

MFS INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST  
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AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON

AUGUST 6, 2008

1940 ACT FILE NO. 811-5440

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

## FORM N-2

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940 x

Amendment No. 12 x

# MFS<sup>®</sup> INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

500 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code: 617-954-5000

Susan S. Newton

**Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk**

**MFS Intermediate Income Trust**

**c/o Massachusetts Financial Services Company**

**500 Boylston Street**

**Boston, Massachusetts 02116**

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

The MFS Intermediate Income Trust (the fund or Fund ) is a closed-end, diversified, management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act ). The fund was organized as a business trust under the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts on December 30, 1987.

### **Investment Objective**

The fund's investment objective is to seek high current income, but may also consider capital appreciation. The fund's objective may be changed without shareholder approval.

### **Principal Investment Strategies**

MFS (Massachusetts Financial Services Company, the fund's investment adviser) normally invests the Fund's assets primarily in debt instruments. MFS generally invests substantially all of the Fund's assets in investment grade debt instruments.

The fund's dollar-weighted average life will normally be between three and ten years. In determining an instrument's life for purposes of calculating the fund's average life, an estimate of the average time for its principal to be paid is used. This can be substantially shorter than the instrument's stated maturity.

MFS may invest the fund's assets in U.S. and foreign securities, including emerging market securities.

MFS may invest a relatively high percentage of the Fund's assets in a single country, a small number of countries, or a particular geographic region.

The fund seeks to make a monthly distribution at an annual fixed rate of up to 8.50% of the fund's average monthly net asset value.

MFS may invest the Fund's assets in mortgage dollar rolls.

MFS may use derivatives for different purposes, including to earn income and enhance returns, to increase or decrease exposure to a particular market, to manage or adjust the risk profile of the Fund, or as alternatives to direct investments.

MFS uses a bottom-up investment approach in buying and selling investments for the Fund. Investments are selected primarily based on fundamental analysis of instruments and their issuers in light of current market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions. Factors considered may include the instrument's credit quality, collateral characteristics, and indenture provisions, and the issuer's management ability, capital structure, leverage, and ability to meet its current obligations. Quantitative analysis of the structure of the instrument and its features may also be considered.

If approved by the fund's Board of Trustees, the fund may use leverage through the issuance of preferred shares, borrowing from banks, and/or other methods of creating leverage, and investing the proceeds pursuant to its investment strategies.

MFS may engage in active and frequent trading in pursuing the Fund's principal investment strategies.

In response to market, economic, political, or other conditions, MFS may depart from the Fund's principal investment strategies by temporarily investing for defensive purposes.

### **Principal Investment Types**

**Debt Instruments:** Debt instruments represent obligations of corporations, governments, and other entities to repay money borrowed. The issuer or borrower usually pays a fixed, variable, or floating rate of interest, and must repay the amount borrowed, usually at the maturity of the instrument. Some debt instruments, such as zero coupon bonds or payment-in-kind bonds, do not pay current interest. Other debt instruments, such as certain mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, make periodic payments of interest and/or principal. Some debt instruments are partially or fully secured by collateral supporting the payment of interest and principal.

**Corporate Bonds:** Corporate bonds are debt instruments issued by domestic or foreign corporations or similar entities.

**U.S. Government Securities:** U.S. Government securities are securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury, by an agency or instrumentality of the U.S. Government, or by a U.S. Government-sponsored entity. Certain U.S. Government securities are not supported as to the payment of principal and interest by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury or the ability to borrow from the U.S. Treasury. Some U.S.

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Government securities are supported as to the payment of principal and interest only by the credit of the entity issuing or guaranteeing

the security. U.S. Government securities include mortgage-backed securities and other types of collateralized instruments issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury, by an agency or instrumentality of the U.S. Government, or by a U.S. Government-sponsored entity.

**Collateralized Instruments:** Collateralized instruments include mortgage-backed securities and other interests in pools of assets, such as loans or receivables. Payment of principal and interest generally depends on the cash flows generated by the underlying assets and the terms of the instrument. Certain collateralized instruments offer multiple classes that differ in terms of their priority to receive principal and/or interest payments under the terms of the instrument. Collateralized instruments typically involve a third party responsible for servicing the instrument and performing operational functions such as collecting and aggregating principal, interest and escrow payments, accounting and loan analysis.

**Municipal Instruments:** Municipal instruments are issued to raise money for a variety of public and private purposes, including general financing for state and local governments, or financing for a specific project or public facility. Municipal instruments include general obligation bonds of municipalities, local or state governments, project or revenue-specific bonds, municipal lease obligations, and prerefunded or escrowed bonds. Municipal instruments may be fully or partially supported by the local government, by the credit of a private issuer, by the current or anticipated revenues from a specific project or assets, by the issuer's pledge to make annual appropriations for lease payments, or by domestic or foreign entities providing credit support, such as letters of credit, guarantees, or insurance.

**Foreign Government Securities:** Foreign government securities are debt instruments issued, guaranteed, or supported, as to the payment of principal and interest, by foreign governments, foreign government agencies, foreign semi-governmental entities or supranational entities, or debt instruments issued by entities organized and operated for the purpose of restructuring outstanding foreign government securities. Foreign government securities may not be supported as to the payment of principal and interest by the full faith and credit of the foreign government.

