts, certain options on foreign currencies and other OTC derivatives, are not entered into or traded on exchanges or in markets regulated by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) or the SEC. Instead, such OTC derivatives are entered into directly by the counterparties and may be traded only through financial institutions acting as market makers. OTC derivatives transactions can only be entered into with a willing counterparty. Where no such counterparty is available, the Fund will be unable to enter into a desired transaction. There also may be greater risk that no liquid secondary market in the trading of OTC derivatives will exist, in which case the Fund may be required to hold such instruments until exercise, expiration or maturity. Many of the protections afforded to exchange participants will not be available to participants in OTC derivatives transactions. OTC derivatives transactions are not subject to the guarantee of an exchange or clearinghouse and as a result the Fund would bear greater risk of default by the counterparties to such transactions.

The Fund may be required to make physical delivery of portfolio securities underlying a derivative in order to close out a derivatives position or to sell portfolio securities at a time or price at which it may be disadvantageous to do so in order to obtain cash to close out or to maintain a derivatives position.

As a result of the structure of certain derivatives, adverse changes in the value of the underlying instrument can result in a losses substantially greater than the amount invested in the derivative itself. Certain derivatives have the potential for unlimited loss, regardless of the size of the initial investment.

Certain derivatives, including certain OTC options and swap agreements, may be considered illiquid.

Certain derivative transactions may give rise to a form of leverage. Leverage associated with derivative transactions may cause the Fund to sell portfolio securities when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet segregation requirements, pursuant to applicable SEC rules and regulations, or may cause the Fund to be more volatile than if the Fund had not been leveraged.

Derivatives transactions conducted outside the United States may not be conducted in the same manner as those entered into on U.S. exchanges, and may be subject to different margin, exercise, settlement or expiration procedures. Many of the risks of OTC derivatives transactions are also applicable to derivatives transactions conducted outside the United States. Derivatives transactions conducted outside the United States are subject to the risk of governmental action affecting the trading in, or the prices of, foreign securities, currencies and other instruments. The value of such positions could be adversely affected by foreign political and economic factors; lesser availability of data on which to make trading decisions; delays the Fund's ability to act upon economic events occurring in foreign markets; and less liquidity than U.S. markets.

Currency derivatives are subject to additional risks. Currency derivatives transactions may be negatively affected by government exchange controls, blockages, and manipulations. Currency exchange rates may be influenced by factors extrinsic to a country's economy. There is no systematic reporting of last sale information with respect to foreign currencies. As a result, the available information on which trading in currency derivatives will be based may not be as complete as comparable data for other transactions. Events could occur in the foreign currency market which will not be reflected in currency derivatives until the following day, making it more difficult for the Fund to respond to such events in a timely manner.

Legislation regarding regulation of the financial sector, including the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act), which was signed into law in July 2010, will change the way in which certain derivative instruments are regulated and/or traded. Such regulation may impact the availability, liquidity and cost of derivative instruments. While many provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act must be implemented through future rulemaking, and any regulatory or legislative activity may not necessarily have a direct, immediate effect upon the Fund, it is possible that, upon implementation of these measures or any future measures, they could potentially limit or completely restrict the ability of the Fund to use certain derivative instruments as a part of its investment strategy, increase the costs of using these instruments or make them less effective. Limits or restrictions applicable to the counterparties with which the Fund engages in derivatives transactions could also prevent the Fund from using these instruments or affect the pricing or other factors relating to these instruments, or may change the availability of certain investments. The Financial CHOICE Act, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in June 2017, would, if enacted, roll back parts of the Dodd-Frank Act. There can be no assurance that such legislation or regulation will not have a material adverse effect on the Fund or will not impair the ability of the Fund to utilize certain derivatives transactions or achieve its investment objective.

In connection with an ongoing review by the SEC and its staff of the regulation of investment companies' use of derivatives, in August 2011 the SEC issued a concept release to seek public comment on a wide range of issues raised by the use of derivatives by investment companies. The SEC noted that it intends to consider the comments to help determine whether regulatory initiatives or guidance are needed to improve the current regulatory regime for investment companies and, if so, the nature of any such initiatives or guidance. While the nature of any such regulations is uncertain at this time, it is possible that such regulations could limit the implementation of the Fund's use of derivatives, which could have an adverse impact on the Fund. The Investment Adviser cannot predict the effects of these regulations on the Fund's portfolio. The Investment Adviser intends to monitor developments and seeks to manage the Fund's portfolio in a manner consistent with achieving the Fund's investment objective, but there can be no assurance that they will be successful in doing so.

Recently, the CFTC adopted amendments to its rules relating to the ability of an investment adviser to a registered investment company to claim an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" under the Commodity Exchange Act. If the Investment Adviser was unable to claim the exclusion with respect to the Fund, the Investment Adviser would become subject to registration and regulation as a commodity pool operator, which would subject the Investment Adviser and the Fund to additional registration and regulatory requirements and increased operating expenses. The Fund intends to limit its investments such that the Investment Adviser may continue to claim the exclusion with respect to the Fund, which may limit the Fund's ability to use certain Strategic Transactions, including futures, options on futures and swaps.

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## Options

An option is a contract that gives the holder of the option the right, but not the obligation, to buy from (in the case of a call option) or sell to (in the case of a put option) the seller of the option (the option writer) the underlying security at a specified fixed price (the exercise price) prior to a specified date (the expiration date). The buyer of the option pays to the option writer the option premium, which represents the purchase price of the option.

Exchange-traded options are issued by a regulated intermediary such as the Options Clearing Corporation (OCC), which guarantees the performance of the obligations of the parties to such option. OTC options are purchased from or sold to counterparties through direct bilateral agreement between the counterparties. Certain options, such as options on individual securities, are settled through physical delivery of the underlying security, whereas other options, such as index options, are settled in cash in an amount based on the value of the underlying instrument multiplied by a specified multiplier.

*Writing Options.* The Fund may write call and put options. As the writer of a call option, the Fund receives the premium from the purchaser of the option and has the obligation, upon exercise of the option, to deliver the underlying security upon payment of the exercise price. If the option expires without being exercised the Fund is not required to deliver the underlying security but retains the premium received.

The Fund may write call options that are covered. A call option on a security is covered if (a) the Fund owns the security underlying the call or has an absolute and immediate right to acquire that security without additional cash consideration (or, if additional cash consideration is required, such amount is maintained by the Fund in segregated liquid assets) upon conversion or exchange of other securities held by the Fund; or (b) the Fund has purchased a call on the underlying security, the exercise price of which is (i) equal to or less than the exercise price of the call written, or (ii) greater than the exercise price of the call written, provided the difference is maintained by the Fund in segregated liquid assets.

Selling call options involves the risk that the Fund may be required to sell the underlying security at a disadvantageous price, below the market price of such security, at the time the option is exercised. As the writer of a covered call option, the Fund gives up the opportunity during the option's life to profit from increases in the market value of the security covering the call option above the sum of the premium and the strike price of the call, but the Fund retains the risk of loss should the price of the underlying security decline.

The Fund may also write uncovered call options (*i.e.*, where the Fund does not own the underlying security or index). Similar to a naked short sale, writing an uncovered call creates the risk of an unlimited loss, in that the price of the underlying security could theoretically increase without limit, thus increasing the cost of buying those securities to cover the call option if it is exercised before it expires. There can be no assurance that the securities necessary to cover the call option will be available for purchase. Purchasing securities to cover an uncovered call option can itself cause the price of the securities to rise, further exacerbating the loss.

The Fund may write put options. As the writer of a put option, the Fund receives the premium from the purchaser of the option and has the obligation, upon exercise of the option, to pay the exercise price and receive delivery of the underlying security. If the option expires without being exercised, the Fund is not required to receive the underlying security in exchange for the exercise price but retains the option premium.

The Fund may write put options that are covered. A put option on a security is covered if (a) the Fund segregates liquid assets equal to the exercise price; or (b) the Fund has purchased a put on the same security as the put written, the exercise price of which is (i) equal to or greater than the exercise price of the put written, or (ii) less than the exercise price of the put written, provided the difference is maintained by the Fund in segregated liquid assets.



Selling put options involves the risk that the Fund may be required to buy the underlying security at a disadvantageous price, above the market price of such security, at the time the option is exercised. While the Fund's potential gain in writing a covered put option is limited to the premium received plus the interest earned on the liquid assets covering the put option, the Fund's risk of loss is equal to the entire value of the underlying security, offset only by the amount of the premium received.

S-7

The Fund may also write uncovered put options. The seller of an uncovered put option theoretically could lose an amount equal to the entire aggregate exercise price of the option if the underlying security were to become valueless.

The Fund may close out an options position which it has written through a closing purchase transaction. The Fund would execute a closing purchase transaction with respect to a call option written by purchasing a call option on the same underlying security and having the same exercise price and expiration date as the call option written by the Fund. The Fund would execute a closing purchase transaction with respect to a put option written by purchasing a put option on the same underlying security and having the same exercise price and expiration date as the put option written by the Fund. A closing purchase transaction may or may not result in a profit to the Fund. The Fund could close out its position as an option writer only if a liquid secondary market exists for options of that series and there is no assurance that such a market will exist with respect to any particular option.

The writer of an option generally has no control over the time when the option is exercised and the option writer is required to deliver or acquire the underlying security. Once an option writer has received an exercise notice, it cannot effect a closing purchase transaction in order to terminate its obligation under the option. Thus, the use of options may require the Fund to buy or sell portfolio securities at inopportune times or for prices other than the current market values of such securities, may limit the amount of appreciation the Fund can realize on an investment, or may cause the Fund to hold a security that it might otherwise sell.

*Purchasing Options.* The Fund may purchase call and put options. As the buyer of a call option, the Fund pays the premium to the option writer and has the right to purchase the underlying security from the option writer at the exercise price. If the market price of the underlying security rises above the exercise price, the Fund could exercise the option and acquire the underlying security at a below market price, which could result in a gain to the Fund, minus the premium paid. As the buyer of a put option, the Fund pays the premium to the option writer and has the right to sell the underlying security to the option writer at the exercise price. If the market price of the underlying security declines below the exercise price, the Fund could exercise the option and sell the underlying security at an above market price, which could result in a gain to the Fund, minus the premium paid. The Fund may buy call and put options whether or not it holds the underlying securities.

As a buyer of a call or put option, the Fund may sell put or call options that it has purchased at any time prior to such option's expiration date through a closing sale transaction. The principal factors affecting the market value of a put or a call option include supply and demand, interest rates, the current market price of the underlying security in relation to the exercise price of the option, the volatility of the underlying security, the underlying security's dividend policy, and the time remaining until the expiration date. A closing sale transaction may or may not result in a profit to the Fund. The Fund's ability to initiate a closing sale transaction is dependent upon the liquidity of the options market and there is no assurance that such a market will exist with respect to any particular option. If the Fund does not exercise or sell an option prior to its expiration date, the option expires and becomes worthless.

*OTC Options.* Unlike exchange-traded options, which are standardized with respect to the underlying instrument, expiration date, contract size and strike price, the terms of OTC options generally are established through negotiation between the parties to the options contract. This type of arrangement allows the purchaser and writer greater flexibility to tailor the option to their needs. OTC options are available for a greater variety of securities or baskets of securities, and in a wider range of expiration dates and exercise prices than exchange-traded options. However, unlike exchange-traded options, which are issued and guaranteed by a regulated intermediary, such as the OCC, OTC options are entered into directly with the counterparty. Unless the counterparties provide for it, there is no central clearing or guaranty function for an OTC option. Therefore, OTC options are subject to the risk of default or non-performance by the counterparty. Accordingly, the Investment Adviser must assess the creditworthiness of the counterparty to determine the likelihood that the terms of the option will be satisfied. There can be no assurance that a continuous liquid secondary market will exist for any particular OTC option at any specific time. As a result, the Fund may be unable to enter into closing sale transactions with respect to OTC options.

*Index Options.* Call and put options on indices operate similarly to options on securities. Rather than the right to buy or sell a single security at a specified price, options on an index give the holder the right to receive, upon exercise of the option, an amount of cash determined by reference to the value of the underlying index. The underlying index

may be a broad-based index or a narrower market index. Unlike options on securities, all settlements are in cash. The settlement amount, which the writer of an index option must pay to the holder of the option upon exercise, is generally equal to the difference between the fixed exercise price of the option and the value of the underlying index, multiplied by a specified multiplier. The multiplier determines the size of the investment position the option represents. Gain or loss to the Fund on index options transactions will depend on price movements in the underlying securities market generally or in a particular segment of the market rather than price movements of individual securities. As with other options, the Fund may close out its position in index options through closing purchase transactions and closing sale transactions provided that a liquid secondary market exists for such options.

Index options written by the Fund may be covered in a manner similar to the covering of other types of options, by holding an offsetting financial position and/or segregating liquid assets. The Fund may cover call options written on an index by owning securities whose price changes, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, are expected to correlate to those of the underlying index.

*Foreign Currency Options.* Options on foreign currencies operate similarly to options on securities. Rather than the right to buy or sell a single security at a specified price, options on foreign currencies give the holder the right to buy or sell foreign currency for a fixed amount in U.S. dollars. Options on foreign currencies are traded primarily in the OTC market, but may also be traded on United States and foreign exchanges. The value of a foreign currency option is dependent upon the value of the underlying foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar. The price of the option may vary with changes in the value of either or both currencies and has no relationship to the investment merits of a foreign security. Options on foreign currencies are affected by all of those factors which influence foreign exchange rates and foreign investment generally. As with other options, the Fund may close out its position in foreign currency options through closing purchase transactions and closing sale transactions provided that a liquid secondary market exists for such options. Foreign currency options written by the Fund may be covered in a manner similar to the covering of other types of options, by holding an offsetting financial position and/or segregating liquid assets.

*Additional Risks of Options Transactions.* The risks associated with options transactions are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying instruments. Options are highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from those associated with other portfolio investments. The use of options requires an understanding not only of the underlying instrument but also of the option itself. Options may be subject to the risk factors generally applicable to derivatives transactions described herein, and may also be subject to certain additional risk factors, including:

The exercise of options written or purchased by the Fund could cause the Fund to sell portfolio securities, thus increasing the Fund's portfolio turnover.

The Fund pays brokerage commissions each time it writes or purchases an option or buys or sells an underlying security in connection with the exercise of an option. Such brokerage commissions could be higher relative to the commissions for direct purchases or sales of the underlying securities.

The Fund's options transactions may be limited by limitations on options positions established by the exchanges on which such options are traded.

The hours of trading for exchange listed options may not coincide with the hours during which the underlying securities are traded. To the extent that the options markets close before the markets for the

underlying securities, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying securities that cannot be reflected in the options markets.

Index options based upon a narrower index of securities may present greater risks than options based on broad market indexes, as narrower indexes are more susceptible to rapid and extreme fluctuations as a result of changes in the values of a small number of securities.

The Fund is subject to the risk of market movements between the time that an option is exercised and the time of performance thereunder, which could increase the extent of any losses suffered by the Fund in connection with options transactions.

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## Futures Contracts

A futures contract is a standardized agreement between two parties to buy or sell a specific quantity of an underlying instrument at a specific price at a specific future time (the settlement date). Futures contracts may be based on a specified equity security (securities futures), a specified debt security or reference rate (interest rate futures), the value of a specified securities index (index futures) or the value of a foreign currency (forward contracts and currency futures). The value of a futures contract tends to increase and decrease in tandem with the value of the underlying instrument. The buyer of a futures contract agrees to purchase the underlying instrument on the settlement date and is said to be long the contract. The seller of a futures contract agrees to sell the underlying instrument on the settlement date and is said to be short the contract. Futures contracts differ from options in that they are bilateral agreements, with both the purchaser and the seller equally obligated to complete the transaction. Futures contracts call for settlement only on the expiration date and cannot be exercised at any other time during their term.

Depending on the terms of the particular contract, futures contracts are settled through either physical delivery of the underlying instrument on the settlement date (such as in the case of securities futures and interest rate futures based on a specified debt security) or by payment of a cash settlement amount on the settlement date (such as in the case of futures contracts relating to interest rates, foreign currencies and broad-based securities indexes). In the case of cash settled futures contracts, the settlement amount is equal to the difference between the reference instrument's price on the last trading day of the contract and the reference instrument's price at the time the contract was entered into. Most futures contracts, particularly futures contracts requiring physical delivery, are not held until the settlement date, but instead are offset before the settlement date through the establishment of an opposite and equal futures position (buying a contract that had been sold, or selling a contract that had been purchased). All futures transactions (except currency forward contracts) are effected through a clearinghouse associated with the exchange on which the futures are traded.

