

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

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Date:

February 24, 2000

Acquiring =

T1 =

T2 =

T3 =

State A =

Dear :

This is in reply to a letter dated September 24, 1999, in which rulings are requested as to the federal income tax consequences of a proposed transaction. Additional information was submitted in letters dated December 9, 1999, January 12, and February 17, 2000. The facts submitted for consideration are substantially as set forth below.

Acquiring is a closed-end nondiversified management investment company organized under the laws of State A. Acquiring elected to be taxed as a regulated investment company ("RIC") under §§851-855 of the Internal Revenue Code in its first tax return. Acquiring has outstanding voting common stock and two series of voting preferred stock.

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T1 is a closed-end nondiversified management investment company organized under the laws of State A. T1 has elected to be taxed as a RIC under §§851-855 of the Internal Revenue Code. T1 has outstanding voting common stock and two series of preferred stock.

T2 is a closed-end nondiversified management investment company organized under the laws of State A. T2 has elected to be taxed as a RIC under §§851-855 of the Internal Revenue Code. T2 has outstanding voting common stock and two series of voting preferred stock.

T3 is a closed-end nondiversified management investment company organized under the laws of State A. T3 will elect to be taxed as a RIC under §§851-855 of the Internal Revenue Code in its first tax return. T3 has outstanding voting common stock and one series of voting preferred stock.

Each of Acquiring, T1, T2 and T3 is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

For what are represented to be valid business reasons, the following transaction is proposed:

- (i) T1, T2, and T3 (Target Funds) will transfer all of their assets and liabilities to Acquiring in exchange for Acquiring voting common stock and voting preferred stock.
- (ii) The Target Funds will dissolve and distribute the Acquiring voting common and voting preferred stock to their shareholders. Each Target Fund common stockholder will be entitled to receive a proportionate number of Acquiring common shares equal to the aggregate net asset value of the Target Fund common stock owned by such shareholder on the exchange date. Each Target Fund preferred shareholder, likewise, will be entitled to receive a number of Acquiring preferred shares having a liquidation preference and value equal to the liquidation preference and value of the Target Fund shares owned by such shareholder on the exchange date. Each Target Fund's preferred shares have the same terms as the Acquiring preferred shares to be issued.
- (iii) Acquiring may sell up to 66 percent of the assets received in the transfers and will reinvest the proceeds consistent with its investment objectives and policies. Acquiring will not sell more than 66 percent of any Target Fund's assets following the transaction.

No fractional shares will be issued by Acquiring in the transaction. All fractional shares of Acquiring common stock will be aggregated and sold and the fractional

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shareholder will receive cash in lieu thereof.

The following representations have been made in connection with the proposed transaction:

- (a) The fair market value of the Acquiring stock received by each Target Fund shareholder will be approximately equal to the fair market value of the Target Fund stock surrendered in the exchange.
- (b) Acquiring will acquire at least 90 percent of the fair market value of the net assets and at least 70 percent of the fair market value of the gross assets held by each Target Fund immediately prior to the transaction. For purposes of this representation, amounts paid by a Target Fund to dissenters, amounts used by each Target Fund to pay its reorganization expenses, amounts paid by each Target Fund to shareholders who receive cash or other property, and all redemptions and distributions (except for regular, normal dividends) made by each Target Fund immediately preceding the transfer will be included as assets of the respective Target Fund held immediately prior to the transaction.
- (c) Acquiring has no plan or intention to reacquire any of its stock issued in the transaction.
- (d) After the transaction, Acquiring will use the assets acquired from Target Funds in its business, except that a portion of these assets may be sold or otherwise disposed of in the ordinary course of Acquiring's business and as set forth above in step (iii) of the transaction. Any proceeds will be invested in accordance with Acquiring's investment objectives. Otherwise, Acquiring has no plan or intention to sell or otherwise dispose of any of the assets of Target Funds acquired in the transaction except for dispositions made in the ordinary course of business or transfers described in §368(a)(2)(C).
- (e) Target Funds will distribute to their shareholders the stock of Acquiring received pursuant to the plan of reorganization.
- (f) The liabilities of Target Funds assumed by Acquiring and any liabilities to which the transferred assets of Target Funds are subject were incurred by Target Funds in the ordinary course of their businesses.
- (g) Following the transaction, Acquiring will continue the historic business of each Target Fund or use a significant portion of each Target Fund's historic business assets in the continuing business.

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- (h) Target Funds, Acquiring and the shareholders of each Target Fund will pay their respective expenses, if any, incurred in connection with the transaction.
- (i) There is no intercorporate indebtedness existing between any of the Target Funds and Acquiring that was issued, acquired, or will be settled at a discount.
- (j) Acquiring and each Target Fund meet the requirements of a regulated investment company as referred to in 368(a)(2)(F).
- (k) The fair market value of the assets of each Target Fund transferred to Acquiring will equal or exceed the sum of the liabilities assumed by Acquiring, plus the amount of liabilities, if any, to which the transferred assets are subject.
- (l) Acquiring does not own, directly or indirectly, nor has it owned during the past five years, directly or indirectly, any stock of Target Funds.
- (m) Cash is being distributed to shareholders of Target Funds in lieu of fractional shares of Acquiring solely to save Acquiring the expense and inconvenience of issuing and transferring fractional shares, and such cash does not represent separately bargained for consideration in the transaction. The total cash consideration that will be paid in each transaction between Acquiring and a Target Fund to the respective Target Fund shareholders instead of issuing fractional shares of Acquiring stock will not exceed one percent of the total consideration that will be issued in the transaction to the Target Fund shareholders in exchange for their shares of Target Fund stock. The fractional share interests of each shareholder of a Target Fund will be aggregated, and no Target shareholder will receive cash in an amount equal to or greater than the value of one full share of Acquiring stock.
- (n) Target Funds are not under the jurisdiction of a court in a title 11 or similar case within the meaning of §368(a)(3)(A).
- (o) Target Funds and Acquiring have elected to be taxed as RICs under §851, and for all of their taxable periods (including the last short taxable period ending on the date of the transaction, for each Target Fund), have qualified for the special tax treatment afforded RICs under the Code. After the transaction, Acquiring intends to continue to so qualify.
- (p) There is no plan or intention for Acquiring (the issuing corporation as defined in §1.368-1(b)) or any person related (as defined in §1.368-