**Inflation-Adjusted Debt Instruments:** Inflation-adjusted debt instruments are debt instruments whose principal and/or interest are adjusted for inflation. Inflation-adjusted debt instruments issued by the U.S. Treasury pay a fixed rate of interest that is applied to an inflation-adjusted principal amount. The principal amount is adjusted based on changes in the Consumer Price Index. The principal due at maturity is typically equal to the inflation-adjusted principal amount, or to the instrument's original par value, whichever is greater. Other types of inflation-adjusted debt instruments may use other methods of adjusting for inflation, and other measures of inflation. Other issuers of inflation-adjusted debt instruments include U.S. Government agencies, instrumentalities and sponsored entities, corporations, and foreign governments.

**Mortgage Dollar Rolls:** Mortgage dollar rolls are simultaneous agreements with a third party both to sell a mortgage-backed security and to purchase a similar security from the third party on a later date, for an agreed-upon price.

**Derivatives:** Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is based on the value of one or more underlying indicators or the difference between underlying indicators. Underlying indicators may include a security or other financial instrument, asset, currency, interest rate, credit rating, commodity, volatility measure, or index. Derivatives often involve a counterparty to the transaction. Derivatives include futures, forward contracts, options, structured securities, inverse floating rate instruments, swaps, caps, floors, and collars.

### Principal Risks

As with any mutual fund, you could lose money on your investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The principal risks of investing in the Fund are:

**Interest Rate Risk:** The price of a debt instrument changes in response to interest rate changes. In general, the price of a debt instrument falls when interest rates rise and rises when interest rates fall. Instruments with longer maturities, or that do not pay current interest, are more sensitive to interest rate changes. In addition, short-term and long-term interest rates do not necessarily move in the same direction or by the same amount. An instrument's reaction to interest rate changes depends on the timing of its interest and principal payments and the current interest rate for each of those time periods. Instruments with floating interest rates can be less sensitive to interest rate changes. In response to an interest rate decline, instruments that provide the issuer with the right to call or redeem the instrument prior to maturity may be called or redeemed, resulting in the reinvestment of proceeds in other investments at a lower interest rate.

**Credit Risk:** The value of a debt instrument depends, in part, on the issuer's or borrower's credit quality or ability to pay principal and interest when due. The value of a debt instrument is likely to fall if an issuer or borrower

defaults on its obligation to pay principal or interest or if the instrument's credit rating is downgraded by a credit rating agency. The value of a debt instrument can also decline in response to changes in the financial condition of the issuer or borrower, changes in specific market, economic, industry, political, and regulatory conditions that affect a particular type of instrument, issuer, or borrower, and changes in general market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions. Certain unanticipated events, such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks, war, and other geopolitical events can have a dramatic adverse effect on the value of a debt instrument. For certain types of instruments, including derivatives, the value of the instrument depends in part on the credit quality of the counterparty to the transaction. For other types of debt instruments, including collateralized instruments, the price of the debt instrument also depends on the credit quality and adequacy of the underlying assets or collateral. Enforcing rights against the underlying assets or collateral may be difficult, or the underlying assets or collateral may be insufficient, if the issuer defaults.

**Foreign Risk:** Investments in securities of foreign issuers, securities of companies with significant foreign exposure, and foreign currencies can involve additional risks relating to market, economic, political, or regulatory conditions and developments. Political, social, and economic instability, the imposition of currency or capital controls, or the expropriation or nationalization of assets in a particular country can cause dramatic declines in that country's economy. Less stringent regulatory, accounting, and disclosure requirements for issuers and markets are more common in certain foreign countries. Enforcing legal rights can be difficult, costly, and slow in certain foreign countries, and can be particularly difficult against foreign governments. Additional risks of foreign investments include trading, settlement, custodial, and other operational risks, and withholding and other taxes. These factors can make foreign investments, especially those in emerging markets, more volatile and less liquid than U.S. investments. In addition, foreign markets can react differently to market, economic, political, or regulatory developments than the U.S. market.

**Emerging Markets Risk:** Emerging markets investments can involve additional and greater risks than the risks associated with investments in developed foreign markets securities. Emerging markets typically have less economic development, market structure and depth and regulatory oversight than developed countries. Emerging markets can also be subject to greater political, social, and economic instability. These factors can make emerging market investments more volatile and less liquid than investments in developed markets.

**Currency Risk:** A decline in the value of a foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar reduces the value of the foreign currency and investments denominated in that currency. In addition, the use of foreign exchange contracts to reduce foreign currency exposure can eliminate some or all of the benefit of an increase in the value of a foreign currency versus the U.S. dollar. The value of foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar fluctuates in response to, among other factors, interest rate changes, intervention (or failure to intervene) by the U.S. or foreign governments, central banks, or supranational entities such as the International Monetary Fund, the imposition of currency controls, and other political or regulatory developments in the U.S. or abroad. Foreign currency values can decrease significantly both in the short term and over the long term in response to these and other developments.

**Geographic Concentration Risk:** Because MFS may invest a relatively large percentage of the Fund's assets in issuers located in a single country, a small number of countries, or a particular geographic region, the Fund's performance could be closely tied to the market, currency, economic, political, or regulatory conditions and developments in those countries or that region, and could be more volatile than the performance of more geographically-diversified funds.

**Prepayment Risk:** Many types of debt instruments, including mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and municipal housing bonds, are subject to the risk of prepayment. Prepayment occurs when unscheduled payments of principal are made prior to an instrument's maturity. Instruments subject to prepayment can offer less potential for gains during a declining interest rate environment and greater potential for loss in a rising interest rate environment. In addition, prepayment rates are difficult to predict and the potential impact of prepayment on the price of a debt instrument depends on the terms of the instrument and can result in significant volatility.