The buyer and seller of a futures contract are not required to deliver or pay for the underlying commodity unless the contract is held until the settlement date. However, both the buyer and seller are required to deposit initial margin with a futures commodities merchant when the futures contract is entered into. Initial margin deposits are typically calculated as a percentage of the contract's market value. If the value of either party's position declines, the party will be required to make additional variation margin payments to settle the change in value on a daily basis. The process is known as marking-to-market. Upon the closing of a futures position through an the establishment of an offsetting position, a final determination of variation margin will be made and additional cash will be paid by or released to the Fund.

In addition, the Fund may be required to maintain segregated liquid assets in order to cover futures transactions. The Fund will segregate liquid assets in an amount equal to the difference between the market value of a futures contract entered into by the Fund and the aggregate value of the initial and variation margin payments made by the Fund with respect to such contract.

*Currency Forward Contracts and Currency Futures.* A foreign currency forward contract is a negotiated agreement between two parties to exchange specified amounts of two or more currencies at a specified future time at a specified rate. The rate specified by the forward contract can be higher or lower than the spot rate between the currencies that are the subject of the contract. Settlement of a foreign currency forward contract for the purchase of most currencies typically must occur at a bank based in the issuing nation. Currency futures are similar to currency forward contracts, except that they are traded on an exchange and standardized as to contract size and delivery date. Most currency futures call for payment or delivery in U.S. dollars. Unanticipated changes in currency prices may result in losses to the Fund and poorer overall performance for the Fund than if it had not entered into forward contracts.

*Options on Futures Contracts.* Options on futures contracts are similar to options on securities except that options on futures contracts give the purchasers the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures

contract (a long position in the case of a call option and a short position in the case of a put option) at a specified exercise price at any time prior to the expiration of the option. Upon exercise of the option, the parties will be subject to all of the risks associated with futures transactions and subject to margin requirements. As the writer of options on futures contracts, the Fund would also be subject to initial and variation margin requirements on the option position.

Options on futures contracts written by the Fund may be covered in a manner similar to the covering of other types of options, by holding an offsetting financial position and/or segregating liquid assets. The Fund may cover an option on a futures contract by purchasing or selling the underlying futures contract. In such instances the exercise of the option will serve to close out the Fund's futures position.

*Additional Risks of Futures Transactions.* The risks associated with futures contract transactions are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying instruments. Futures are highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from those associated with other portfolio investments. The use of futures requires an understanding not only of the underlying instrument but also of the futures contract itself. Futures may be subject to the risk factors generally applicable to derivatives transactions described herein, and may also be subject to certain additional risk factors, including:

The risk of loss in buying and selling futures contracts can be substantial. Small price movements in the commodity underlying a futures position may result in immediate and substantial loss (or gain) to the Fund.

Buying and selling futures contracts may result in losses in excess of the amount invested in the position in the form of initial margin. In the event of adverse price movements in the underlying commodity, security, index, currency or instrument, the Fund would be required to make daily cash payments to maintain its required margin. The Fund may be required to sell portfolio securities in order to meet daily margin requirements at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. The Fund could lose margin payments deposited with a futures commodities merchant if the futures commodities merchant breaches its agreement with the Fund, becomes insolvent or declares bankruptcy.

Most exchanges limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during any single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular futures contract, no trades may be made on that day at prices beyond that limit. If futures contract prices were to move to the daily limit for several trading days with little or no trading, the Fund could be prevented from prompt liquidation of a futures position and subject to substantial losses. The daily limit governs only price movements during a single trading day and therefore does not limit the Fund's potential losses.

Index futures based upon a narrower index of securities may present greater risks than futures based on broad market indexes, as narrower indexes are more susceptible to rapid and extreme fluctuations as a result of changes in value of a small number of securities.

### **Swap Contracts and Related Derivative Instruments**

A swap contract is an agreement between two parties pursuant to which the parties exchange payments at specified dates on the basis of a specified notional amount, with the payments calculated by reference to specified securities, indexes, reference rates, currencies or other instruments. Most swap agreements provide that when the period payment dates for both parties are the same, the payments are made on a net basis (*i.e.*, the two payment streams are netted out, with only the net amount paid by one party to the other). The Fund's obligations or rights under a swap contract entered into on a net basis will generally be equal only to the net amount to be paid or received under the agreement, based on the relative values of the positions held by each counterparty. Swap agreements are not entered into or traded on exchanges and there is no central clearing or guaranty function for swaps. Therefore, swaps are subject to the risk of default or non-performance by the counterparty. Accordingly, the Investment Adviser must assess the creditworthiness of the counterparty to determine the likelihood that the terms of the swap will be satisfied.



Swap agreements allow for a wide variety of transactions. For example, fixed rate payments may be exchanged for floating rate payments, U.S. dollar denominated payments may be exchanged for payments denominated in foreign currencies, and payments tied to the price of one security, index, reference rate, currency or other instrument may be exchanged for payments tied to the price of a different security, index, reference rate, currency or other instrument. Swap contracts are typically individually negotiated and structured to provide exposure to a variety of particular types of investments or market factors. Swap contracts can take many different forms and are known by a variety of names. To the extent consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and policies, the Fund is not limited to any particular form or variety of swap contract. The Fund may utilize swaps to increase or decrease their exposure to the underlying instrument, reference rate, foreign currency, market index or other asset. The Fund may also enter into related derivative instruments including caps, floors and collars.

The Fund may be required to cover swap transactions. Obligations under swap agreements entered into on a net basis are generally accrued daily and any accrued but unpaid amounts owed by the Fund to the swap counterparty will be covered by segregating liquid assets. If the Fund enters into a swap agreement on other than a net basis, the Fund will segregate liquid assets with a value equal to the full amount of the Fund's accrued obligations under the agreement.

*Interest Rate Swaps, Caps, Floors and Collars.* Interest rate swaps consist of an agreement between two parties to exchange their respective commitments to pay or receive interest (e.g., an exchange of floating rate payments for fixed rate payments). Interest rate swaps are generally entered into on a net basis.

The Fund may also buy or sell interest rate caps, floors and collars. The purchase of an interest rate cap entitles the purchaser, to the extent that a specified index exceeds a predetermined interest rate, to receive payments of interest on a specified notional amount from the party selling the interest rate cap. The purchase of an interest rate floor entitles the purchaser, to the extent that a specified index falls below a predetermined interest rate, to receive payments of interest on a specified notional amount from the party selling the interest rate floor. A collar is a combination of a cap and a floor that preserves a certain return within a predetermined range of interest rate of values. Caps, floors and collars may be less liquid than other types of swaps. If the Fund sells caps, floors and collars, it will segregate liquid assets with a value equal to the full amount, accrued daily, of the Fund's net obligations with respect to the caps, floors or collars.

*Index Swaps.* An index swap consists of an agreement between two parties in which a party exchanges a cash flow based on a notional amount of a reference index for a cash flow based on a different index or on another specified instrument or reference rate. Index swaps are generally entered into on a net basis.

*Currency Swaps.* A currency swap consists of an agreement between two parties to exchange cash flows on a notional amount of two or more currencies based on the relative value differential among them, such as exchanging a right to receive a payment in foreign currency for the right to receive U.S. dollars. Currency swap agreements may be entered into on a net basis or may involve the delivery of the entire principal value of one designated currency in exchange for the entire principal value of another designated currency. In such cases, the entire principal value of a currency swap is subject to the risk that the counterparty will default on its contractual delivery obligations.

*Credit Default Swaps.* The Fund may enter into credit default swap contracts and options thereon. A credit default swap consists of an agreement between two parties in which the buyer agrees to pay to the seller a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract and the seller agrees to pay the buyer the par value (or other agreed-upon value) of a referenced debt obligation upon the occurrence of a credit event with respect to the issuer of the referenced debt obligation. Generally, a credit event means bankruptcy, failure to pay, obligation acceleration or modified restructuring. The Fund may be either the buyer or seller in a credit default swap. As the buyer in a credit default swap, the Fund would pay to the counterparty the periodic stream of payments. If no default occurs, the Fund would receive no benefit from the contract. As the seller in a credit default swap, the Fund would receive the stream of payments but would be subject to exposure on the notional amount of the swap, which it would be required to pay in the event of default. The Fund generally segregates liquid assets to cover any potential obligation under a credit default swap sold by it. The use of credit default swaps could result in losses to the Fund if the Investment Adviser fails to correctly evaluate the creditworthiness of the issuer of the referenced debt obligation.

*Inflation Swaps.* Inflation swap agreements are contracts in which one party agrees to pay the cumulative percentage increase in a price index, such as the Consumer Price Index, over the term of the swap (with some lag on the referenced inflation index), and the other party pays a compounded fixed rate. Inflation swap agreements may be used to protect the net asset value of the Fund against an unexpected change in the rate of inflation measured by an inflation index. The value of inflation swap agreements is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. If nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates may rise, leading to a decrease in value of an inflation

swap agreement.

S-12

*Swaptions.* An option on a swap agreement, also called a swaption, is an option that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to enter into a swap on a future date in exchange for paying a market based premium. A receiver swaption gives the owner the right to receive the total return of a specified asset, reference rate, or index. A payer swaption gives the owner the right to pay the total return of a specified asset, reference rate, or index. Swaptions also include options that allow an existing swap to be terminated or extended by one of the counterparties.

*General Risks of Swaps.* The risks associated with swap transactions are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying instruments. Swaps are highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from those associated with other portfolio investments. The use of swaps requires an understanding not only of the underlying instrument but also of the swap contract itself. Swap transactions may be subject to the risk factors generally applicable to derivatives transactions described above, and may also be subject to certain additional risk factors, including:

Swap agreements are not traded on exchanges and not subject to government regulation like exchange-traded derivatives. As a result, parties to a swap agreement are not protected by such government regulations as participants in transactions in derivatives traded on organized exchanges.

In addition to the risk of default by the counterparty, if the creditworthiness of a counterparty to a swap agreement declines, the value of the swap agreement would be likely to decline, potentially resulting in losses.

The swaps market is a relatively new market and is largely unregulated. It is possible that further developments in the swaps market, including potential governmental regulation, could adversely affect the Fund's ability to utilize swaps, terminate existing swap agreements or realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

### **Structured Products**

The Fund also may invest a portion of its assets in structured notes and other types of structured investments (referred to collectively as structured products). A structured note is a derivative security for which the amount of principal repayment and/or interest payments is based on the movement of one or more factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, currency exchange rates, interest rates (such as the prime lending rate or LIBOR), referenced bonds and stock indices. The cash flow or rate of return on a structured note may be determined by applying a multiplier to the rate of total return on the referenced factor. Application of a multiplier is comparable to the use of financial leverage, a speculative technique. Leverage magnifies the potential for gain and the risk of loss. As a result, a relatively small decline in the value of the referenced factor could result in a relatively large loss in the value of a structured note.

Investments in structured notes involve risks including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. Where the Fund's investments in structured notes are based upon the movement of one or more factors, including currency exchange rates, interest rates, referenced bonds and stock indices, depending on the factor used and the use of multipliers or deflators, changes in interest rates and movement of the factor may cause significant price fluctuations. Additionally, changes in the reference factor may cause the interest rate on the structured note to be reduced to zero and any further changes in the reference factor may then reduce the principal amount payable on maturity. Structured notes may be less liquid than other types of securities and more volatile than the reference factor underlying the note.

Generally, structured investments are interests in entities organized and operated for the purpose of restructuring the investment characteristics of underlying investment interests or securities. These investment entities may be structured

as trusts or other types of pooled investment vehicles. This type of restructuring generally involves the deposit with or purchase by an entity of the underlying investments and the issuance by that entity of one or more classes of securities backed by, or representing interests in, the underlying investments. The cash flow or rate of return on the underlying investments may be apportioned among the newly issued securities to create different investment characteristics, such as varying maturities, credit quality, payment priorities and interest rate provisions. The Fund may have the right to receive payments to which it is entitled only from the structured investment, and generally does not have direct rights against the issuer. Holders of structured investments bear risks of the underlying investment and are subject to counterparty risk. While certain structured investment vehicles enable the

investor to acquire interests in a pool of securities without the brokerage and other expenses associated with directly holding the same securities, investors in structured investment vehicles generally pay their share of the investment vehicle's administrative and other expenses.

Certain structured products may be thinly traded or have a limited trading market and may have the effect of increasing the Fund's illiquidity to the extent that the Fund, at a particular point in time, may be unable to find qualified buyers for these securities.

### **Combined Transactions**

Combined transactions involve entering into multiple derivatives transactions (such as multiple options transactions, including purchasing and writing options in combination with each other; multiple futures transactions; and combinations of options, futures, forward and swap transactions) instead of a single derivatives transaction in order to customize the risk and return characteristics of the overall position. Combined transactions typically contain elements of risk that are present in each of the component transactions. The Fund may enter into a combined transaction instead of a single derivatives transaction when, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, it is in the best interest of the Fund to do so. Because combined transactions involve multiple transactions, they may result in higher transaction costs and may be more difficult to close out.

### **Regulatory Matters**

As described herein, the Fund may be required to cover its potential economic exposure to certain derivatives transactions by holding an offsetting financial position and/or segregating or earmarking liquid assets equal in value to the Fund's potential economic exposure under the transaction. The Fund will cover such transactions as described herein or in such other manner as may be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Assets used to cover derivatives transactions cannot be sold while the derivatives position is open, unless they are replaced by other appropriate assets. Segregated or earmarked liquid assets and assets held in margin accounts are not otherwise available to the Fund for investment purposes. If a large portion of the Fund's assets are used to cover derivatives transactions or are otherwise segregated, it could affect portfolio management or other current obligations. With respect to derivatives which are cash-settled (*i.e.*, have no physical delivery requirement), the Fund is permitted to segregate or earmark cash and/or liquid securities in an amount equal to the Fund's daily marked-to-market net obligations (*i.e.*, the daily net liability) under the derivative, if any, rather than the derivative's full notional value or the market value of the instrument underlying the derivative, as applicable. By segregating or earmarking cash and/or liquid securities equal to only its net obligations under cash-settled derivatives, the Fund will have the ability to employ a form of leverage through the use of certain derivative transactions to a greater extent than if the Fund were required to segregate assets equal to the full notional amount of the derivative or the market value of the underlying instrument, as applicable.

Each of the exchanges and other trading facilities on which options are traded has established limitations on the maximum number of put or call options on a given underlying security that may be written by a single investor or group of investors acting in concert, regardless of whether the options are written on different exchanges or through one or more brokers. These position limits may restrict the number of listed options which the Fund may write. Option positions of all investment companies advised by the Investment Adviser are combined for purposes of these limits. An exchange may order the liquidation of positions found to be in excess of these limits and may impose certain other sanctions or restrictions.

### **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The Fund operates under the following restrictions that constitute fundamental policies that, except as otherwise noted, cannot be changed without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities

of the Fund voting together as a single class, which is defined by the 1940 Act as the lesser of (i) 67% or more of the Fund's voting securities present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding voting securities are present or represented by proxy; or (ii) more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding voting securities. Except as otherwise noted, all percentage limitations set forth below apply immediately after a purchase

or initial investment and any subsequent change in any applicable percentage resulting from market fluctuations does not require any action. These restrictions provide that the Fund shall not:

1. Purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, provided that this restriction does not prevent the Fund from investing in issuers which invest, deal, or otherwise engage in transactions in real estate or interests in real estate, or investing in securities that are secured by real estate or interests in real estate.
2. Concentrate the Fund's investments in a particular industry, as that term is used in the 1940 Act, and as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time; provided, however, that the Fund will, in normal circumstances, invest more than 25% of its assets in the natural resources industry, including MLPs operating in such industry, and may invest to an unlimited degree in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.
3. Borrow money or issue senior securities, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, or any rules, exemptions or interpretations under the 1940 Act that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC or its staff.
4. Make loans to other persons except (a) through the lending of the Fund's portfolio securities, (b) through the purchase of debt obligations, loan participations and/or engaging in direct corporate loans in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies, and (c) to the extent the entry into a repurchase agreement is deemed to be a loan. The Fund may also make loans to other investment companies to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, or any rules, exemptions or interpretations under the 1940 Act that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC or its staff.
5. Act as an underwriter except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities, the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter under applicable securities laws.
6. Purchase or sell physical commodities and commodity contracts, except that it may: (i) enter into futures contracts and options on commodities in accordance with applicable law; and (ii) purchase or sell physical commodities that it acquires as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments. The Fund will not consider stock index, currency and other financial futures contracts, swaps, or hybrid instruments to be commodities for purposes of this investment policy.