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1(e)(3)) to Acquiring, to acquire, during the five year period beginning on the date of the proposed transaction, with consideration other than Acquiring stock, Acquiring stock furnished in exchange for a proprietary interest in a Target Fund in the proposed transaction, either directly or through any transaction, agreement, or arrangement with any other person, except for cash distributed to the Target Fund's common shareholders in lieu of fractional shares of Acquiring common stock.

- (q) During the five year period ending on the date of the proposed transaction: i) neither Acquiring, nor any person related (as defined in §1.368-1(e)(3)) to Acquiring, will have acquired a Target Fund's stock with consideration other than Acquiring stock; ii) no Target Fund, nor any person related (as defined in §1.368-1(e)(3) without regard to §1.368-1(e)(3)(i)(A)) to a Target Fund, will have acquired such Target Fund's stock with consideration other than Acquiring stock or the Target Fund's stock; and iii) no distributions will have been made with respect to a Target Fund's stock (other than ordinary, normal, regular, dividend distributions made pursuant to the Target Fund's historic dividend paying practice), either directly or through any transaction, agreement, or arrangement with any other person, except for a) cash paid to dissenters and b) distributions described in §§852 and 4982 of the Code, as required for each Target Fund's tax treatment as a RIC.
- (r) The aggregate value of the acquisitions, redemptions, and distributions discussed in paragraphs (p) and (q), above, will not exceed 50 percent of the value (without giving effect to the acquisitions, redemptions and distributions) of the proprietary interest in any Target Fund on the effective date of the proposed transaction.
- (s) At the time of the incorporation of each of T1, T2 and T3, there was no plan or intention to sell or otherwise dispose of such corporation's assets except in the ordinary course of business.

Based solely upon the information and representations set forth above, we hold as follows:

- (1) The acquisition by Acquiring of substantially all of the assets of each Target Fund in exchange for voting shares of Acquiring stock and Acquiring's assumption of each Target Fund's liabilities, followed by the distribution of each Target Fund to its shareholders of Acquiring shares and any remaining assets, in complete liquidation, will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of §368(a)(1)(C) of the Code. Acquiring and each Target Fund each will be deemed a "party to a reorganization" within the meaning of §368(b).

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- (2) No gain or loss will be recognized by each Target Fund upon the transfer of substantially all of its assets to Acquiring solely in exchange for Acquiring voting stock and Acquiring's assumption of such Target Fund's liabilities or upon the distribution of such Acquiring stock to the Target Fund shareholder (§§361(a) and (c), 357(a)).
- (3) Acquiring will not recognize any gain or loss on the receipt of the assets of each Target Fund in exchange for voting shares of Acquiring (§1032(a)).
- (4) The basis of each Target Fund's assets in the hands of Acquiring will be the same as the basis of those assets in the hands of such Target Fund immediately prior to the reorganization (§362(b)).
- (5) Acquiring's holding period for the Target Fund assets acquired will include the period during which such assets were held by the Target Fund (§1223(2)).
- (6) The shareholders of the Target Funds will not recognize any gain or loss on the receipt of voting shares of Acquiring (including fractional shares to which they may be entitled) solely in exchange for their shares in the Target Funds (§354(a)(1)).
- (7) The basis of the Acquiring shares received by the Target Fund shareholders (including fractional shares to which they may be entitled) will be the same, in the aggregate, as the basis of the Target Fund shares surrendered in exchange (§358(a)(1)).
- (8) The holding period of the Acquiring shares received by Target Fund shareholders in exchange for their Target Fund shares (including fractional shares to which they may be entitled) will include the period during which the exchanged Target Fund shares were held, provided that the Target Fund shares are held as a capital asset in the hands of the Target Fund shareholder on the date of the exchange (§1223(1)).
- (9) Any gain or loss realized by a shareholder of the Target Funds upon the sale of fractional share interests of Acquiring voting stock to which the stockholder is entitled will be recognized to the shareholder measured by the difference between the amount of cash received and the basis of the fractional share interest. Where the stock surrendered qualifies as a capital asset in the hands of the shareholder, such gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss subject to the provisions and limitations of Subchapter P of Chapter 1 of the Code.

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- (10) Pursuant to §381(a) and §1.381(a)-1, Acquiring will succeed to and take into account the items of the Target Funds described in §381(c), subject to the conditions and limitations specified in §§381(b) and (c), 382, 383, and 384.

No opinion is expressed about the tax treatment of the proposed transaction under other provisions of the Code or regulations or about the tax treatment of any conditions existing at the time of, or effects resulting from, the proposed transaction that are not specifically covered by the above rulings.

This letter is directed only to the taxpayer who requested it. Section 6110(k)(3) provides that it may not be used or cited as precedent.

A copy of this letter should be attached to the federal income tax return of the taxpayers involved for the taxable year in which the transaction covered by this letter is consummated.

Pursuant to a power of attorney on file in this office, a copy of this letter has been sent to the taxpayer's representative.

Sincerely yours,
Assistant Chief Counsel (Corporate)

By: Charles Whedbee
Charles Whedbee
Senior Technical Reviewer, Branch 5