**Inflation-Adjusting Risk:** Interest payments on inflation-adjusted debt instruments can be unpredictable and vary based on the level of inflation. If inflation is negative, principal and income both can decline. In addition, the measure of inflation used may not correspond to the actual rate of inflation experienced by a particular individual.

**Municipal Market Risk:** The price of municipal instruments can be volatile and significantly affected by adverse tax or court rulings, legislative or political changes, and the financial developments of municipal issuers. Because many municipal instruments are issued to finance similar projects, especially those relating to education, health care, housing, utilities, and water and sewer, conditions in these industries can affect the overall municipal market. In addition, changes in the financial condition of an individual municipal insurer can affect the overall municipal market.

**Managed Distribution Plan Risk:** The fund may not be able to maintain a monthly distribution at an annual fixed rate of up to 8.50% of the fund's average monthly net asset value. If income from the fund's investments is less than the amount needed to make a monthly distribution, portfolio investments may be sold to fund the distribution. Distributions that are treated as return of capital will have the effect of reducing the fund's assets and could increase the fund's expense ratio. If a portion of the fund's distributions represents returns of capital over extended periods, the fund's assets may be reduced over time to levels where the fund is no longer viable and might be liquidated.

**Leveraging Risk:** If the fund utilizes investment leverage, there can be no assurance that such a leveraging strategy will be successful during any period in which it is employed. The use of leverage is a speculative investment technique that results in greater volatility in the fund's net asset value. To the extent that investments are purchased with the proceeds from the borrowings from a bank, the issuance of preferred shares, or the creation of tender option bonds, the fund's net asset value will increase or decrease at a greater rate than a comparable unleveraged fund. If the investment income or gains earned from the investments purchased with the proceeds from the borrowings from a bank, the issuance of preferred shares, or the creation of tender option bonds, fails to cover the expenses of leveraging, the fund's net asset value is likely to decrease more quickly than if the fund weren't leveraged. In addition, the fund's distributions could be reduced. The fund is currently required under the 1940 Act to maintain asset coverage of 200% on outstanding preferred shares and 300% on outstanding indebtedness. If asset coverage declines below those levels (as a result of market fluctuation or otherwise), the fund may be required to sell a portion of its investments at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. The expenses of leveraging are paid by the holders of common shares.

Certain transactions including when-issued, delayed-delivery, forward commitment purchases, loans of portfolio securities, mortgage dollar rolls, and the use of some derivatives can result in leverage. Because movements in a fund's share price generally correlate over time with the fund's net asset value, the market price of a leveraged fund will also tend to be more volatile than that of a comparable unleveraged fund. The costs of an offering of preferred shares and/or borrowing program would be borne by shareholders.

Under the terms of any loan agreement, the fund may be required to, among other things, limit its ability to pay distributions in certain circumstances, incur additional debts, engage in certain transactions, and pledge some or all of its assets. Such agreements could limit the fund's ability to pursue its investment strategies. The terms of any loan agreement could be more or less restrictive than those described.

Under guidelines generally required by a rating agency providing a rating for any preferred shares, the fund may be required to, among other things, maintain certain asset coverage requirements, restrict certain investments and practices, and adopt certain redemption requirements relating to preferred shares. Such agreements could limit the fund's ability to pursue its investment strategies. The guidelines imposed with respect to preferred shares by a rating agency could be more or less restrictive than those described.

**Derivatives Risk:** Derivatives can be highly volatile and involve risks in addition to the risks of the underlying indicator(s). Gains or losses from derivatives can be substantially greater than the derivatives' original cost, and can sometimes be unlimited, and therefore, can involve leverage. Derivatives can be complex instruments and can involve analysis and processing that differs from that required for other investment types used by the Fund. If the value of a derivative does not correlate well with the particular market or other asset class the derivative is intended to provide exposure to, the derivative may not have the effect anticipated. Derivatives can also reduce the opportunity for gains or result in losses by offsetting positive returns in other investments. Derivatives can be less liquid than other types of investments.

**Anti-Takeover Provisions Risk:** The fund's declaration of trust includes provisions that could limit the ability of other persons or entities to acquire control of the fund, to convert the fund to an open-end fund, or to change the composition of the fund's Board of Trustees. These provisions could reduce the opportunities for shareholders to sell their shares at a premium over the then-current market price.

**Market Discount/Premium Risk:** The market price of shares of the fund will be based on factors such as the supply and demand for shares in the market and general market, economic, political or regulatory conditions. Whether shareholders will realize gains or losses upon the sale of shares of the fund will depend on the market price of shares at the time of the sale, not on the fund's net asset value. The market price may be lower or higher than the fund's net asset value. Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value.

**Investment Selection Risk:** The MFS analysis of an investment can be incorrect and its selection of investments can lead to an investment focus that results in the Fund underperforming other funds with similar investment strategies and/or underperforming the markets in which the Fund invests.

**Counterparty and Third Party Risk:** Transactions involving a counterparty other than the issuer of the instrument, or a third party responsible for servicing the instrument, are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty or third party, and to the counterparty's or third party's ability to perform in accordance with the terms of the transaction.

**Liquidity Risk:** Certain investments and types of investments are subject to restrictions on resale, may trade in the over-the-counter market or in limited volume, or may not have an active trading market. As a result, it may not be possible to sell the investment at any particular time or at an acceptable price.