The rest of the Fund's investment policies, including the Fund's investment objective and percentage parameters described in the Fund's Prospectus, are not fundamental policies of the Fund and may be changed without shareholder approval.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

### Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Fund provides broad oversight over the operations and affairs of the Fund and protects the interests of shareholders. The Board of Trustees of the Fund has overall responsibility for monitoring the operations of the Fund and for supervising the services provided by the Investment Adviser and other organizations. The officers of the Fund are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Fund.

The names and ages of the Trustees and officers of the Fund, the year each was first elected or appointed to office, their principal business occupations during the last five years, the number of funds overseen by each Trustee and other directorships or trusteeships during the last five years are shown below. The business address of the Fund, its Trustees and officers is 8117 Preston Road, Suite 440, Dallas, Texas 75225.



S-15

Name and Year of Birth <i>Independent Trustees</i>	Position(s) Held With the Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(1)</sup>	Principal Occupation During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(2)</sup> Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years
Brian R. Bruce (1955)	Lead Independent Trustee	Trustee since 2007	Chief Executive Officer, Hillcrest Asset Management, LLC (2008 to present) (registered investment adviser). Previously, Director of Southern Methodist University's ENCAP Investment & LCM Group Alternative Asset Management Center (2006 to 2011); Chief Investment Officer of Panagora Asset Management, Inc. (1999 to 2007) (investment management company).	4	CM Advisers Family of Funds (2 series) and Dreman Contrarian Funds (2 series) (2007-present).
Brenda A. Cline (1960)	Trustee and Chair of Audit Committee	Trustee since 2017	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer of Kimbell Art Foundation (1993-present).	4	American Beacon Funds (25 series) (2004-present); Tyler Technologies, Inc. (2014-present) (software); Range Resources Corporation (2015-present) (natural gas and oil exploration and production).
Ronald P. Trout (1939)	Trustee and Chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee	Trustee since 2007	Retired. Previously, a founding partner and Senior Vice President of Hourglass Capital Management, Inc. (1989 to 2002) (investment management company).	4	Dorchester Minerals LP (2008-present) (acquisition, ownership and administration of natural gas and crude oil royalty,

net profits and leasehold interests in the U.S.).

***Interested Trustee***

Jerry V. Swank* (1951)	Trustee, Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer and President	Trustee since 2007	Managing Partner of the Investment Adviser and founder of Swank Capital, LLC of (2000 to present).	4	Previously, E-T Energy Ltd. (2008 to 2014) (developing, operating, producing and selling recoverable bitumen); Central Energy Partners, LP (2010 to 2014) (storage and transportation of refined petroleum products and petrochemicals).
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(1) Each Trustee serves a two year term concurrent with the class of Trustees for which he serves.

Brian R. Bruce, as Class I Trustee, is expected to stand for re-election at the Fund's 2020 annual meeting of shareholders.

Jerry V. Swank and Brenda A. Cline, as Class II Trustees, are expected to stand for re-election at the Fund's 2021 annual meeting of shareholders.

Ronald P. Trout, as Class III Trustee, is expected to stand for re-election at the Fund's 2019 annual meeting of shareholders.

(2) The Fund Complex includes each other registered investment company for which the Investment Adviser serves as investment adviser. As of the date of this SAI, there are four funds (including the Fund) in the Fund Complex.

\* Mr. Swank is an interested person of the Fund, as defined under the 1940 Act, by virtue of his position as Managing Partner of the Investment Adviser.

### **Trustee Qualifications**

The Board of Trustees has determined that each Trustee should serve as such based on several factors (none of which alone is decisive). Among the factors the Board of Trustees considered when concluding that an individual should serve on the Board of Trustees were the following: (i) availability and commitment to attend meetings and perform the responsibilities of a Trustee, (ii) personal and professional background, (iii) educational background, (iv) financial expertise, and (v) ability, judgment, attributes and expertise. 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 Fund, were a significant factor in the determination that the individual should serve as a trustee of the Fund.

Following is a summary of various qualifications, experiences and skills of each Trustee (in addition to business experience during the past five years as set forth in the table above) that contributed to the Board of Trustees' conclusion that an individual should serve on the Board of Trustees. References to the qualifications, attributes and skills of Trustees do not constitute the holding out of any Trustee as being an expert under Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ( Securities Act ) or the rules and regulations of the SEC.

*Brian R. Bruce.* Mr. Bruce has served as a Trustee of the Fund since the Fund's inception, and has served as a Trustee of the portfolios in the Fund Complex since 2007. Through his experience as a Trustee of and Chairman of the Audit Committee of funds in the Fund Complex and certain other registered investment companies, as a professor at Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business and Director of the ENCAP Investments & LCM Group Alternative Asset Management Center and as a chief executive officer, and formerly chief investment officer, of investment management firms, Mr. Bruce is experienced in financial, accounting, regulatory and investment matters.

*Brenda A. Cline.* Ms. Cline has served as a trustee of a family of investment companies since 2004. Through her organizational management, financial and investment experience as executive vice president, chief financial officer, secretary and treasurer to a private foundation, service as an investment company trustee, service as a director and member of the audit and nominating and governance committees of various publicly held companies, service as a trustee to a private university, and several charitable boards, and extensive experience as an audit senior manager with a large public accounting firm, Ms. Cline is experienced in financial, accounting, regulatory and investment matters.

*Ronald P. Trout.* Mr. Trout has served as a Trustee of the Fund since the Fund's inception, and has served as a trustee of the portfolios in the Fund Complex since 2007. Through his experience as a Trustee of Funds in the Fund Complex, as founding partner and senior vice president of an investment management firm and his service on the board of a publicly traded natural resources company, Mr. Trout is experienced in financial, regulatory and investment matters.

*Jerry V. Swank.* Mr. Swank has served as a Trustee of the Fund since the Fund's inception, and has served as a Trustee of the portfolios in the Fund Complex since 2007. Through his experience as a Trustee and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Funds in the Fund Complex, managing partner of the Investment Adviser and founder of Swank Capital, LLC and his extensive professional experience, with investment firms and an oil & gas research and consulting, Mr. Swank is experienced in financial, regulatory and investment matters.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

The primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to represent the interests of the Fund and to provide oversight of the management of the Fund. The Fund's day-to-day operations are managed by the Investment Adviser and other service providers who have been approved by the Board. The Board is currently comprised of four Trustees, three of

S-17

whom are classified under the 1940 Act as non-interested persons of the Fund ( Independent Trustees ) and one of whom is classified as an interested person of the Fund ( Interested Trustee ). Generally, the Board acts by majority vote of all the Trustees, including a majority vote of the Independent Trustees if required by applicable law.

An Interested Trustee, Mr. Jerry V. Swank, currently serves as Chairman of the Board. The Chairman of the Board presides at meetings of the Board and acts as a liaison with service providers, officers, attorneys and other Trustees generally between meetings, and performs such other functions as may be requested by the Board from time to time.

The Independent Trustees have selected Mr. Brian R. Bruce as lead Independent Trustee. The lead Independent Trustee participates in the planning of Board meetings, seeks to encourage open dialogue and independent inquiry among the trustees and management, and performs such other functions as may be requested by the Independent Trustees from time to time.

The Board meets regularly meets four times each year to discuss and consider matters concerning the Fund, and also holds special meetings to address matters arising between regular meetings. Regular meetings generally take place in-person; other meetings may take place in-person or by telephone. The Independent Trustees are advised by independent legal counsel and regularly meet outside the presence of Fund management.

The Trustees have determined that the efficient conduct of the Trustees' affairs makes it desirable to delegate responsibility for certain specific matters to committees of the Board. The committees meet as often as necessary, either in conjunction with regular meetings of the Board or otherwise. The committees of the Board are the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (each a Committee ). The functions and role of each Committee are described below under Board Committees. The membership of each Committee consists of all of the Independent Trustees, which the Board believes allows them to participate in the full range of the Board's oversight duties.

The Board has determined that this leadership structure, including a Chairman of the Board who is an Interested Trustee, a Lead Independent Trustee, a supermajority of Independent Trustees and Committee membership limited to Independent Trustees, is appropriate in light of the characteristics and circumstances of the Fund. In reaching this conclusion, the Board considered, among other things, the role of the Investment Adviser in the day-to-day management of Fund affairs, the extent to which the work of the Board will be conducted through the Committees, the projected net assets of the Fund and the management, distribution and other service arrangements of the Fund. The Board also believes that its structure, including the presence of one Trustee who is an executive officer of the Investment Adviser, facilitates an efficient flow of information concerning the management of the Fund to the Independent Trustees.

### **Board Committees**

*Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.* Brian R. Bruce, Ronald P. Trout and Brenda A. Cline, who are not interested persons of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act, serve on the Fund's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Ronald P. Trout serves as chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. As part of its duties, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee makes recommendations to the full Board with respect to candidates for the Board in the event that a position is vacated or created. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee would consider Trustee candidates recommended by Shareholders if a vacancy were to exist. Such recommendations should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Fund. In considering candidates submitted by Shareholders, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will take into consideration the needs of the Board and the qualifications of the candidate.

*Audit Committee.* Brian R. Bruce, Ronald P. Trout and Brenda A. Cline, who are not interested persons of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act, serve on the Fund's Audit Committee. Brenda A. Cline serves as chair of the Audit

Committee. The Audit Committee is generally responsible for reviewing and evaluating issues related to the accounting and financial reporting policies and internal controls of the Fund and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers, overseeing the quality and objectivity of the Fund's financial statements and the audit thereof and acting as a liaison between the Board and the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm.

S-18

*Board and Committee Meetings.* During the Fund's fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Board held seven (7) meetings and the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee each held one (1) meeting.

### **Board's Role in Risk Oversight**

The Fund has retained the Investment Adviser to provide investment advisory services and certain administrative services. The Investment Adviser is primarily responsible for the management of risks that may arise from Fund investments and operations. Certain employees of the Investment Adviser serve as the Fund's officers, including the Fund's President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The Board of Trustees oversees the performance of these functions by the Investment Adviser, both directly and through the Committee structure the Board of Trustees has established. The Board of Trustees will receive from the Investment Adviser reports on a regular and as-needed basis relating to the Fund's investment activities and to the actual and potential risks of the Fund, including reports on investment risks, compliance with applicable laws, and the Fund's financial accounting and reporting. In addition, the Board of Trustees will meet periodically with the portfolio managers of the Fund to receive reports regarding the portfolio management of the Fund and its performance and investment risks.

In addition, the Board of Trustees has appointed a Chief Compliance Officer ( CCO ). The CCO oversees the development of compliance policies and procedures of the Fund that are reasonably designed to minimize the risk of violations of the federal securities laws ( Compliance Policies ). The CCO reports directly to the Independent Trustees, and will provide presentations to the Board of Trustees at its quarterly meetings and an annual report on the application of the Compliance Policies. The Board of Trustees will discuss relevant risks affecting the Fund with the CCO at these meetings. The Board of Trustees has approved the Compliance Policies and will review the CCO's reports. Further, the Board of Trustees will annually review the sufficiency of the Compliance Policies, as well as the appointment and compensation of the CCO.

### **Executive Officers**

The following information relates to the executive officers of the Funds who are not Trustees. The officers of the Fund were appointed by the Board of Trustees and will serve until their respective successors are chosen and qualified.

<b>Name and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years</b>
John H. Alban (1963)	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	Chief Operating Officer of the Investment Adviser (2010-present); Chief Administrative Officer of NGP Energy Capital Management (2007-2009); COO of Spinnerhawk Capital Management, L.P. (2005-2007).
Barry Y. Greenberg (1963)	Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary	General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of the Investment Adviser (2010-present); Partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP (2005-2010); Vice President, Legal, Compliance and Administration at American Beacon Advisors (1995-2005); Attorney and Branch Chief at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (1988-1995).

### **Shareholder Communications**

Shareholders may send communications to the Fund's Board of Trustees. Shareholders should send communications intended for the Fund's Board of Trustees by addressing the communications directly to the Board of Trustees (or individual Board member(s)) and/or otherwise clearly indicating in the salutation that the communication is for the



Board of Trustees (or individual Board members) and by sending the communication to either the Fund's office or directly to such Board member(s) at the address specified above for each Trustee. Other shareholder communications received by the Fund not directly addressed and sent to the Board of Trustees will be reviewed and generally responded to by management and will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees only at management's discretion based on the matters contained in those communications.

S-19

## Remuneration of Trustees and Officers

The following table provides information regarding compensation of the Trustees of each Fund and for the Fund Complex, each for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017. Officers of the Funds do not receive any compensation from the Funds. The Trustees do not receive any pension or retirement benefits from the Fund Complex.

Trustee <sup>(1)</sup>	Aggregate Estimated Compensation From Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses <sup>(2)</sup>	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement <sup>(2)</sup>	Total Compensation from Fund and Fund Complex Paid to Trustees <sup>(3)</sup>
<i>Independent Trustees:</i>				
Brian R. Bruce	\$ 27,815	None	None	\$ 86,000
Brenda A. Cline <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 24,815	None	None	\$ 73,000 <sup>(4)</sup>
Ronald P. Trout	\$ 27,815	None	None	\$ 86,000

(1) Trustees not entitled to compensation are not included in the table.

(2) The Fund does not accrue or pay retirement or pension benefits to Trustees as of the date of this SAI.

(3) As of the end of the most recently completed fiscal year. The Fund Complex includes the Fund and each other registered investment company for which the Investment Adviser serves as investment adviser. As of the date of this SAI, there are four funds (including the Fund) in the Fund Complex.

(4) Ms. Cline was appointed as a Trustee of the funds in the Fund Complex as of January 18, 2017. Assuming Ms. Cline was a Trustee for the full year, and assuming a full year of operations of the Fund, it is estimated that her compensation from the Fund would have been \$27,815 and her total compensation from funds in the Fund Complex would have been \$84,000.

## Trustee Share Ownership

As of December 31, 2017, each Trustee of the Fund beneficially owned equity securities of the Fund and all of the registered investment companies in the family of investment companies overseen by the Trustee in the dollar range amounts specified below.

Name of Trustee	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies <sup>(1)</sup>
<i>Independent Trustees:</i>		
Brian R. Bruce	None	\$1-\$10,000
Brenda A. Cline	None	None
Ronald P. Trout	\$1-\$10,000	\$1-\$10,000
<i>Interested Trustee:</i>		

Jerry V. Swank<sup>(2)</sup>

Over \$100,000

Over \$100,000

- (1) The Family of Investment Companies includes the Fund and each other registered investment company for which the Investment Adviser serves as investment adviser. As of the date of this SAI, there are four funds (including the Fund) in the Family of Investment Companies.
- (2) The Investment Adviser has purchased common shares of the Fund in order to provide the Fund with over \$100,000 of net capital as required by the 1940 Act. By virtue of his control of the Investment Adviser, Mr. Swank may be deemed to beneficially own the common shares of the Fund held by the Investment Adviser. As of December 31, 2017, the Trustees and officers of the Fund as a group owned less than 1% of the outstanding common shares of the Fund. There are no control persons of the Fund.

S-20

## PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Jerry V. Swank and Paul Euseppi (the portfolio managers) are primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio. The following section discusses the accounts managed by the portfolio managers, the structure and method of their compensation and potential conflicts of interest.

### Other accounts managed by the portfolio managers

The following table reflects information regarding accounts for which each portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities (other than the Fund). Accounts are grouped into three categories: (a) registered investment companies, (b) other pooled investment accounts, and (c) other accounts. To the extent that any of these accounts pay advisory fees that are based on account performance, this information will be reflected in a separate table below. Asset amounts are approximate and have been rounded.

As of November 30, 2017, Mr. Swank managed or was a member of the management team for the following client accounts (excluding the Fund):

	Number of Accounts	Assets of Accounts	Number of Accounts Subject to a Performance Fee	Assets Subject to a Performance Fee
Registered Investment Companies	9	\$ 1,836,046,548	0	\$ 0
Pooled Investment Vehicles Other Than Registered Investment Companies	5	\$ 225,291,280	5	\$ 225,291,280
Other Accounts	28	\$ 1,365,487,051	7	\$ 3,025,820

As of November 30, 2017, Mr. Euseppi managed or was a member of the management team for the following client accounts (excluding the Fund):

	Number of Accounts	Assets of Accounts	Number of Accounts Subject to a Performance Fee	Assets Subject to a Performance Fee
Registered Investment Companies	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0
Pooled Investment Vehicles Other Than Registered Investment Companies	2	\$ 211,145,340	2	\$ 211,145,340
Other Accounts	2	\$ 11,488,099	1	\$ 3,025,820

### Compensation and Potential Conflicts of Interest

Messrs. Swank and Euseppi are compensated by the Investment Adviser. Mr. Swank is a principal of the Investment Adviser and is compensated through partnership distributions that are based primarily on the profits and losses of the Investment Adviser. The partnership distributions are affected by the amount of assets the Investment Adviser manages and the appreciation of those assets, particularly over the long-term, but are not determined with specific

reference to any particular performance benchmark or time period. Mr. Euseppi receives a fixed salary and a discretionary bonus based on the pre-tax performance of the Fund and other portfolios for which he serves as a portfolio manager. Some of the other accounts managed by Messrs. Swank and Euseppi have investment strategies that are similar to the Fund's investment strategy. However, the Investment Adviser manages potential material conflicts of interest by allocating investment opportunities in accordance with its allocation policies and procedures.

#### **Securities Ownership of the Portfolio Managers**

As of November 30, 2017, the dollar range of equity securities in the Fund beneficially owned by each portfolio manager was as follows:

*Jerry V. Swank.* \$100,001-\$500,000. By virtue of his control of the Investment Adviser, Mr. Swank may be deemed to beneficially own the common shares of the Fund held by the Investment Adviser.

*Paul Euseppi*. \$10,001-\$50,000.

### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

Cushing® Asset Management, LP acts as the investment adviser to the Fund. The Investment Adviser's principal business address is 8117 Preston Road, Suite 440, Dallas, Texas 75225.

The Investment Adviser provides investment advisory services to the Fund pursuant to the terms of an Investment Advisory Agreement (the Investment Management Agreement), dated August 6, 2007, between the Investment Adviser and the Fund. The Investment Management Agreement has an initial term expiring two years after the date of its execution, and may be continued in effect from year to year thereafter subject to the approval thereof by (1) the Board of Trustees or (2) vote of a majority (as defined by the 1940 Act) of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund, provided that in either event the continuance must also be approved by a majority of the Independent Trustees, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The Investment Management Agreement may be terminated at any time, without the payment of any penalty, upon 60 days' written notice by either party. The Fund may terminate by action of the Board of Trustees or by a vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities (accompanied by appropriate notice), and the Investment Management Agreement will terminate automatically upon its assignment (as defined in the 1940 act and the rules thereunder). The Investment Management Agreement may also be terminated, at any time, without payment of any penalty, by the Board of Trustees or by vote of a majority of outstanding voting securities, in the event that it is established by a court of competent jurisdiction that the Investment Adviser or any principal, officer or employee of the Investment Adviser has taken any action that results in a breach of the covenants of the Investment Adviser set out in the Investment Management Agreement. The Investment Management Agreement will provide that the Investment Adviser will not be liable for any loss sustained by reason of the purchase, sale or retention of any security, whether or not such purchase, sale or retention will have been based upon the investigation and research made by any other individual, firm or corporation, if such recommendation will have been selected with due care and in good faith, except loss resulting from willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Investment Adviser in performance of its obligations and duties, or by reason of its reckless disregard of its obligations and duties under the Investment Management Agreement.

Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, the Investment Adviser is responsible for managing the portfolio of the Fund in accordance with its stated investment objective and policies, makes investment decisions for the Fund, placing orders to purchase and sell securities on behalf of the Fund and managing the other business and affairs of the Fund, all subject to the supervision and direction of the Fund's Board of Trustees. Although the Investment Adviser intends to devote such time and effort to the business of the Fund as is reasonably necessary to perform its duties to the Fund, the services of the Investment Adviser are not exclusive, and the Investment Adviser provides similar services to other clients and may engage in other activities.

Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, the Fund has agreed to pay the Investment Adviser a fee, payable at the end of each calendar month, at an annual rate equal to 1.25% of the average weekly value of the Fund's Managed Assets during such month (the Management Fee) for the services and facilities provided by the Investment Adviser to the Fund. Managed Assets means the total assets of the Fund, minus all accrued expenses incurred in the normal course of operations other than liabilities or obligations attributable to investment leverage, including, without limitation, investment leverage obtained through (i) indebtedness of any type (including, without limitation, borrowing through a credit facility or the issuance of debt securities), (ii) the issuance of shares of preferred stock or other similar preference securities and/or (iii) the reinvestment of collateral received for securities loaned in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

Because the Management Fee is based upon a percentage of the Fund's Managed Assets, the Management Fee will be higher if the Fund employs leverage. Therefore, the Investment Adviser will have a financial incentive to use leverage, which may create a conflict of interest between the Investment Adviser and the Fund's common shareholders.

The Investment Adviser also provides such additional administrative services as the Fund may require beyond those furnished by the Administrator and furnishes, at its own expense, such office space, facilities, equipment, clerical help, and other personnel and services as may reasonably be necessary in connection with the operations of the Fund.

In addition, the Investment Adviser pays the salaries of officers of the Fund who are employees of the Investment Adviser and any fees and expenses of Trustees of the Fund who are also officers, directors, or employees of the Investment Adviser or who are officers or employees of any company affiliated with the Investment Adviser and bears the cost of telephone service, heat, light, power, and other utilities associated with the services it provides.

### Advisory Fees Paid

The following summarizes the investment advisory fees, less any fees waived by the Investment Adviser, paid pursuant to the investment advisory fee agreement in effect during the last three fiscal years ended November 30:

2017	2016	2015
\$1,362,722	\$1,009,528	\$1,899,225
<b>PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE</b>		

Subject to the oversight of the Board of Trustees, the Investment Adviser is responsible for decisions to buy and sell securities for the Fund, the negotiation of the commissions to be paid on brokerage transactions, the prices for principal trades in securities, and the allocation of portfolio brokerage and principal business. It is the policy of the Investment Adviser to seek the best execution at the best security price available with respect to each transaction in light of the overall quality of brokerage and research services provided to the Investment Adviser. In selecting broker/dealers and in negotiating commissions, the Investment Adviser will consider, among other things, the firm's reliability, the quality of its execution services on a continuing basis and its financial condition.

Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, permits an investment adviser, under certain circumstances, to cause an account to pay a broker or dealer who supplies brokerage and research services a commission for effecting a transaction in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for effecting the transaction. Brokerage and research services include (a) furnishing advice as to the value of securities, the advisability of investing, purchasing or selling securities, and the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities; (b) furnishing analyses and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy, and the performance of accounts; and (c) effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental to those transactions (such as clearance, settlement, and custody).

In light of the above, in selecting brokers, the Investment Adviser may consider investment and market information and other research, such as economic, securities and performance measurement research, provided by such brokers, and the quality and reliability of brokerage services, including execution capability, performance, and financial responsibility. Accordingly, the commissions charged by any such broker may be greater than the amount another firm might charge if the Investment Adviser determines in good faith that the amount of such commissions is reasonable in relation to the value of the research information and brokerage services provided by such broker to the Investment Adviser or to the Fund. The Investment Adviser believes that the research information received in this manner provides the Fund with benefits by supplementing the research otherwise available to the Investment Adviser.

The Investment Adviser seeks to allocate portfolio transactions equitably whenever concurrent decisions are made to purchase or sell securities on behalf of the Fund and another advisory account. In some cases, this procedure could have an adverse effect on the price or the amount of securities available to the Fund. In making such allocations between the Fund and other advisory accounts, the main factors considered by the Investment Adviser are the investment objective, the relative size of portfolio holding of the same or comparable securities, the availability of cash for investment and the size of investment commitments generally held, and the views of the persons responsible for recommending investments to the Fund and such other accounts and funds.



**Commissions Paid**

The Fund paid approximately the following commissions to brokers during the fiscal years shown:

<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30:</b>	<b>All Brokers</b>	<b>Affiliated Brokers</b>
2017	\$ 419,802	None
<b>Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2017</b>		
<b>Percentages:</b>		
Commissions with affiliate to total Transactions:		None
Value of Brokerage Transactions with affiliate to total transactions:		None

S-23

During the fiscal period ended November 30, 2017, the Fund paid \$289,589 in brokerage commissions on transactions totaling \$226,796,209 to brokers selected primarily on the basis of research services provided to the Investment Adviser.

### U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion is a summary of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of Common Shares. This discussion is based upon current provisions of the Code, the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder and judicial and administrative authorities, all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations by the courts or the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS), possibly with retroactive effect. This discussion does not address any other U.S. federal tax considerations (such as estate, gift, or net investment taxes) or any state, local or non-U.S. tax considerations. Except as otherwise stated herein, no ruling has been or will be sought from the IRS regarding any matter discussed herein. The Fund's counsel has not rendered any legal opinion regarding any tax consequences relating to the Fund or an investment in the Fund. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position different from any of the tax aspects set forth below. Unless otherwise noted, this discussion assumes that the Common Shares are held by U.S. persons and that Common Shareholders hold their Common Shares as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes (generally, assets held for investment). No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of all U.S. federal income tax concerns affecting the Fund and its Common Shareholders (including Common Shareholders owning a large position in the Fund), and the discussions set forth here and in the Prospectus do not constitute tax advice. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of investing in the Fund.

#### Taxation of the Fund

Since its inception and through the Fund's fiscal year ended November 30, 2017, the Fund has been treated as a regular corporation, or a C corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, as a result, unlike most investment companies, has been subject to corporate income tax to the extent the Fund recognizes taxable income. However, in conjunction with certain changes to the Fund's non-fundamental investment policies that became effective on February 20, 2018, the Fund manages its portfolio in a manner intended to allow the Fund to qualify and elect to be treated as a regulated investment company (RIC) for U.S. federal income tax purposes beginning in the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. In order to qualify as a RIC, the Fund must, among other things, satisfy income, asset diversification and distribution requirements. The Fund satisfied the asset diversification requirements applicable to a RIC as of February 28, 2018, the end of the first quarter of the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be eligible to make a RIC election, or that the Fund will continue to qualify as a RIC if such an election is made. Until the Fund elects and qualifies to be treated as a RIC, the Fund will continue to be treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Fund qualifies and elects to be treated as a RIC, the Fund would be subject to tax on any net unrealized appreciation as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation. Also, the Fund would be required to distribute any earnings and profits accumulated as of the last day the Fund was taxable as a C corporation.

*C Corporation.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to the Fund if the Fund is treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

For each taxable year the Fund is treated as a regular corporation, or C corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Fund generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income at a 21 percent rate for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. In addition, as a regular corporation, the Fund will be subject to state income tax by reason of its investments in equity securities of MLPs. Therefore, the Fund may have state income tax liabilities in multiple states, which will reduce the Fund's cash available to make distributions on the Common Shares. For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2018, the Fund may be subject to an alternative minimum tax

on its alternative minimum taxable income to the extent that the alternative minimum tax exceeds the Fund's regular income tax liability. The extent to which the Fund is required to pay U.S. corporate income tax or alternative minimum tax could materially reduce the Fund's cash available to make distributions on the Common Shares.

*RIC.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to the Fund if the Fund qualifies and elects to be a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The Fund intends to be treated as a RIC beginning in the Fund's fiscal year ending November 30, 2018. As long as it so qualifies, in any taxable year in which it meets the distribution requirements described below, the Fund (but not its Common Shareholders) will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax to the extent that it distributes its investment company taxable income and net recognized capital gains.

In order to qualify to be taxed as a RIC, the Fund must, among other things: (i) derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from the following sources, which are referred herein as *Qualifying Income*: (a) dividends, interest (including tax-exempt interest), payments with respect to certain securities, loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities, or foreign currencies, or other income (including but not limited to gain from options, futures and forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and (b) net income derived from interests in certain publicly traded partnerships that derive less than 90% of their gross income from the items described in clause (a) above (each a *Qualified Publicly Traded Partnership*); and (ii) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of each taxable year (a) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies and other securities, with such other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer and (b) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets is invested in the securities of (I) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities and the securities of other regulated investment companies), (II) any two or more issuers (other than regulated investment companies) that the Fund controls and that are determined to be engaged in the same business or similar or related trades or businesses or (III) any one or more *Qualified Publicly Traded Partnerships*. The Fund may generate certain income that might not qualify as good income for purposes of the 90% annual gross income requirement described above. The Fund will monitor the Fund's transactions to endeavor to prevent the Fund's disqualification as a RIC.

Income from the Fund's investments in equity interests of MLPs that are not *Qualified Publicly Traded Partnerships* (if any) will be *Qualifying Income* to the extent it is attributable to items of income of such MLP that would be *Qualifying Income* if earned directly by the Fund.

The Fund's investments in partnerships, including in *Qualified Publicly Traded Partnerships*, may result in the Fund being subject to state, local or foreign income, franchise or withholding tax liabilities.

If the Fund fails to satisfy the 90% annual gross income requirement or the asset diversification requirements discussed above in any taxable year, it may be eligible for relief provisions if the failures are due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect and if a penalty tax is paid with respect to each failure to satisfy the applicable requirements. Additionally, relief is provided for certain de minimis failures of the asset diversification requirements where the Fund corrects the failure within a specified period. If the applicable relief provisions are not available or cannot be met, all of the Fund's income would be subject to corporate-level U.S. federal income tax as described below. The fund cannot provide assurance that the Fund would qualify for any such relief should the Fund fail the 90% annual gross income requirement or the asset diversification requirements discussed above.

For each taxable year the Fund is treated as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Fund generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on income and gains that it distributes each taxable year to its Common Shareholders, provided that in such taxable year it distributes at least 90% of the sum of (i) its investment company taxable income (which includes, among other items, dividends, interest, the excess of any net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss and other taxable income, other than net capital gain (as defined below), reduced by deductible expenses) determined without regard to the deduction for dividends and distributions paid and (ii) its net tax-exempt interest income (the excess of its gross tax-exempt interest income over certain disallowed deductions)

(the Annual Distribution Requirement ). The Fund intends to distribute annually all or substantially all of such income and gain on a timely basis. If the Fund retains any investment company taxable income or net capital gain (as defined below), it will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the retained amount at regular corporate tax rates. In addition, if the Fund fails to qualify as a RIC for any taxable year, and relief is not available as discussed above, it

S-25

will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on all of its net income and net gains at regular corporate tax rates without any deduction for distributions to Common Shareholders, and distributions generally will be taxable to Common Shareholders as ordinary dividends to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits.

The Fund may retain for investment its net capital gain (which consists of the excess of its net long-term capital gain over its net short-term capital loss). However, if the Fund retains any net capital gain or any investment company taxable income, it will be subject to a tax on such amount at regular corporate tax rates. If the Fund retains any net capital gain, it expects to designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its Common Shareholders, each of whom, if subject to U.S. federal income tax on long-term capital gains, (i) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes its share of such undistributed net capital gain, (ii) will be entitled to credit its proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund against its U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, and to claim refunds to the extent that the credit exceeds such liability and (iii) will increase its tax basis in its Common Shares by the excess of the amount described in clause (i) over the amount described in clause (ii). A Common Shareholder that is not subject to U.S. federal income tax or otherwise is not required to file a U.S. federal income tax return would be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return on the appropriate form in order to claim a refund for the taxes paid by the Fund.

Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% U.S. federal excise tax at the Fund level. To avoid the excise tax, the Fund must distribute (or be deemed to have distributed) during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (i) 98% of its ordinary income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year and (ii) 98.2% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for a one-year period generally ending on October 31 of the calendar year. In addition, the minimum amounts that must be distributed in any year to avoid the excise tax will be increased or decreased to reflect any under-distribution or over-distribution, as the case may be, from the previous year. While the Fund intends to distribute any income and capital gain in the manner necessary to minimize imposition of the 4% federal excise tax, there can be no assurance that sufficient amounts of the Fund's taxable income and capital gains will be distributed to avoid entirely the imposition of the tax. In that event, the Fund will be liable for the tax only on the amount by which it does not meet the foregoing distribution requirement.