**Defensive Investing Risk:** When MFS invests defensively, different factors could affect the Fund's performance and the Fund may not achieve its investment objective. In addition, the defensive strategy may not work as intended.

**Frequent Trading Risk:** Frequent trading increases transaction costs, which may reduce the Fund's return. Frequent trading can also result in the realization of a higher percentage of short-term capital gains and a lower percentage of long-term capital gains as compared to a fund that trades less frequently. Because short-term capital gains are distributed as ordinary income, this would generally increase your tax liability unless you hold your shares through a tax-deferred or tax-exempt vehicle.

#### **Portfolio Turnover Rate**

For fiscal year ended October 31, 2006, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 45%. For fiscal year ended October 31, 2007, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 49%.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION ON INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS**

The following description supplements the principal investment strategies and the principal risks described above.

**Asset-Backed Securities.** Asset-backed securities are securities that represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, pools of underlying assets such as debt securities, bank loans, motor vehicle installment sales contracts, installment loan contracts, leases of various types of real and personal property, receivables from revolving credit (i.e., credit card) agreements and other receivables. These underlying assets are securitized through the use of trusts and special purpose entities. Payment of interest and repayment of principal on asset-backed securities may be largely dependent upon the cash flows generated by the underlying assets backing the securities and, in certain cases, may be supported by letters of credit, surety bonds, or other credit enhancements.

Asset-backed securities are often subject to more rapid repayment than their stated maturity date would indicate, as a result of the pass-through of prepayments of principal on the underlying assets. The rate of principal payments on asset-backed securities is related to the rate of principal payments on the underlying asset pool and related to the priority of payment of the security with respect to the asset pool. The occurrence of prepayments is a function of several factors, such as the level of interest rates, general economic conditions, the location, and age of the underlying obligations, asset default and recovery rates, and other social and demographic conditions. Because prepayments of principal generally occur when interest rates are declining, an investor generally has to reinvest the proceeds of such prepayments at lower interest rates than those at which its assets were previously invested. Therefore, asset-backed securities may have less potential for capital appreciation in periods of falling interest rates than other income-bearing securities of comparable maturity.

The credit quality of asset-backed securities depends primarily on the quality of the underlying assets, the level of credit enhancement, if any, provided for the securities, and the credit quality of the credit-support provider, if any. The value of asset-backed securities may be affected by the various factors described above and other factors, such as changes in interest rates, the availability of information concerning the pool and its structure, the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool, the originator of the underlying assets, or the entities providing the credit enhancement. Because asset-backed securities may not have the benefit of a security interest in the underlying assets that is comparable to a mortgage, asset-backed securities present certain additional risks that are not present with mortgage-backed securities.

**Asset Segregation.** With respect to certain kinds of transactions entered into by the Fund that involve obligations to make future payments to third parties, including, but not limited to, futures, forward contracts, swap contracts, the purchase of securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis, or reverse repurchase agreements, under applicable federal securities laws, rules, and interpretations thereof, the Fund must set aside (referred to sometimes as "asset segregation") liquid assets, or engage in other measures to cover open positions with respect to such transactions. Assets segregated to cover these types of transactions can decline in value. For example, with respect to forward foreign currency exchange contracts and futures contracts that are not contractually required to cash-settle, the Fund must cover its open positions by setting aside liquid assets



equal to the contracts' full, notional value, except that deliverable foreign currency exchange contracts for currencies that are liquid will be treated as the equivalent of 'cash-settled' contracts. As such, the Fund may set aside liquid assets in an amount equal to the Fund's daily marked-to-market (net) obligation (i.e. the Fund's daily net liability if any) rather than the full notional amount under such deliverable forward foreign currency exchange contracts. With respect to forward foreign currency exchange contracts and futures contracts that are contractually required to 'cash-settle,' the Fund may set aside liquid assets in an amount equal to the Fund's daily marked-to-market (net) obligation rather than the notional value. By setting aside assets equal to only its net obligation under liquid deliverable foreign currency exchange contracts and 'cash-settled' forward or futures contracts the Fund will have the ability to employ leverage to a greater extent than if the Fund were required to segregate assets equal to the full notional value of such contracts. The Fund reserves the right to modify its asset segregation policies in the future.

**Commodity-Related Investments.** Commodity-related investments include futures, options, options on futures, swaps, structured notes, securities of other investment companies, grantor trusts, and hybrid instruments whose values are related to commodity or commodity contracts. The value of commodity-related investments can be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, changes in storage costs, embargoes, tariffs, policies of commodity cartels, and international market, economic, industry, political, and regulatory developments. The value of commodity-related investments can be more volatile than the value of traditional securities.

**Common Stock.** Common stock represents an equity or ownership interest in an issuer. In the event an issuer is liquidated or declares bankruptcy, the claims of owners of bonds and preferred stock take precedence over the claims of those who own common stock.

**Convertible Securities.** Convertible securities are bonds, debentures, notes, or other securities that may be converted into or exchanged for (by the holder or by the issuer) shares of stock (or cash or other securities of equivalent value) of the same or a different issuer at a stated exchange ratio. A convertible security may also be called for redemption or conversion by the issuer after a particular date and under certain circumstances (including a specified price) established upon issue.