Dividends and distributions will be treated as paid during the calendar year if they are paid during the calendar year or declared by the Fund in October, November or December of the year, payable to Common Shareholders of record on a date during such a month and paid by the Fund during January of the following year. Any such dividend or distribution paid during January of the following year will be deemed to be received by Common Shareholders on December 31 of the year the dividend or distribution was declared, rather than when the dividend or distribution is actually received.

If the Fund were unable to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement or otherwise were to fail to qualify as a RIC in any year, it would be taxed on all of its taxable income in the same manner as an ordinary corporation and distributions to Common Shareholders would not be deductible by the Fund in computing its taxable income. In such case, distributions generally would be taxed in the manner described below under the heading "Taxation of U.S. Shareholders - C Corporation."

If the Fund makes a RIC election, or to qualify again to be taxed as a RIC in a subsequent year following the Fund's failure to qualify as a RIC, the Fund would be required to distribute to its Common Shareholders its accumulated earnings and profits attributable to non-RIC years. In the case of the Fund making a RIC election after failing to qualify, such amount would be reduced by an interest charge on 50% of such earnings and profits payable by the Fund as an additional tax. In addition, following the Fund's initial election, or if the Fund failed to qualify as a RIC for a period greater than two taxable years, then, in order to qualify as a RIC in a subsequent year, the Fund would be required to elect to recognize and pay tax on any net built-in gain (the excess of aggregate gain, including items of income, over aggregate loss that would have been realized if the Fund had been liquidated) or, alternatively, be subject

to taxation on such built-in gain recognized for a period of five years.

Gain or loss on the sale of securities by the Fund will generally be long-term capital gain or loss if the securities have been held by the Fund for more than one year. Gain or loss on the sale of securities held for one year or less will be short-term capital gain or loss. If the Fund realizes a net capital loss, the excess of the Fund's net short-term capital loss over the Fund's net long-term capital gain is treated as a short-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Fund's next taxable year and the excess of the Fund's net long-term capital loss over the Fund's net short-term

capital gain is treated as a long-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Fund's next taxable year. If future capital gain is offset by carried forward capital losses, such future capital gain is not subject to fund level U.S. federal income tax, regardless of whether they are distributed to Common Shareholders. Accordingly, the Fund does not expect to distribute any such offsetting capital gain. A RIC cannot carry back or carry forward any net operating losses.

The Fund may decide to be taxed as a regular corporation even if the Fund would otherwise qualify as a RIC if the Fund determines that treatment as a corporation for a particular year would be in the Fund's best interests.

### **Certain Fund Investments**

*C Corporation.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to certain investments of the Fund if the fund is treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Certain of the Fund's investment practices, such as engaging in short sales or investing in pay-in-kind securities, derivatives, or other financially complex investments, are subject to special and complex U.S. federal income tax provisions that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (ii) convert an ordinary loss or a deduction into a capital loss (the deductibility of which is more limited), (iii) cause the Fund to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, (iv) adversely affect the time as to when a purchase or sale of stock or securities is deemed to occur, (v) adversely alter the characterization of certain complex financial transactions.

The Fund intends to invest a significant portion of its assets in MLPs, which are generally treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. To the extent that the Fund invests in the equity securities of an MLP, the Fund will be a partner in such MLP. Accordingly, the Fund will be required to include in its taxable income the Fund's allocable share of the income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses recognized by each such MLP, regardless of whether the MLP distributes cash to the Fund. Based upon a review of the historic results of the type of MLPs in which the Fund has invested and in which the Fund intends to invest, the Fund expects that the cash distributions it will receive with respect to its investments in equity securities of MLPs will exceed the taxable income allocated to the Fund from such MLPs. No assurance, however, can be given in this regard. If MLPs in which the Fund invests pay distributions that do not exceed the amount of taxable income allocable to limited partners or members, the Fund will have a larger corporate income tax expense than expected, which will result in less cash available for distribution to Common Shareholders.

The Fund will recognize gain or loss on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of an equity security of an MLP equal to the difference between the amount realized by the Fund on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition and the Fund's adjusted tax basis in such equity security. Any such gain will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the regular graduated corporate rates, regardless of how long the Fund has held such equity security. The amount realized by the Fund generally will be the amount paid by the purchaser of the equity security plus the Fund's allocable share, if any, of the MLP's debt that will be allocated to the purchaser as a result of the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition. The Fund's tax basis in its equity securities in an MLP is generally equal to the amount the Fund paid for the equity securities, (x) increased by the Fund's allocable share of the MLP's net taxable income and certain MLP nonrecourse debt, if any, and (y) decreased by the Fund's allocable share of the MLP's net losses and any distributions received by the Fund from the MLP. Although any distribution by an MLP to the Fund in excess of the Fund's allocable share of such MLP's net taxable income may create a temporary economic benefit to the Fund, such distribution will increase the amount of gain (or decrease the amount of loss) that will be recognized on the sale of an equity security in the MLP by the Fund. To the extent that the Fund has a net capital loss in any tax year, the net capital loss can be carried back three years and forward five years to reduce the Fund's current taxes payable. In the event a capital loss carryover cannot be utilized in the carryover periods, the Fund's U.S. federal income tax liability may be higher than expected, which will result in less cash available to distribute to Common Shareholders.



As described above, for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2018, the Fund may be subject to an alternative minimum tax on its alternative minimum taxable income to the extent that the alternative minimum tax exceeds the Fund's regular income tax liability. The Fund's allocable share of certain percentage depletion deductions and intangible drilling costs of the MLPs in which the Fund invests may be treated as items of tax preference for purposes of calculating the Fund's alternative minimum taxable income. Such items will increase the Fund's alternative minimum taxable income and increase the likelihood that the Fund may be subject to the alternative minimum tax.

S-27

In addition, because the Fund is a corporation, it is not eligible for the 20% deduction for qualified business income available for certain income attributable to some investments in MLPs.

*RIC.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to certain investments of the Fund if the Fund qualifies and elects to be a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Certain of the Fund's investment practices are subject to special and complex U.S. federal income tax provisions that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions (including the dividends received deduction), (ii) convert lower taxed long-term capital gains and qualified dividend income into higher taxed short-term capital gains or ordinary income, (iii) convert ordinary loss or a deduction into capital loss (the deductibility of which is more limited), (iv) cause the Fund to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, (v) adversely affect the time as to when a purchase or sale of stock or securities is deemed to occur, (vi) adversely alter the characterization of certain complex financial transactions and (vii) produce income that will not qualify as good income for purposes of the 90% annual gross income requirement described above. The Fund will monitor its transactions and may make certain tax elections and may be required to borrow money or dispose of securities to mitigate the effect of these rules and prevent disqualification of the Fund as a RIC.

The MLPs in which the Fund intends to invest are expected to be treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The cash distributions received by the Fund from an MLP may not correspond to the amount of income allocated to the Fund by the MLP in any given taxable year. If the amount of income allocated by an MLP to the Fund exceeds the amount of cash received by the Fund from such MLP, the Fund may have difficulty making distributions to its Common Shareholders in the amounts necessary to satisfy the requirements for maintaining its status as a RIC or avoiding U.S. federal income or excise taxes. Accordingly, the Fund may have to dispose of securities under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate sufficient cash to satisfy the distribution requirements.

The Fund expects that the income derived by the Fund from the MLPs in which it invests will be Qualifying Income. If, however, an MLP in which the Fund invests is not a Qualified Publicly Traded Partnership, the income derived by the Fund from such investment may not be Qualifying Income and, therefore, could adversely affect the Fund's status as a RIC. The Fund intends to monitor its investments in MLPs to prevent to disqualification of the Fund as a RIC.

If the Fund invests in foreign securities, its income from such securities may be subject to withholding and other non-U.S. taxes. The Fund will not be eligible to elect to pass through to Common Shareholders of the Fund the ability to use the foreign tax deduction or foreign tax credit for foreign taxes paid with respect to qualifying taxes.

If the Fund borrows money, it may be prevented by loan covenants from declaring and paying dividends in certain circumstances. Limits on the Fund's payment of dividends may prevent it from meeting the Annual Distribution Requirement, and may, therefore, jeopardize the Fund's qualification for taxation as a RIC, or subject it to the 4% excise tax.

### **Taxation of U.S. Shareholders**

For purposes of this discussion, a U.S. shareholder (or in this section, a shareholder) is a holder or a beneficial holder of Common Shares which is for U.S. federal income tax purposes (1) a person who is a citizen or resident of the United States, (2) a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia, (3) an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source, or (4) a trust if (a) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more U.S. persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (b) the trust has in effect a valid election to be treated as a domestic trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If a partnership or other entity or arrangement classified as a partnership for U.S. tax purposes holds the Common Shares, the tax treatment of the partnership and each partner generally will depend on the

activities of the partnership and the activities of the partner. Partnerships acquiring Common Shares, and partners in such partnerships, should consult their tax advisors. Prospective investors that are not U.S.

S-28

shareholders should refer to the section *Non-U.S. shareholders* below and are urged to consult their tax advisors with respect to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the Fund's Common Shares, including the potential application of U.S. withholding taxes.

*C Corporation.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to U.S. shareholders if the Fund is treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

For each taxable year the Fund is treated as a C corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, distributions by the Fund of cash or property in respect of the Common Shares will be treated as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from the Fund's current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). Any such dividend will be eligible for the dividends received deduction if received by an otherwise qualifying corporate U.S. Shareholder that meets the holding period and other requirements for the dividends received deduction.

If the amount of a Fund distribution exceeds the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, such excess will be treated first as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Shareholder's tax basis in the Common Shares, and thereafter as capital gain. Any such capital gain will be long-term capital gain if such U.S. Shareholder has held the applicable Common Shares for more than one year.

Upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of Common Shares, a U.S. Shareholder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition and the U.S. Shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the Common Shares, as applicable. Any such capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Shareholder has held the Common Shares for more than one year at the time of disposition. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

*RIC.* The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to U.S. shareholders if the Fund qualifies and elects to be a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Distributions paid by the Fund from its investment company taxable income (as defined above) (dividends from investment company taxable income referred to hereinafter as *ordinary income dividends*), whether paid in cash or reinvested in Common Shares, will generally be taxable to you as ordinary income to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Certain properly designated distributions may, however, qualify (provided that holding period and other requirements are met by both the Fund and U.S. shareholders) (i) for the dividends received deduction in the case of corporate U.S. shareholders to the extent that the Fund's income consists of dividend income from U.S. corporations or (ii) in the case of individual U.S. shareholders, as qualified dividend income eligible to be taxed at a reduced maximum rate to the extent that the Fund receives qualified dividend income. Qualified dividend income is, in general, dividend income from taxable domestic corporations and certain foreign corporations. There can be no assurance as to what portion of the Fund's distributions will qualify for the dividends received deduction or for treatment as qualified dividend income or as to whether the favorable tax treatment for qualified dividend income.

Distributions made from net capital gain, which is the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses (*capital gain dividends*), including capital gain dividends credited to a U.S. shareholder but retained by the Fund, are taxable to U.S. shareholder as long-term capital gains if they have been properly reported by the Fund, regardless of the length of time the U.S. shareholder has owned Common Shares of the Fund. Net long-term capital gain of individuals is generally taxed at a reduced maximum rate. For corporate taxpayers, net long-term capital gain is taxed at ordinary income rates.

If, for any calendar year, the Fund's total distributions exceed both current earnings and profits and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will generally be treated as a tax-free return of capital up to the amount of a U.S. shareholder's tax basis in the Common Shares, reducing that basis accordingly. Such distributions exceeding the U.S.

shareholder's basis will be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of the Common Shares. When you sell your Common Shares, the amount, if any, by which your sales price exceeds your basis in the Fund's Common Shares is gain subject to tax. Because a return of capital reduces your basis in the Common Shares, it will increase the amount of your gain or decrease the amount of your loss when you sell the Common Shares, all other things being equal.

Generally, after the close of its taxable year, the Fund will provide its U.S. shareholders with a written notice designating the amount of any ordinary income dividends or capital gain dividends and other distributions.

The sale or other disposition of Common Shares will generally result in capital gain or loss to U.S. shareholders measured by the difference between the sale price and the U.S. shareholder's tax basis in its Common Shares. Generally, a U.S. shareholder's gain or loss will be long-term gain or loss if the Common Shares have been held for more than one year. Any loss upon the sale or exchange of Common Shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any capital gain dividends received (including amounts credited as an undistributed capital gain) by the U.S. shareholder. Any loss a U.S. shareholder realizes on a sale or exchange of Common Shares will be disallowed if the U.S. shareholder acquires other Common Shares (whether through the automatic reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the U.S. shareholder's sale or exchange of the Common Shares. In such case, the basis of the Common Shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Present law taxes both long-term and short-term capital gains of corporations at the rates applicable to ordinary income. For non-corporate taxpayers, short-term capital gain is taxed at the U.S. federal income tax rates applicable to ordinary income, while long-term capital gain generally is taxed at a reduced maximum U.S. federal income tax rate.

U.S. shareholders may be entitled to offset their capital gain distributions with capital losses. There are several provisions of the Code affecting when capital losses may be offset against capital gain, and limiting the use of losses from certain investments and activities. Accordingly, U.S. shareholders with capital losses are urged to consult their tax advisors.

An investor should be aware that if Common Shares are purchased shortly before the record date for any taxable distribution (including a capital gain dividend), the purchase price likely will reflect the value of the distribution and the investor then would receive a taxable distribution likely to reduce the trading value of such Common Shares, in effect resulting in a taxable return of some of the purchase price.

Dividends and other taxable distributions will be taxable to you even though they are reinvested in additional Common Shares. The Fund has the ability to declare a large portion of a dividend in Common Shares. As long as a large enough portion of such dividend is paid in cash (there is no definitive guidance as to what percentage of the dividend must be in cash) and certain requirements are met, the entire distribution will be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, U.S. shareholders will be taxed on 100% of the dividend in the same manner as a cash dividend, even though most of the dividend was paid in Common Shares.

Dividends and other distributions paid by the Fund will generally be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as received by you at the time the dividend or distribution is made. If, however, the Fund pays you a dividend in January that was declared in the previous October, November or December and you were the U.S. shareholder of record on a specified date in one of such months, then such dividend will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as being paid by the Fund and received by you on December 31 of the year in which the dividend was declared. In addition, certain other distributions made after the close of the Fund's taxable year may be "spilled back" and treated as paid by the Fund (except for purposes of the 4% nondeductible excise tax) during such taxable year. In such case, you will be treated as having received such dividends in the taxable year in which the distributions were actually made.

Non-corporate U.S. shareholders with income in excess of certain thresholds are, in general, subject to an additional tax on their net investment income, which ordinarily includes taxable distributions from the Fund and taxable gain on the disposition of the Fund's common stock.

Withholding at a rate of 30% will be required on dividends in respect of, and, after December 31, 2018, on gross proceeds from the sale of, Common Shares held by or through foreign accounts or foreign intermediaries if certain disclosure requirements related to U.S. accounts or ownership are not satisfied. The Fund will not pay any additional

amounts in respect to any amounts withheld.

**Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders**

For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. shareholder is a holder, other than a partnership (or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes), that is not a U.S. shareholder for U.S.

S-30

federal income tax purposes. Whether an investment in Common Shares is appropriate for a non-U.S. shareholder will depend on that Common Shareholder's particular circumstances. An investment in Common Shares by a non-U.S. shareholder may have adverse tax consequences. Non-U.S. shareholders should consult their tax advisors before investing in the Common Shares.

The following is a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to non-U.S. shareholders. The discussion is applicable if the Fund is treated as a C corporation or if the fund qualifies and elects to be treated as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, unless specified otherwise.

A non-U.S. shareholder generally will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or possibly a lower rate provided by an applicable tax treaty) on ordinary income dividends to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits (except as discussed below). Actual or deemed distributions of the Fund's net capital gain to a non-U.S. shareholder, and gains recognized by a non-U.S. shareholder upon the sale of Common Shares, will generally not be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax and will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. Different tax consequences may result if (i) the non-U.S. shareholder is engaged in a trade or business in the United States (and, if an income tax treaty applies, the non-U.S. shareholder's income or gains are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the shareholder in the United States), (ii) in the case of an individual, is present in the United States for 183 days or more during a taxable year and certain other conditions are met, or (iii) the Fund is or has been a United States real property holding corporation at any time within the shorter of the five-year period ending on the date the Common Shares are sold or the period that such non-U.S. shareholder held the shares and (as long as the Common Shares are regularly traded on an established securities market at any time during the calendar year in which the sale, exchange or other disposition occurs) such non-U.S. shareholder owns or owned (actually or constructively) more than five percent of the Common Shares at any time during the shorter of the two periods mentioned above. Though the Fund expects that its Common Shares will be treated as regularly traded on an established securities market, no assurance can be given in this regard. 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 tax advisors.

In addition, under certain provisions of the Code referred to as FATCA, withholding at a rate of 30% will be required on dividends in respect of, and, after December 31, 2018, on gross proceeds from the sale of, Common Shares held by or through certain foreign financial institutions (including investment funds), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the Treasury to report, on an annual basis, information with respect to interests in, and accounts maintained by, the institution to the extent such interests or accounts are held by certain United States persons or by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by United States persons and to withhold on certain payments. Accordingly, the entity or entities through which Common Shares are held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, withholding at a rate of 30% will be required on dividends in respect of, and after December 31, 2018 on the gross proceeds from the sale of, Common Shares held by an investor that is a non-financial non-U.S. entity that does not qualify under certain exemptions, unless such entity either (i) certifies to the Fund that such entity does not have any substantial United States owners or (ii) provides certain information regarding the entity's substantial United States owners, which the Fund will in turn provide to the Secretary of the Treasury. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country, or future Treasury regulations or other guidance, may modify these requirements. The Fund will not pay any additional amounts to Common Shareholders in respect of any amounts withheld. Non-U.S. shareholders are encouraged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the possible withholding implications of an investment in Common Shares.

If the Fund qualifies and elects to be a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, properly designated dividends paid by the Fund to non-U.S. shareholders are generally exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax where they (i) are paid in respect of the Fund's qualified net interest income (generally, the Fund's U.S.-source interest income, other than certain contingent interest and interest from obligations of a corporation or partnership in which the Fund is at least a 10% shareholder, reduced by expenses that are allocable to such income) or (ii) are paid in respect of the Fund's



qualified short-term capital gains (generally, the excess of the Fund's net short-term capital gain over the Fund's long-term capital loss for such taxable year). There can be no assurance that the Fund will distribute any qualified net interest income or qualified short-term capital gains. In order to qualify for this exemption from withholding, a non-U.S. shareholder must comply with applicable certification requirements relating to its non-U.S. status (including, in general, furnishing an IRS Form W-8BEN or substitute form). In the case of Common Shares

S-31

held through an intermediary, the intermediary may withhold even if the Fund designates the payment as qualified net interest income or qualified short-term capital gain. Non-U.S. shareholders should contact their intermediaries with respect to the application of these rules to their accounts.

Furthermore, if the Fund qualifies and elects to be a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes and it distributes its net capital gains in the form of deemed rather than actual distributions (which the Fund may do in the future), a non-U.S. shareholder will be entitled to a U.S. federal income tax credit or tax refund equal to the shareholder's allocable share of the tax the Fund pays on the capital gains deemed to have been distributed. In order to obtain the refund, the non-U.S. shareholder must obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number and file a federal income tax return even if the non-U.S. shareholder is not otherwise required to obtain a U.S. taxpayer identification number or file a federal income tax return. For a corporate non-U.S. shareholder, distributions (both actual and deemed), and gains realized upon the sale of Common Shares that are effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business (or, where an applicable treaty applies, are attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States) 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 tax treaty). Accordingly, investment in Common Shares may not be appropriate for certain non-U.S. shareholders.

### **Backup Withholding**

The Fund may be required to withhold, for U.S. federal backup withholding purposes, on all taxable distributions to any non-corporate holders of Common Shares who (1) do not furnish the Fund with their correct taxpayer identification number (in the case of individuals, generally their social security number) or a certificate that such Common Shareholder is exempt from backup withholding, or (2) with respect to whom the IRS notifies the Fund that such Common Shareholder has failed to properly report certain interest and dividend income to the IRS and to respond to notices to that effect. A non-U.S. shareholder who is a nonresident alien individual, and who is otherwise subject to withholding of federal income tax, may be subject to backup withholding of federal income tax on dividends unless the non-U.S. shareholder provides the Fund or the dividend paying agent with an IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E (or an acceptable substitute form) or otherwise meets documentary evidence requirements for establishing that it is a non-U.S. shareholder or otherwise establishes an exemption from backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld from payments made to a Common Shareholder may be refunded or credited against such Common Shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that the required information is generally furnished to the IRS.

**The foregoing is a general summary of the provisions of the Code and the Treasury regulations in effect as they directly govern the taxation of the Fund and its Common Shareholders. These provisions are subject to change by legislative, judicial or administrative action, and any such change may be retroactive. Ordinary income and capital gain dividends may also be subject to state, local and foreign taxes. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of investing in the Fund.**

## **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

### **Administrator**

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services LLC, the Administrator, which is located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, serves as the Fund's administrator pursuant to a fund administration servicing agreement. Pursuant to this agreement, the Administrator provides the Fund with, among other things, compliance oversight, financial reporting oversight and tax reporting. The Fund pays the Administrator a monthly fee computed at an annual rate of 0.09% of the first \$100 million of Managed Assets, 0.07% on the next \$200 million of Managed Assets and 0.04% on the balance of Managed Assets, subject to a minimum annual fee of \$70,000. The Fund will also pay for the Administrator's out-of-pocket expenses. The Administrator also serves as fund accountant pursuant to a fund accounting servicing agreement.

**Custodian**

U.S. Bank National Association (the Custodian ), Custody Operations, 1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212, serves as custodian for the Fund pursuant to the Custodian Agreement with the Fund

S-32

(the Custodian Agreement ). The Custodian and the Administrator are affiliates of each other. Under the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian will be responsible for, among other things, receipt of and disbursement of funds from the Fund's accounts, establishment of segregated accounts as necessary, and transfer, exchange and delivery of Fund portfolio securities.

### Transfer Agent

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, has entered into a transfer agent servicing agreement with the Fund. Under this agreement, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC serves as the Fund's transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursing agent.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Additional Information

The Prospectus and this SAI constitutes part of a Registration Statement filed by the Fund with the SEC under the Securities Act, and the 1940 Act. The Prospectus and this SAI omit certain of the information contained in the Registration Statement, and reference is hereby made to the Registration Statement and related exhibits for further information with respect to the Fund and the common shares offered hereby. Any statements contained in the Prospectus and herein concerning the provisions of any document are not necessarily complete, and, in each instance, reference is made to the copy of such document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or otherwise filed with the SEC. Each such statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference. The complete Registration Statement may be obtained from the SEC upon payment of the fee prescribed by its rules and regulations or free of charge through the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>).

### Principal Holders

As of June 4, 2018, to the knowledge of the Fund, no person beneficially owned more than 5% of the voting securities of any class of equity securities of the Fund, except as follows:

Shareholder Name and Address	Class of Shares	Share Holdings	Percentage Owned
First Trust Portfolios L.P. <sup>(1)</sup>	Common Shares	441,471	6.56%
First Trust Advisors L.P.			
The Charger Corporation			
120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400 Wheaton, IL 60187			
SIT Investment Associates <sup>(2)</sup>	Common Shares	403,226	5.99%
3300 IDS Center 80 South Eighth Street			

Minneapolis, MN 55402

Morgan Stanley <sup>(3)</sup>	Common Shares	356,900	5.30%
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Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC

1585 Broadway

New York, NY 10036

(1) Based on Form 13G/A filed on January 24, 2018.

(2) Based on Form 13G/A filed on February 1, 2018.

(3) Based on Form 13G filed on February 12, 2018.

**Legal Matters**

Certain legal matters will be passed on for the Fund by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Chicago, Illinois, in connection with the offering of the Securities.

### **Independent registered public accounting firm**

Ernst & Young LLP, Dallas, Texas, serves as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Fund and will annually render an opinion on the financial statements of the Fund. The Fund's audited financial statements appearing in the Fund's annual report to shareholders for the period ended November 30, 2017, including accompanying notes thereto and the report of Ernst & Young LLP thereon, have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance on their report given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

### **Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures and Proxy Voting Record**

The Fund has delegated authority to vote proxies to the Investment Adviser, subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees. Attached hereto as Appendix B is the Proxy Voting Policy which is currently in effect as of the date of this Statement of Additional Information.

The Proxy Voting Policy is subject to change over time and investors seeking the most current copy of the Proxy Voting Policy should call the Fund toll free at (877) 965-7386. The Fund's most recent proxy voting record for the period ended June 30 which has been filed with the SEC is available without charge by calling the Fund toll free at (877) 965-7386.

### **Trustee and Officer Liability**

Under the Fund's Second Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended, and By-Laws, and under Delaware law, the Trustees, officers, employees, and certain agents of the Fund are entitled to indemnification under certain circumstances against liabilities, claims, and expenses arising from any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding to which they are made parties by reason of the fact that they are or were such Trustees, officers, employees, or agents of the Fund, subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act that prohibit indemnification that would protect such persons against liabilities to the Fund or its shareholders to which they would otherwise be subject by reason of their own bad faith, willful misfeasance, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of duties.

### **Code of Ethics**

The Fund and the Investment Adviser have adopted a code of ethics under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. This code permits personnel subject to the code to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. This code of ethics can be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-202-551-8090. The code of ethics is available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>), and copies of this code may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-0102.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Fund's audited financial statements, including accompanying notes thereto and the report of Ernst & Young LLP thereon, appearing in the Fund's annual report to shareholders for the period ended November 30, 2017, as contained in the Fund's Form N-CSR filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) on February 5, 2018, (Accession Number 0001193125-18-032018), are incorporated by reference in this Statement of Additional Information. All other portions of the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders are not incorporated herein by reference and are not part of the Fund's registration statement, this Statement of Additional Information, the Prospectus or any Prospectus Supplement. Shareholder reports are available upon request and without charge by calling toll-free (877) 965-7386, or you may obtain a copy of such reports from the SEC's website

(<http://www.sec.gov>) or from the Fund's website at [www.cushingcef.com](http://www.cushingcef.com). Information on, or accessible through, the Fund's website is not a part of, and is not incorporated into, this Statement of Additional Information, the Prospectus or any Prospectus Supplement.

## Description of Securities Ratings

### STANDARD & POOR'S CORPORATION

A brief description of the applicable Standard & Poor's Corporation (S&P) rating symbols and their meanings (as published by S&P) follows.

#### Issue Credit Ratings Definition

A Standard & Poor's issue credit rating is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation, a specific class of financial obligations, or a specific financial program (including ratings on medium-term note programs and commercial paper programs). It takes into consideration the creditworthiness of guarantors, insurers, or other forms of credit enhancement on the obligation and takes into account the currency in which the obligation is denominated. The opinion reflects S&P's view of the obligor's capacity and willingness to meet its financial commitments as they come due, and may assess terms, such as collateral security and subordination, which could affect ultimate payment in the event of default.

Issue credit ratings can be either long-term or short-term. Short-term ratings are generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market. In the U.S., for example, that means obligations with an original maturity of no more than 365 days including commercial paper. Short-term ratings are also used to indicate the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to put features on long-term obligations. The result is a dual rating, in which the short-term rating addresses the put feature, in addition to the usual long-term rating. Medium-term notes are assigned long-term ratings.

#### Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings\*

Issue credit ratings are based, in varying degrees, on S&P's analysis of the following considerations:

Likelihood of payment capacity and willingness of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on an obligation in accordance with the terms of the obligation.

Nature of and provisions of the obligation.

Protection afforded by, and relative position of, the obligation in the event of bankruptcy, reorganization, or other arrangement under the laws of bankruptcy and other laws affecting creditors' rights.

Issue ratings are an assessment of default risk, but may incorporate an assessment of relative seniority or ultimate recovery in the event of default. Junior obligations are typically rated lower than senior obligations, to reflect the lower priority in bankruptcy, as noted above. (Such differentiation may apply when an entity has both senior and subordinated obligations, secured and unsecured obligations, or operating company and holding company obligations.)

**AAA** An obligation rated AAA has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.



**AA** An obligation rated **AA** differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.

**A** An obligation rated **A** is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.

\* **Plus (+) or minus (-)** The ratings from **AA** to **CCC** may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

A-1

**BBB** An obligation rated **BBB** exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

**BB; B; CCC; CC; and C** Obligations rated **BB**, **B**, **CCC**, **CC**, and **C** are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. **BB** indicates the least degree of speculation and **C** the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.

**BB** An obligation rated **BB** is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

**B** An obligation rated **B** is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated **BB**, but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

**CCC** An obligation rated **CCC** is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

**CC** An obligation rated **CC** is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

**C** A **C** rating is assigned to obligations that are currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment, obligations that have payment arrearages allowed by the terms of the documents, or obligations of an issuer that is the subject of a bankruptcy petition or similar action which have not experienced a payment default. Among others, the **C** rating may be assigned to subordinated debt, preferred stock or other obligations on which cash payments have been suspended in accordance with the instrument's terms or when preferred stock is the subject of a distressed exchange offer, whereby some or all of the issue is either repurchased for an amount of cash or replaced by other instruments having a total value that is less than par.

**D** An obligation rated **D** is in payment default. The **D** rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless Standard & Poor's believes that such payments will be made within five business days, irrespective of any grace period. The **D** rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized. An obligation's rating is lowered to **D** upon completion of a distressed exchange offer, whereby some or all of the issue is either repurchased for an amount of cash or replaced by other instruments having a total value that is less than par.

**NR** This indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

### **Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings**

**A-1** A short-term obligation rated **A-1** is rated in the highest category by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong.

**A-2** A short-term obligation rated A-2 is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rating categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is satisfactory.

**A-3** A short-term obligation rated A-3 exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

A-2

**B** A short-term obligation rated **B** is regarded as vulnerable and has significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments.

**C** A short-term obligation rated **C** is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

**D** A short-term obligation rated **D** is in payment default. The **D** rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless Standard & Poor's believes that such payments will be made within any stated grace period. However, any stated grace period longer than five business days will be treated as five business days. The **D** rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

**SPUR (S&P's Underlying Rating)** A SPUR rating is a rating of a stand-alone capacity of an issue to pay debt service on a credit-enhanced debt issue, without giving effect to the enhancement that applies to it. These ratings are published only at the request of the debt issuer/obligor with the designation SPUR to distinguish them from the credit-enhanced rating that applies to the debt issue. S&P maintains surveillance of an issue with a published SPUR.

### **Municipal Short-Term Note Ratings Definitions**

A S&P's U.S. Municipal note rating reflects S&P's opinion about the liquidity factors and market access risks unique to the notes. Notes due in three years or less will likely receive a note rating. Notes with an original maturity of more than three years will most likely receive a long-term debt rating. In determining which type of rating, if any, to assign, S&P's analysis will review the following considerations:

Amortization schedule – the larger the final maturity relative to other maturities, the more likely it will be treated as a note; and

Source of payment – the more dependent the issue is on the market for its refinancing, the more likely it will be treated as a note.

Note rating symbols are as follows:

**SP-1** Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus (+) designation.

**SP-2** Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

**SP-3** Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

**Dual Ratings** S&P assigns dual ratings to all debt issues that have a put option or demand feature as part of their structure. The first rating addresses the likelihood of repayment of principal and interest as due, and the second rating addresses only the demand feature. The long-term rating symbols are used for bonds to denote the long-term maturity and the short-term rating symbols for the put option (for example, AAA/A-1+). With U.S. municipal short-term demand debt, note rating symbols are used with the short-term issue credit rating symbols (for example, SP-1+/A-1+).

The ratings and other credit related opinions of S&P and its affiliates are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or make any investment decisions. S&P assumes no obligation to update any information following publication. Users of ratings and credit related opinions should not rely on them in making any investment decision. S&P's opinions and analyses do not address the suitability of any security. S&P's Financial Services LLC does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor. While S&P has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, S&P does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Ratings and credit related opinions may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn at any time.

A-3

**Active Qualifiers (Currently Applied and/or Outstanding)**

**i** This suffix is used for issues in which the credit factors, terms, or both, that determine the likelihood of receipt of payment of interest are different from the credit factors, terms or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of principal on the obligation. The **i** suffix indicates that the rating addresses the interest portion of the obligation only. The **i** suffix will always be used in conjunction with the **p** suffix, which addresses likelihood of receipt of principal. For example, a rated obligation could be assigned ratings of **AAAp NRi** indicating that the principal portion is rated **AAA** and the interest portion of the obligation is not rated.