Convertible securities generally have less potential for gain or loss than common stocks. Convertible securities generally provide yields higher than the underlying common stocks, but generally lower than comparable non-convertible securities. Because of this higher yield, convertible securities generally sell at prices above their conversion value, which is the current market value of the stock to be received upon conversion. The difference between this conversion value and the price of convertible securities will vary over time depending on changes in the value of the underlying common stocks and interest rates. When the underlying common stocks decline in value, convertible securities will tend not to decline to the same extent because of the interest or dividend payments and the repayment of principal at maturity for certain types of convertible securities. However, securities that are convertible other than at the option of the holder generally do not limit the potential for loss to the same extent as securities convertible at the option of the holder. When the underlying common stocks rise in value, the value of convertible securities may also be expected to increase. At the same time, however, the difference between the market value of convertible securities and their conversion value will narrow, which means that the value of convertible securities will generally not increase to the same extent as the value of the underlying common stocks. Because convertible securities may also be interest-rate sensitive, their value may increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. Convertible securities are also subject to credit risk, and are often lower-quality securities.

**Country Location.** The issuer of a security or other investment is generally deemed to be economically tied to a particular country if: (a) the security or other investment is issued or guaranteed by the government of that country or any of its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities; (b) the issuer is organized under the laws of, and maintains a principal office in, that country; (c) the issuer has its principal securities trading market in that country; (d) the issuer derives 50% or more of its total revenues from goods sold or services performed in that country; (e) the issuer has 50% or more of its assets in that country; (f) the issuer is included in an index which is representative of that country; or (g) the issuer is exposed to the economic fortunes and risks of that country.

**Depositary Receipts.** Depositary receipts are securities that evidence ownership interests in a security or a pool of securities that have been deposited with a depository. Depositary receipts may be sponsored or unsponsored and include American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), European Depositary Receipts (EDRs) and Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs). In sponsored programs, an issuer has made arrangements to have its securities trade in the form of ADRs, EDRs, or GDRs. In unsponsored programs, the issuer may not be directly involved in the creation of the program. For ADRs, the depository is typically a U.S. financial institution and the underlying securities are

issued by a foreign issuer. For other depositary receipts, the depository may be a foreign or a U.S. entity, and the underlying securities may have a foreign or a U.S. issuer. Depositary receipts will not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as their underlying securities. Generally, ADRs are issued in registered form, denominated in U.S. dollars, and designed for use in the U.S. securities markets. Other depositary receipts, such as GDRs and EDRs, may be issued in bearer form and denominated in other currencies, and may be offered privately in the United States and are generally designed for use in securities markets outside the U.S. The deposit agreement sets out the rights and responsibilities of the underlying issuer, the depository, and the depositary receipt holders.

With sponsored facilities, the underlying issuer typically bears some of the costs of the depositary receipts (such as dividend payment fees of the depository), although most sponsored depositary receipts holders may bear costs such as deposit and withdrawal fees. Depositories of most sponsored depositary receipts agree to distribute notices of shareholder meetings, voting instructions, and other shareholder communications and financial information to the depositary receipt holders at the underlying issuer's request.

Holders of unsponsored depositary receipts generally bear all the costs of the facility. The depository usually charges fees upon the deposit and withdrawal of the underlying securities, the conversion of dividends into U.S. dollars or other currency, the disposition of non-cash distributions, and the performance of other services. The depository of an unsponsored facility frequently is under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the underlying issuer or to pass through voting rights to depositary receipt holders with respect to the underlying securities.

**Derivatives.** Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is based on the value of one or more underlying indicators or the difference between underlying indicators. Underlying indicators may include a security or other financial instrument, asset, currency, interest rate, credit rating, commodity, volatility measure or index. Derivatives often involve a counterparty to the transaction. Derivatives include futures, forward contracts, options, structured securities, inverse floating rate instruments, swaps, caps, floors, and collars. Derivatives can be highly volatile and involve risks in addition to the risks of the underlying indicator(s). Gains or losses from derivatives can be substantially greater than the derivatives' original cost and can sometimes be unlimited, and therefore, can involve leverage. Derivatives can be complex instruments and can involve analysis and processing that differs from that required for other investment types. If the value of a derivative does not correlate well with the particular market or other asset class the derivative is intended to provide exposure to, the derivative may not have the effect anticipated. Derivatives can also reduce the opportunity for gains or result in losses by offsetting positive returns in other investments. Derivatives can be less liquid than other types of investments.

**Emerging Markets.** Investing in emerging market countries involves certain risks not typically associated with investing in the United States, and imposes risks greater than, or in addition to, risks of investing in more developed foreign markets. These risks include, but are not limited to, the following: greater risks of nationalization or expropriation of assets or confiscatory taxation; currency devaluations and other currency exchange rate fluctuations; greater social, economic, and political uncertainty and instability (including amplified risk of war and terrorism); more substantial government involvement in the economy; less government supervision and regulation of the securities markets and participants in those markets; controls on foreign investment and limitations on repatriation of invested capital and on the Fund's ability to exchange local currencies for U.S. dollars; unavailability of currency hedging techniques in certain emerging market countries; the fact that companies in emerging market countries may be smaller, less seasoned, and newly organized; the difference in, or lack of, auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers; the risk that it may be more difficult to obtain and/or enforce a judgment in a court outside the United States; the risk that a judgment against a foreign government may be unenforceable; and greater price volatility, less liquidity, and significantly smaller market capitalization of securities markets. Also, any change in the leadership or politics of emerging market countries, or the countries that exercise a significant influence over those countries, may halt the expansion of or reverse the liberalization of foreign investment policies now occurring and adversely affect existing investment opportunities. Furthermore, high rates of inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

**Equity Securities.** Equity securities represent an ownership interest, or the right to acquire an ownership interest, in a company or other issuer. Different types of equity securities provide different voting and dividend rights and priorities in the event of bankruptcy of the issuer. Equity securities include common stocks, preferred stocks, securities convertible into stocks, depositary receipts for those securities, securities of investment companies, and other similar interests in an issuer.