**L** Ratings qualified with **L** apply only to amounts invested up to federal deposit insurance limits.

**p** This suffix is used for issues in which the credit factors, the terms, or both, that determine the likelihood of receipt of payment of principal are different from the credit factors, terms or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of interest on the obligation. The **p** suffix indicates that the rating addresses the principal portion of the obligation only. The **p** suffix will always be used in conjunction with the **i** suffix, which addresses likelihood of receipt of interest. For example, a rated obligation could be assigned ratings of **AAAp NRi** indicating that the principal portion is rated **AAA** and the interest portion of the obligation is not rated.

**pi** Ratings with a **pi** suffix are based on an analysis of an issuer's published financial information, as well as additional information in the public domain. They do not, however, reflect in-depth meetings with an issuer's management and therefore may be based on less comprehensive information than ratings without a **pi** suffix. Ratings with a **pi** suffix are reviewed annually based on a new year's financial statements, but may be reviewed on an interim basis if a major event occurs that may affect the issuer's credit quality.

**preliminary** Preliminary ratings, with the **prelim** suffix, may be assigned to obligors or obligations, including financial programs, in the circumstances described below. Assignment of a final rating is conditional on the receipt by S&P of appropriate documentation. S&P reserves the right not to issue a final rating. Moreover, if a final rating is issued, it may differ from the preliminary rating.

Preliminary ratings may be assigned to obligations, most commonly structured and project finance issues, pending receipt of final documentation and legal opinions.

Preliminary ratings are assigned to Rule 415 Shelf Registrations. As specific issues, with defined terms, are offered from the master registration, a final rating may be assigned to them in accordance with Standard & Poor's policies.

Preliminary ratings may be assigned to obligations that will likely be issued upon the obligor's emergence from bankruptcy or similar reorganization, based on late-stage reorganization plans, documentation and discussions with the obligor. Preliminary ratings may also be assigned to the obligors. These ratings consider the anticipated general credit quality of the reorganized or post-bankruptcy issuer as well as attributes of the anticipated obligation(s).

Preliminary ratings may be assigned to entities that are being formed or that are in the process of being independently established when, in S&P's opinion, documentation is close to final.

Preliminary ratings may also be assigned to these entities' obligations.

Preliminary ratings may be assigned when a previously unrated entity is undergoing a well-formulated restructuring, recapitalization, significant financing or other transformative event, generally at the point that investor or lender commitments are invited. The preliminary rating may be assigned to the entity and to its proposed obligation(s). These preliminary ratings consider the anticipated general credit quality of the obligor, as well as attributes of the anticipated obligation(s), assuming successful completion of the transformative event. Should the transformative event not occur, S&P would likely withdraw these preliminary ratings.

A preliminary recovery rating may be assigned to an obligation that has a preliminary issue credit rating.

**sf** The (sf) suffix is assigned to all issues and issuers to which a regulation, such as the European Union Regulation on Credit Rating Agencies, requires the assignment of an additional symbol which distinguishes a structured finance instrument or obligor (as defined in the regulation) from any other instrument or obligor. The addition of this suffix to a credit rating does not change the definition of that rating or our opinion about the issue's or issuer's creditworthiness.

**t** This symbol indicates termination structures that are designed to honor their contracts to full maturity or, should certain events occur, to terminate and cash settle all their contracts before their final maturity date.

**unsolicited** Unsolicited ratings are those credit ratings assigned at the initiative of S&P and not at the request of the issuer or its agents.

## **MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC.**

A brief description of the applicable Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's) rating symbols and their meanings (as published by Moody's) follows.

### ***Global Rating Scales***

Ratings assigned on Moody's global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issued by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities. Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of one year or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default on contractually promised payments and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default.

Moody's differentiates structured finance ratings from fundamental ratings (*i.e.*, ratings on nonfinancial corporate, financial institution, and public sector entities) on the global long-term scale by adding (sf) to all structured finance ratings. The addition of (sf) to structured finance ratings should eliminate any presumption that such ratings and fundamental ratings at the same letter grade level will behave the same. The (sf) indicator for structured finance security ratings indicates that otherwise similarly rated structured finance and fundamental securities may have different risk characteristics. Through its current methodologies, however, Moody's aspires to achieve broad expected equivalence in structured finance and fundamental rating performance when measured over a long period of time.

### ***Global Long-Term Rating Scale***

**Aaa** Obligations rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.

**Aa** Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.

**A** Obligations rated A are judged to be upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.

**Baa** Obligations rated Baa are judged to be medium-grade and subject to moderate credit risk and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.

**Ba** Obligations rated Ba are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.

**B** Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.

**Caa** Obligations rated Caa are judged to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.



**Ca** Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.

A-5

C Obligations rated C are the lowest rated and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

**Note:** Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. Additionally, a (hyb) indicator is appended to all ratings of hybrid securities issued by banks, insurers, finance companies, and securities firms.

By their terms, hybrid securities allow for the omission of scheduled dividends, interest, or principal payments, which can potentially result in impairment if such an omission occurs. Hybrid securities may also be subject to contractually allowable write-downs of principal that could result in impairment. Together with the hybrid indicator, the long-term obligation rating assigned to a hybrid security is an expression of the relative credit risk associated with that security.

### ***Global Short-Term Rating Scale***

**P-1** Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-1 have a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations.

**P-2** Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 have a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.

**P-3** Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-3 have an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.

**NP** Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

**Short-Term Obligation Ratings.** While the global short-term prime rating scale is applied to US municipal tax-exempt commercial paper, these programs are typically backed by external letters of credit or liquidity facilities and their short-term prime ratings usually map to the long-term rating of the enhancing bank or financial institution and not the municipality's rating. Other short-term municipal obligations, which generally have different funding sources for repayment, are rated using two additional short-term rating scales (*i.e.*, the MIG and VMIG scales discussed below).

The Municipal Investment Grade (MIG) scale is used to rate US municipal bond anticipation notes of up to three years maturity. Municipal notes rated on the MIG scale may be secured by either pledged revenues or proceeds of a take-out financing received prior to note maturity. MIG ratings expire at the maturity of the obligation, and the issuer's long-term rating is only one consideration in assigning the MIG rating. MIG ratings are divided into three levels MIG1 through MIG3 while speculative grade short-term obligations are designated SG.

**MIG 1** This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

**MIG 2** This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

**MIG 3** This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

**SG** This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

***Demand Obligation Ratings.*** In the case of variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs), a two-component rating is assigned; a long- or short-term debt rating and a demand obligation rating. The first element represents Moody's evaluation of risk associated with scheduled principal and interest payments. The second element represents Moody's evaluation of risk associated with the ability to receive purchase price upon demand (demand feature), using a variation of the MIG rating scale, the Variable Municipal Investment Grade or VMIG rating. The rating transitions on the VMIG scale differ from those on the Prime scale to reflect the risk that external liquidity support generally will terminate if the issuer's long-term rating drops below investment grade.

**VMIG 1** This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

**VMIG 2** This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

**VMIG 3** This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

**SG** This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Demand features rated in this category may be supported by a liquidity provider that does not have an investment grade short-term rating or may lack the structural and/or legal protections necessary to ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

### ***Other Ratings Symbols***

**e** Expected Ratings Indicator. To address market demand for timely information on particular types of credit ratings, Moody's has licensed to certain third parties the right to generate Expected Ratings. Expected Ratings are designated by an *e* after the rating code, and are intended to anticipate Moody's forthcoming rating assignments based on reliable information from third party sources (such as the issuer or underwriter associated with the particular securities) or established Moody's rating practices (i.e. medium term notes are typically, but not always, assigned the same rating as the note's program rating). Expected Ratings will exist only until Moody's confirms the Expected Rating, or issues a different rating for the relevant instrument. Moody's encourages market participants to contact Moody's Ratings Desk or visit [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com) if they have questions, or wish Moody's to confirm an Expected Rating.

**(P)** Provisional Ratings. As a service to the market and at the request of an issuer, Moody's will often assign a provisional rating when the assignment of a final rating is subject to the fulfillment of contingencies but it is highly likely that the rating will become definitive after all documents are received or an obligation is issued into the market. A provisional rating is denoted by placing a (P) in front of the rating. Such ratings are typically assigned to shelf registrations under SEC rule 415 or transaction-based structures that require investor education. When a transaction uses a well-established structure and the transaction's structure and terms are not expected to change prior to sale in a manner that would affect the rating, a definitive rating may be assigned directly.

**#** Refundeds. Issues that are secured by escrowed funds held in trust, reinvested in direct, non-callable US government obligations or non-callable obligations unconditionally guaranteed by the US Government or Resolution Funding Corporation are identified with a # (hatch mark) symbol, e.g., #Aaa.

**WR** Withdrawn. When Moody's no longer rates an obligation on which it previously maintained a rating, the symbol WR is employed.

**NR** Not Rated. The symbol NR is assigned to unrated obligations, issuers and/or programs.

**NAV** Not Available. An issue that Moody's has not yet rated is denoted by the NAV symbol.

**TWR** Terminated Without Rating. The symbol TWR applies primarily to issues that mature or are redeemed without having been rated.

**FITCH RATINGS, INC.**

A brief description of the applicable Fitch Ratings, Inc. ( Fitch ) ratings symbols and meanings (as published by Fitch) follows.

A-7

Rated entities in a number of sectors, including financial and non-financial corporations, sovereigns and insurance companies, are generally assigned Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs). IDRs opine on an entity's relative vulnerability to default on financial obligations. The threshold default risk addressed by the IDR is generally that of the financial obligations whose non-payment would best reflect the uncured failure of that entity. As such, IDRs also address relative vulnerability to bankruptcy, administrative receivership or similar concepts, although the agency recognizes that issuers may also make pre-emptive and therefore voluntary use of such mechanisms.

In aggregate, IDRs provide an ordinal ranking of issuers based on the agency's view of their relative vulnerability to default, rather than a prediction of a specific percentage likelihood of default. For historical information on the default experience of Fitch-rated issuers, please consult the transition and default performance studies available from the Fitch Ratings website.

### *Long-Term Credit Ratings Scales*

**AAA Highest credit quality.** AAA ratings denote the lowest expectation of default risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

**AA Very high credit quality.** AA ratings denote expectations of very low default risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

**A High credit quality.** A ratings denote expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

**BBB Good credit quality.** BBB ratings indicate that expectations of default risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.

**BB Speculative.** BB ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial flexibility exists which supports the servicing of financial commitments.

**B Highly speculative.** B ratings indicate that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.

**CCC Substantial credit risk.** Default is a real possibility.

**CC Very high levels of credit risk.** Default of some kind appears probable.

**C Exceptionally High Levels of Credit Risk.** Default is imminent or inevitable, or the issuer is in standstill.

Conditions that are indicative of a C category rating for an issuer include:

- a. the issuer has entered into a grace or cure period following non-payment of a material financial obligation;

- b. the issuer has entered into a temporary negotiated waiver or standstill agreement following a payment default on a material financial obligation; or
- c. Fitch Ratings otherwise believes a condition of RD or D to be imminent or inevitable, including through the formal announcement of a distressed debt exchange.

**RD Restricted default.** RD ratings indicate an issuer that in Fitch's opinion has experienced an uncured payment default on a bond, loan or other material financial obligation but which has not entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, and which has not otherwise ceased operating. This would include:

- a. the selective payment default on a specific class or currency of debt;

- b. the uncured expiry of any applicable grace period, cure period or default forbearance period following a payment default on a bank loan, capital markets security or other material financial obligation;
- c. the extension of multiple waivers or forbearance periods upon a payment default on one or more material financial obligations, either in series or in parallel; or
- d. execution of a distressed debt exchange on one or more material financial obligations.

**D Default.** D ratings indicate an issuer that in Fitch Ratings' opinion has entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, or which has otherwise ceased business.

Default ratings are not assigned prospectively to entities or their obligations; within this context, non-payment on an instrument that contains a deferral feature or grace period will generally not be considered a default until after the expiration of the deferral or grace period, unless a default is otherwise driven by bankruptcy or other similar circumstance, or by a distressed debt exchange.

Imminent default typically refers to the occasion where a payment default has been intimated by the issuer, and is all but inevitable. This may, for example, be where an issuer has missed a scheduled payment, but (as is typical) has a grace period during which it may cure the payment default. Another alternative would be where an issuer has formally announced a distressed debt exchange, but the date of the exchange still lies several days or weeks in the immediate future.

In all cases, the assignment of a default rating reflects the agency's opinion as to the most appropriate rating category consistent with the rest of its universe of ratings, and may differ from the definition of default under the terms of an issuer's financial obligations or local commercial practice.

**Note:** The modifiers + or - may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the AAA Long-Term IDR category, or to Long-Term IDR categories below B.

***Limitations for the Issuer Credit Rating Scale:***

Specific limitations relevant to the issuer credit rating scale include:

The ratings do not predict a specific percentage of default likelihood over any given time period.

The ratings do not opine on the market value of any issuer's securities or stock, or the likelihood that this value may change.

The ratings do not opine on the liquidity of the issuer's securities or stock.

The ratings do not opine on the possible loss severity on an obligation should an issuer default.



The ratings do not opine on the suitability of an issuer as counterparty to trade credit.

The ratings do not opine on any quality related to an issuer's business, operational or financial profile other than the agency's opinion on its relative vulnerability to default.

Ratings assigned by Fitch Ratings articulate an opinion on discrete and specific areas of risk. The above list is not exhaustive, and is provided for the reader's convenience.

***Short-Term Ratings Assigned to Issuers or Obligations in Corporate, Public and Structured Finance.*** A short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity or security stream and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-Term Ratings are assigned to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as short term based on market convention. Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign, and structured obligations, and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets.

**F1: Highest short-term credit quality.** Indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added + to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

**F2: Good short-term credit quality.** Good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

**F3: Fair short-term credit quality.** The intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.

**B: Speculative short-term credit quality.** Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

**C: High short-term default risk.** Default is a real possibility.

**RD: Restricted default.** Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Applicable to entity ratings only.

**D: Default.** Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a short-term obligation.

***Limitations of the Short-Term Ratings Scale:***

Specific limitations relevant to the Short-Term Ratings scale include:

The ratings do not predict a specific percentage of default likelihood over any given time period.

The ratings do not opine on the market value of any issuer's securities or stock, or the likelihood that this value may change.

The ratings do not opine on the liquidity of the issuer's securities or stock.

The ratings do not opine on the possible loss severity on an obligation should an obligation default.

The ratings do not opine on any quality related to an issuer or transaction's profile other than the agency's opinion on the relative vulnerability to default of the rated issuer or obligation.

Ratings assigned by Fitch Ratings articulate an opinion on discrete and specific areas of risk. The above list is not exhaustive, and is provided for the reader's convenience.

## PROXY VOTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Cushing<sup>®</sup> Asset Management, L.P. (the Investment Manager ) serves as the investment adviser and general partner, respectively, of certain the investment accounts and pooled investment (each a Client and collectively, the Clients ). Through these relationships the Investment Manager is sometimes delegated the right to vote, on behalf of the Clients, proxies received from companies, the securities of which are owned by the Clients.

### Purpose

The Investment Manager follows this proxy voting policy (the Policy ) to ensure that proxies the Investment Manager votes, on behalf of each Client, are voted to further the best interest of that Client. The Policy establishes a mechanism to address any conflicts of interests between the Investment Manager and the Client. Further, the Policy establishes how Clients may obtain information on how the proxies have been voted.

### Determination of Vote

The Investment Manager determines how to vote after studying the proxy materials and any other materials that may be necessary or beneficial to voting. The Investment Manager votes in a manner that the Investment Manager believes reasonably furthers the best interests of the Client and is consistent with the Client s investment philosophy as set forth in the relevant investment management documents.

The major proxy-related issues generally fall within five categories: corporate governance, takeover defenses, compensation plans, capital structure, and social responsibility. The Investment Manager will cast votes for these matters on a case-by-case basis. The Investment Manager will generally vote in favor of matters which follow an agreeable corporate strategic direction, support an ownership structure that enhances shareholder value without diluting management s accountability to shareholders and/or present compensation plans that are commensurate with enhanced manager performance and market practices.

### Resolution of any Conflicts of Interest

If a proxy vote creates a material conflict between the interests of the Investment Manager and a Client, the Investment Manager will resolve the conflict before voting the proxies. The Investment Manager will either disclose the conflict to the Client and obtain a consent or take other steps designed to ensure that a decision to vote the proxy was based on the Investment Manager s determination of the Client s best interest and was not the product of the conflict.