**Floating Rate Certificates.** Each holder of a floating rate certificate has the option at specified times to tender its certificate to the issuer or a specified third party acting as agent for the issuer for purchase at the stated amount

of the certificate plus accrued interest. Floating rate certificates may be floating or variable rate securities. The issuer or third party agent may be unable to purchase the certificates on the purchase date due to a variety of circumstances, which may result in a loss of value of the certificates.

**Foreign Currencies.** Foreign securities may be denominated in foreign currencies and international currency units and foreign currencies may be purchased directly. Accordingly, the weakening of these currencies and units against the U.S. dollar would result in a decline in the value of securities denominated in that currency or the value of the currency itself.

While holding currencies permits an investor to take advantage of favorable movements in the applicable exchange rate, this strategy also exposes the investor to risk of loss if exchange rates move in a direction adverse to the investor's position. Such losses could reduce any profits or increase any losses sustained by the investor from the sale or redemption of securities and could reduce the dollar value of interest or dividend payments received.

Some foreign countries have managed currencies, which are not free floating against the U.S. dollar. Managed currencies can experience a steep devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar.

In addition, there is risk that certain foreign countries may restrict the free conversion of their currencies into other currencies. Further, certain currencies may not be internationally traded.

Foreign currency transactions can be made on a spot (i.e., cash) or forward basis (i.e., by entering into forward contracts to purchase or sell foreign currencies). Although foreign exchange dealers generally do not charge a fee for such conversions, they do realize a profit based on the difference between the prices at which they are buying and selling various currencies. Thus, a dealer may offer to sell a foreign currency at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange should the counterparty desire to resell that currency to the dealer. Forward contracts are customized transactions that require a specific amount of a currency to be delivered at a specific exchange rate on a specific date or range of dates in the future. Forward contracts are generally traded in an interbank market directly between currency traders (usually large commercial banks) and their customers. The parties to a forward contract may agree to offset or terminate the contract before its maturity, or may hold the contract to maturity and complete the contemplated currency exchange.

A settlement hedge or transaction hedge attempts to protect against an adverse change in foreign currency values between the date a security is purchased or sold and the date on which payment is made or received. Entering into a forward contract for the purchase or sale of the amount of foreign currency involved in an underlying security transaction for a fixed amount of U.S. dollars locks in the U.S. dollar price of the security. Forward contracts to purchase or sell a foreign currency may also be used in anticipation of future purchases or sales of securities denominated in foreign currency, even if the specific investments have not yet been selected.

Forward contracts can be used to hedge against a decline in the value of existing investments denominated in foreign currency. For example, if an investor owned securities denominated in pounds sterling, the investor could enter into a forward contract to sell pounds sterling in return for U.S. dollars to hedge against possible declines in the pound's value. Such a hedge, sometimes referred to as a position hedge, would tend to offset both positive and negative currency fluctuations, but would not offset changes in security values caused by other factors. An investor could also hedge the position by selling another currency expected to perform similarly to the pound sterling. This type of hedge, sometimes referred to as a proxy hedge, could offer advantages in terms of cost, yield, or efficiency, but generally would not hedge currency exposure as effectively as a direct hedge into U.S. dollars. Proxy hedges may result in losses if the currency used to hedge does not perform similarly to the currency in which the hedged securities are denominated.

Forward contracts can also be used to shift investment exposure from one currency into another. This may include shifting exposure from U.S. dollars to a foreign currency or from one foreign currency to another foreign currency. This type of strategy, sometimes known as a cross-hedge, will tend to reduce or eliminate exposure to the currency that is sold, and increase exposure to the currency that is purchased, much as if a Fund had sold a security denominated in one currency and purchased an equivalent security denominated in another. Cross-hedges protect against losses resulting from a decline in the hedged currency, but will cause a Fund to assume the risk of fluctuations in the value of the currency it purchases.

Swap agreements, indexed securities, hybrid securities and options and futures contracts relating to foreign currencies can be used for the same purposes.

Successful use of currency management strategies will depend on MFS's skill in analyzing currency values. Currency management strategies may increase the volatility of a Fund's returns and could result in significant losses to a Fund if currencies do not perform as MFS anticipates. For example, if a currency's value rose at a time when MFS had hedged a Fund by selling that currency in exchange for dollars, a Fund would not participate in the currency's appreciation. If MFS hedges currency exposure through proxy hedges, a Fund could realize

currency losses from both the hedge and the security position if the two currencies do not move in tandem. Similarly, if MFS increases a Fund's exposure to a foreign currency and that currency's value declines, a Fund will realize a loss. There is no assurance that MFS' use of currency management strategies will be advantageous to a Fund or that it will hedge at appropriate times.

**Foreign Markets.** Foreign securities and foreign currencies, as well as any securities issued by U.S. entities with substantial foreign operations, may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments. Foreign investments involve risks relating to local political, economic, regulatory, or social instability, military action or unrest, or adverse diplomatic developments, and may be affected by actions of foreign governments adverse to the interests of U.S. investors. Such actions may include expropriation or nationalization of assets, confiscatory taxation, restrictions on U.S. investment or on the ability to repatriate assets or convert currency into U.S. dollars, or other government intervention. The debt instruments of foreign governments and their agencies and instrumentalities may or may not be supported by the full faith and credit of the foreign government. Additionally, governmental issuers of foreign debt securities may be unwilling to pay interest and repay principal when due and may require that the conditions for payment be renegotiated. In addition, the value of securities denominated in foreign currencies and of dividends and interest paid with respect to such securities will fluctuate based on the relative strength of the U.S. dollar.

Foreign stock markets, while growing in volume and sophistication, are generally not as developed as those in the United States, and securities of some foreign issuers may be less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Foreign security trading, settlement and custodial practices (including those involving securities settlement where Fund assets may be released prior to receipt of payment) are often less developed than those in U.S. markets, and may result in increased risk or substantial delays in the event of a failed trade or the insolvency of, or breach of duty by, a foreign broker-dealer, securities depository, or foreign subcustodian. In addition, the costs associated with foreign investments, including withholding taxes, brokerage commissions, and custodial costs, are generally higher than with U.S. investments.

Foreign markets may offer less protection to investors than U.S. markets. Foreign issuers are generally not bound by uniform accounting, auditing, and financial reporting requirements and standards of practice comparable to those applicable to U.S. issuers. Adequate public information on foreign issuers may not be available, and it may be difficult to secure dividends and information regarding corporate actions on a timely basis. In general, there is less overall governmental supervision and regulation of securities exchanges, brokers, and listed companies than in the United States. OTC markets tend to be less regulated than stock exchange markets and, in certain countries, may be totally unregulated. Regulatory enforcement may be influenced by economic or political concerns, and investors may have difficulty enforcing their legal rights in foreign countries.

Some foreign securities impose restrictions on transfer within the United States or to U.S. persons. Although securities subject to such transfer restrictions may be marketable abroad, they may be less liquid than foreign securities of the same class that are not subject to such restrictions.

**Futures Contracts.** A futures contract is a standardized agreement between two parties to buy or sell in the future a specific quantity of an asset, currency, interest rate, index, commodity, instrument or other indicator at a specific price and time. The value of a futures contract typically fluctuates in correlation with the increase or decrease in the value of the underlying indicator. The buyer of a futures contract enters into an agreement to purchase the underlying indicator on the settlement date and is said to be *long* the contract. The seller of a futures contract enters into an agreement to sell the underlying indicator on the settlement date and is said to be *short* the contract. The price at which a futures contract is entered into is established either in the electronic marketplace or by open outcry on the floor of an exchange between exchange members acting as traders or brokers. Open futures contracts can be liquidated or closed out by physical delivery of the underlying indicator or payment of the cash settlement amount on the settlement date, depending on the terms of the particular contract. Some financial futures contracts (such as security futures) provide for physical settlement at maturity. In the case of physically settled futures, it may not be possible to liquidate or close out the futures contract at any particular time or at an acceptable price. Other financial futures contracts (such as those relating to interest rates, foreign currencies and securities indexes) generally provide for cash settlement at maturity. In the case of cash settled futures contracts, the cash settlement amount is equal to the difference between the final settlement price on the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the contract was entered into. Most futures contracts, however, are not held until maturity but instead are *offset* before the settlement date through the establishment of an opposite and equal futures position.

The purchaser or seller of a futures contract is not required to deliver or pay for the underlying indicator unless the contract is held until the settlement date. However, both the purchaser and seller are required to deposit *initial margin* with a futures commission merchant (FCM) 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, that party will be required to make additional variation margin payments to settle the change in value on a daily basis. This process is known as marking-to-market.

The risk of loss in trading futures contracts can be substantial, because of the low margin deposits required, the extremely high degree of leverage involved in futures pricing, and the potential high volatility of the futures markets. As a result, a relatively small price movement in a futures position may result in immediate and substantial loss (or gain) to the investor. Thus, a purchase or sale of a futures contract may result in unlimited losses. In the event of adverse price movements, an investor would continue to be required to make daily cash payments to maintain its required margin. In addition, on the settlement date, an investor may be required to make delivery of the indicators underlying the futures positions it holds.

An investor could suffer losses if it is unable to close out a futures contract because of an illiquid secondary market. Futures contracts may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for such products. However, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular futures product at any specific time. Thus, it may not be possible to close a futures position, and an investor would remain obligated to meet margin requirements until the position is closed. Moreover, most futures exchanges limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. The daily limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price at the end of a trading session. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular type of contract, no trades may be made on that day at a price beyond that limit. The daily limit governs only price movement during a particular trading day and therefore does not limit potential losses, because the limit may prevent the liquidation of unfavorable positions. Futures contract prices have occasionally moved to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of future positions and subjecting some futures traders to substantial losses. The inability to close futures positions also could have an adverse impact on the ability to hedge a portfolio investment or to establish a substitute for a portfolio investment.

An investor could lose margin payments it has deposited with its futures commission merchant (FCM), if, for example, the FCM breaches its agreement with the investor or becomes insolvent or goes into bankruptcy. In that event, the investor may be entitled to return of margin owed to it only in proportion to the amount received by the FCM's other customers, potentially resulting in losses to the investor.

If MFS attempts to use a futures contract as a hedge against, or as a substitute for, a portfolio investment, the futures position may not correlate as expected with the portfolio investment, resulting in losses to the Fund. While hedging strategies involving futures products can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain or even result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in other Fund investments.