### Records

The Investment Manager maintains records of (i) all proxy statements and materials the Investment Manager receives on behalf of Clients; (ii) all proxy votes that are made on behalf of the Clients; (iii) all documents that were material to a proxy vote; (iv) all written requests from Clients regarding voting history; and (v) all responses (written and oral) to Clients requests. Such records are available to the Clients (and owners of a Client that is an investment vehicle) upon request.

**PART C**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 25. Financial Statements And Exhibits**

(1) Included in Part A: Financial highlights

Incorporated by reference into Part B: The Registrant's audited financial statements, notes to such financial statements and the report of independent registered public accounting firm thereon, by reference to the Registrant's Annual Report for the period ended November 30, 2017, as contained in the Registrant's Form N-CSR filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) on February 5, 2018, (Accession Number 0001193125-18-032018).

(2) Exhibits

- (a)(i) Second Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust of Registrant(3)
- (a)(ii) Amendment to the Second Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust of Registrant\*
- (b)(i) Amended and Restated By-Laws of Registrant\*
- (b)(ii) Amendment to the Amended and Restated By-Laws of Registrant\*
- (c) Not applicable
- (d) Form of Subscription Documents for Rights++
- (e) Dividend Reinvestment Plan of Registrant(1)
- (f) Not applicable
- (g) Investment Management Agreement between Registrant and Cushing® Asset Management, LP (the Investment Adviser)(2)
- (h) Form of Underwriting/Sales/Dealer Manager Agreement++
- (i) Not applicable
- (j) Custody Agreement(2)
- (k)(i)(1) Transfer Agent Servicing Agreement\*
- (2) Amendment to Transfer Agent Servicing Agreement\*
- (ii) Fund Administration Agreement(2)
- (iii) Fund Accounting Servicing Agreement(2)
- (iv) Lending Services Agreement\*
- (v) Special Custody and Pledge Agreement\*
- (l) Opinion and Consent of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP+

- (m) Not applicable
- (n) Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm\*
- (o) Not applicable
- (p) Initial Stock Purchase Agreement(2)
- (q) Not applicable
- (r)(i) Code of Ethics of the Registrant\*
- (ii) Code of Ethics of the Investment Adviser\*
- (s) Power of Attorney\*
- (z)(i) Form of Prospectus Supplement for Common Share Offering\*
- (z)(ii) Form of Prospectus Supplement for Rights Offering\*

\* Filed herewith.

C-1

- + To be filed by further amendment.
- ++ To be filed by post-effective amendment.
- (1) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (Securities Act File No. 333- 143305 and Investment Company Act File No. 811-22072), on Form N-2, filed on July 20, 2007.
- (2) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form N-2 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (Securities Act File No. 333- 143305 and Investment Company Act File No. 811-22072), on Form N-2, filed on August 23, 2007.
- (3) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Form 8-K filed on May 16, 2011.

**Item 26. Marketing Arrangements**

The information contained under the heading "Plan of Distribution" in this Registration Statement is incorporated herein by reference and any information concerning any underwriters for a particular offering will be contained in the Prospectus Supplement related to that offering.

**Item 27. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the estimated expenses to be incurred in connection with the offering described in this Registration Statement:

SEC Fees	\$
FINRA Fees	
Printing and Mailing Expenses	
Subscription Agent Fees	
Information Agent Fees	
Legal Fees	
Exchange Listing Fees	
Audit Fees	
Reimbursement Expenses	
Miscellaneous Expenses	
Total	

**Item 28. Persons Controlled by or Under Common Control with Registrant**

None

**Item 29. Number of Holders of Securities**

Title Class	Number of Record Shareholders as of June 4, 2018
Common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.001 per share	3

C-2

**Item 30. Indemnification**

Article IV of the Registrant's Second Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides as follows:

Section 2. Limitation of Liability. All persons contracting with or having any claim against the Trust or a particular Series shall look only to the assets of the Trust or, as applicable, all Series or such particular Series for payment under such contract or claim; and neither the Trustees nor, when acting in such capacity, any of the Trust's officers, employees or agents, whether past, present or future, shall be personally liable therefor. Every written instrument or obligation on behalf of the Trust or any Series shall contain a statement to the foregoing effect, but the absence of such statement shall not operate to make any Trustee or officer of the Trust liable thereunder. Provided they have exercised reasonable care and have acted under the reasonable belief that their actions are in the best interest of the Trust, the Trustees and officers of the Trust shall not be responsible or liable for any act or omission or for neglect or wrongdoing of them or any officer, agent, employee, investment adviser or independent contractor of the Trust, but nothing contained in this Declaration or in the Delaware Act shall protect any Trustee or officer of the Trust against liability to the Trust or to Shareholders to which he would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office.

Section 3. Indemnification.

(a) Subject to the exceptions and limitations contained in subsection (b) below:

(i) every person who is, or has been, a Trustee or an officer, employee or agent of the Trust (including any individual who serves at its request as director, officer, partner, employee, trustee, agent or the like of another organization in which it has any interest as a shareholder, creditor or otherwise) ( Covered Person ) shall be indemnified by the Trust or the appropriate Series to the fullest extent permitted by law against liability and against all expenses reasonably incurred or paid by him in connection with any claim, action, suit or proceeding in which he becomes involved as a party or otherwise by virtue of his being or having been a Covered Person and against amounts paid or incurred by him in the settlement thereof; and

(ii) as used herein, the words claim, action, suit, or proceeding shall apply to all claims, actions, suits or proceedings (civil, criminal, administrative, investigative, arbitration or other, including appeals), actual or threatened, and the words liability and expenses shall include, without limitation, attorneys' fees, costs, judgments, amounts paid in settlement, fines, penalties and other liabilities.

(b) No indemnification shall be provided hereunder to a Covered Person:

(i) who shall have been adjudicated by a court or body before which the proceeding was brought (A) to be liable to the Trust or its Shareholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office, or (B) not to have acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Trust; or

(ii) in the event of a settlement, unless there has been a determination that such Covered Person did not engage in willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office; (A) by the court or other body approving the settlement; (B) by at least a majority of those Trustees who are neither Interested Persons of the Trust nor are parties to the matter based upon a review of readily available facts (as opposed to a full trial-type inquiry); (C) by written opinion of independent legal counsel based upon a review of readily available facts (as opposed to a full trial-type inquiry) or (D) by a vote of a majority of the Outstanding Shares entitled to vote (excluding any Outstanding Shares owned of record or beneficially by such individual).

(c) The rights of indemnification herein provided may be insured against by policies maintained by the Trust, shall be severable, shall not be exclusive of or affect any other rights to which any Covered Person may now or hereafter be



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entitled, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of a Covered Person.

C-3

(d) To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, expenses in connection with the preparation and presentation of a defense to any claim, action, suit or proceeding of the character described in subsection (a) of this Section may be paid by the Trust or applicable Series from time to time prior to final disposition thereof upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such Covered Person that such amount will be paid over by him to the Trust or applicable Series if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to indemnification under this Section; provided, however, that either (i) such Covered Person shall have provided appropriate security for such undertaking, (ii) the Trust is insured against losses arising out of any such advance payments or (iii) either a majority of a quorum of the Trustees who are neither Interested Persons of the Trust nor parties to the matter, or independent legal counsel in a written opinion, shall have determined, based upon a review of readily available facts (as opposed to a full trial-type inquiry) that there is reason to believe that such Covered Person will not be disqualified from indemnification under this Section. Independent counsel retained for the purpose of rendering an opinion regarding advancement of expenses and/or a majority of a quorum of the Trustees who are neither Interested Persons of the Trust nor parties to the matter, may proceed under a rebuttable presumption that the Covered Person has not engaged in willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the Covered Person's duties to the Trust and were based on the Covered Person's determination that those actions were in the best interests of the Trust and its Shareholders; provided that the Covered Person is not an Interested Person (or is an Interested Person solely by reason of being an officer of the Trust).

(e) Any repeal or modification of this Article IV by the Shareholders, or adoption or modification of any other provision of the Declaration or By-Laws inconsistent with this Article, shall be prospective only, to the extent that such repeal, or modification would, if applied retrospectively, adversely affect any limitation on the liability of any Covered Person or indemnification available to any Covered Person with respect to any act or omission which occurred prior to such repeal, modification or adoption. Any such repeal or modification by the Shareholders shall require a vote of at least two-thirds of the Outstanding Shares entitled to vote and present in person or by proxy at any meeting of the Shareholders.

#### Section 4. Indemnification of Shareholders.

(a) If any Shareholder or former Shareholder of the Trust (as opposed to a Shareholder or former Shareholder of any Series) shall be held personally liable solely by reason of his being or having been a Shareholder and not because of his acts or omissions or for some other reason, the Shareholder or former Shareholder (or his heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives or in the case of any entity, its general successor) shall be entitled out of the assets belonging to the Trust to be held harmless from and indemnified against all loss and expense arising from such liability. The Trust shall, upon request by such Shareholder, assume the defense of any claim made against such Shareholder for any act or obligation of the Trust and satisfy any judgment thereon from the assets of the Series.

(b) If any Shareholder or former Shareholder of any Series shall be held personally liable solely by reason of his being or having been a Shareholder and not because of his acts or omissions or for some other reason, the Shareholder or former Shareholder (or his heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives or in the case of any entity, its general successor) shall be entitled out of the assets belonging to the applicable Series to be held harmless from and indemnified against all loss and expense arising from such liability. The Trust, on behalf of the affected Series, shall, upon request by such Shareholder, assume the defense of any claim made against such Shareholder for any act or obligation of the Series and satisfy any judgment thereon from the assets of the Series.

Section 5. No Bond Required of Trustees. No Trustee shall be obligated to give any bond or other security for the performance of any of his duties hereunder.

Section 6. No Duty of Investigation; Notice in Trust Instruments, Etc. No purchaser, lender, transfer agent or other Person dealing with the Trustees or any officer, employee or agent of the Trust or a Series thereof shall be bound to make any inquiry concerning the validity of any transaction purporting to be made by the Trustees or by said officer,

employee or agent or be liable for the application of money or property paid, loaned, or delivered to or on the order of the Trustees or of said officer, employee or agent. Every obligation, contract, instrument, certificate, Share, other security of the Trust or a Series thereof or undertaking, and every other act or thing whatsoever executed in connection with the Trust shall be

C-4

conclusively presumed to have been executed or done by the executors thereof only in their capacity as Trustees under this Declaration or in their capacity as officers, employees or agents of the Trust or a Series thereof. Every written obligation, contract, instrument, certificate, Share, other security of the Trust or a Series thereof or undertaking made or issued by the Trustees may recite that the same is executed or made by them not individually, but as Trustees under the Declaration, and that the obligations of the Trust or a Series thereof under any such instrument are not binding upon any of the Trustees or Shareholders individually, but bind only the Trust Property or the Trust Property of the applicable Series, and may contain any further recital which they may deem appropriate, but the omission of such recital shall not operate to bind the Trustees individually. The Trustees may maintain insurance for the protection of the Trust Property or the Trust Property of the applicable Series, its Shareholders, Trustees, officers, employees and agents in such amount as the Trustees shall deem adequate to cover possible tort liability, and such other insurance as the Trustees in their sole judgment shall deem advisable.

Section 7. Reliance on Experts, Etc. Each Trustee, officer or employee of the Trust or a Series thereof shall, in the performance of his duties, powers and discretions hereunder be fully and completely justified and protected with regard to any act or any failure to act resulting from reliance in good faith upon the books of account or other records of the Trust or a Series thereof, upon an opinion of counsel, or upon reports made to the Trust or a Series thereof by any of its officers or employees or by the Investment Adviser, the Administrator, the Distributor, the Principal Underwriter, Transfer Agent, selected dealers, accountants, appraisers or other experts or consultants selected with reasonable care by the Trustees, officers or employees of the Trust, regardless of whether such counsel or expert may also be a Trustee.

Section 18 of the Investment Management Agreement between Registrant and Cushing® Asset Management, LP provides as follows:

18. Limitation of Liability of the Fund and the Shareholders. None of the Trustees, officers, agents or shareholders of the Fund will be personally liable under this Agreement. The name The Cushing® MLP Total Return Fund is the designation of the Fund for the time being under the Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust and all persons dealing with the Fund must look solely to the property of the Fund for the enforcement of any claims against the Fund, as none of the Trustees, officers, agents or shareholders assume any personal liability for obligations entered into on behalf of the Fund.

### **Item 31. Business and Other Connections of the Advisor**

The Investment Adviser is not engaged in any other business, profession, vocation or employment of a substantial nature. A description of any other business, profession, vocation or employment of a substantial nature in which each limited partner or executive officer of the Investment Adviser is or has been during the past two fiscal years engaged in for his or her own account or in his or her capacity as trustee, officer, or portfolio manager of the Fund, is set forth in Part A and Part B of this Registration Statement in the sections entitled Management of the Fund or in the Investment Adviser's Form ADV, as filed with the SEC (SEC File No. 801-63255), and which Form ADV is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 32. Location of Accounts and Records**

The accounts, books or other documents required to be maintained by Section 31(a) of the 1940 Act, and the rules promulgated under the 1940 Act, are kept by the Registrant or its custodian, transfer agent, administrator and fund accountant. The Registrant is located at the following address: The Cushing® MLP & Infrastructure Total Return Fund, 8117 Preston Road, Suite 440, Dallas, Texas 75225. The Fund's custodian is located at the following address: U.S. Bank National Association, 1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212. The Fund's

transfer agent, registrar and administrator is located at the following address: U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

**Item 33. Management Services**

Not applicable.

C-5

**Item 34. Undertakings**

1. Registrant undertakes to suspend the offering of common shares until the prospectus is amended, if subsequent to the effective date of this registration statement, its net asset value declines more than ten percent from its net asset value, as of the effective date of the registration statement or its net asset value increases to an amount greater than its net proceeds as stated in the prospectus.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Registrant undertakes:
  - (a) to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to the Registration Statement:
    - (1) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
    - (2) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represents a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement; and
    - (3) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;
  - (b) that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof;
  - (c) to remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering;
  - (d) that, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser, if the Registrant is subject to Rule 430C: Each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 497(b), (c), (d) or (e) under the Securities Act as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the

registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use;

- (e) that for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of securities;

The undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to the purchaser:

- (1) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 497 under the Securities Act of 1933.

(2) the portion of any advertisement pursuant to Rule 482 under the Securities Act of 1933 relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

(3) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

5. Registrant undertakes that:

a. For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in the form of prospectus filed by the Registrant under Rule 497(h) under the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective; and

b. For the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of the securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

6. Registrant undertakes to send by first class mail or other means designed to ensure equally prompt delivery, within two business days of receipt of a written or oral request, any Statement of Additional Information constituting Part B of this Registration Statement.

C-7



**SIGNATURES**

As required by the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, this Registrant's Registration Statement has been signed on behalf of the Registrant, in the City of Dallas, State of Texas, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018

THE CUSHING® MLP &  
INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL RETURN  
FUND

By: /s/ Jerry V. Swank  
Name: Jerry V. Swank  
Title: Trustee, Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer

As required by the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities set forth below on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
/s/ Jerry V. Swank Jerry V. Swank	Trustee, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
/s/ John H. Alban John H. Alban	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
* Brian R. Bruce	Trustee
* Brenda A. Cline	Trustee
* Ronald P. Trout	Trustee

\* By:  
Barry Y. Greenberg  
As Attorney-In-Fact, Pursuant to a Power of  
Attorney

June 8, 2018

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

- (a)(ii) Amendment to the Second Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust of Registrant
- (b)(i) Amended and Restated By-Laws of Registrant
- (b)(ii) Amendment to the Amended and Restated By-Laws of Registrant
- (k)(i)(1) Transfer Agent Servicing Agreement
- (k)(i)(2) Amendment to Transfer Agent Servicing Agreement
- (k)(iv) Lending Services Agreement
- (k)(v) Special Custody and Pledge Agreement
- (n) Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
- (r)(i) Code of Ethics of the Registrant
- (r)(ii) Code of Ethics of the Investment Adviser
- (s) Power of Attorney
- (z)(i) Form of Prospectus Supplement for Common Share Offering
- (z)(ii) Form of Prospectus Supplement for Rights Offering