Pursuant to a claim of exemption filed with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) on behalf of the MFS Funds that are permitted by their investment objectives and policies to use futures and options on futures contracts, each such MFS Fund is not deemed to be a commodity pool or commodity pool operator under the Commodity Exchange Act and is not subject to registration or regulation as such under the Commodity Exchange Act.

**Hybrid Instruments.** Hybrid instruments are generally considered derivatives and combine the elements of swaps, futures contracts, or options with those of debt, preferred equity or a depository instrument. A hybrid instrument may be a debt instrument, preferred stock, warrant, convertible security, certificate of deposit or other evidence of indebtedness on which a portion of or all interest payments, and/or the principal or stated amount payable at maturity, redemption or retirement, is determined by reference to prices, changes in prices, or differences between prices, of securities, currencies, intangibles, goods, commodities, indexes, economic factors or other measures, including interest rates, currency exchange rates, or commodities or securities indices, or other indicators (collectively, indicators).

The risks of investing in hybrid instruments reflect a combination of the risks of investing in securities, swaps, options, futures and currencies. An investment in a hybrid instrument may entail significant risks that are not associated with a similar investment in a traditional debt instrument that has a fixed principal amount, is denominated in U.S. dollars or bears interest either at a fixed rate or a floating rate determined by reference to a common, nationally published benchmark. The risks of a particular hybrid instrument will depend upon the terms of the instrument, but may include the possibility of significant changes in the benchmark(s) or the prices of the underlying indicators to which the instrument is linked. Such risks generally depend upon factors unrelated to the operations or credit quality of the issuer of the hybrid instrument, which may not be foreseen by the purchaser, such as economic and political events, the supply and demand of the underlying indicators and interest rate movements. Hybrid instruments may be highly volatile.

Hybrid instruments are potentially more volatile and carry greater market risks than traditional debt instruments. Depending on the structure of the particular hybrid instrument, changes in a benchmark, underlying asset or indicator may be magnified by the terms of the hybrid instrument and have an even more dramatic and substantial effect upon the value of the hybrid instrument. Also, the prices of the hybrid instrument and the benchmark, underlying asset or indicator may not move in the same direction or at the same time.

Hybrid instruments may bear interest or pay preferred dividends at below market (or even relatively nominal) rates. Alternatively, hybrid instruments may bear interest at above market rates but bear an increased risk of principal loss (or gain). The latter scenario may result if leverage is used to structure the hybrid instrument. Leverage risk occurs when the hybrid instrument is structured so that a given change in a benchmark or underlying indicator is multiplied to produce a greater value change in the hybrid instrument, thereby magnifying the risk of loss as well as the potential for gain.

If MFS attempts to use a hybrid instrument as a hedge against, or as a substitute for, a portfolio investment, the hybrid instrument may not correlate as expected with the portfolio investment, resulting in losses to the Fund. While hedging strategies involving hybrid instruments can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain or even result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in other Fund investments.

Hybrid instruments may also carry liquidity risk since the instruments are often customized to meet the portfolio needs of a particular investor, and therefore, the number of investors that are willing and able to buy such instruments in the secondary market may be smaller than that for more traditional debt instruments. Under certain conditions, the redemption value of such an investment could be zero. In addition, because the purchase and sale of hybrid investments could take place in an over-the-counter market without the guarantee of a central clearing organization, or in a transaction between the Fund and the issuer of the hybrid instrument, hybrid instruments are subject to the creditworthiness of the issuer of the hybrid instrument, and their values may decline substantially if the issuer's creditworthiness deteriorates. Hybrid instruments also may not be subject to regulation by the CFTC, which generally regulates the trading of commodity futures by U.S. persons, the SEC, which regulates the offer and sale of securities by and to U.S. persons, or any other governmental regulatory authority.

**Inflation-Indexed Bonds.** Inflation-indexed bonds are debt instruments whose principal value is adjusted periodically according to a rate of inflation (usually a consumer price index). Two structures are most common. The U.S. Treasury and some other issuers use a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Most other issuers pay out the inflation accruals as part of a semiannual coupon.

U.S. Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) currently are issued with maturities of five, ten, or thirty years, although it is possible that securities with other maturities will be issued in the future. The principal amount of TIPS adjusts for inflation, although the inflation-adjusted principal is not paid until maturity. Semi-annual coupon payments are determined as a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal at the time the payment is made.

If the rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of inflation-indexed bonds will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. At maturity, TIPS are redeemed at the greater of their inflation-adjusted principal or at the par amount at original issue. If an inflation-indexed bond does not provide a guarantee of principal at maturity, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal.

The value of inflation-indexed bonds is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. For example, if inflation were to rise at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates would likely decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed bonds. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates would likely rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed bonds.

While these securities, if held to maturity, are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If nominal interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation (for example, due to an expansion of non-inflationary economic activity), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase in rates is not reflected in the bond's inflation measure.

The inflation adjustment of TIPS is tied to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U), which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-U is a measurement of price changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation, and energy. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services.

**Inverse Floaters.** Inverse floaters have variable interest rates that typically move in the opposite direction from movements in prevailing interest rates, most often short-term rates. Accordingly, the value of inverse floaters, or other obligations or certificates structured to have similar features, generally moves in the opposite direction as interest rates. The value of an inverse floater can be considerably more volatile than the value of other debt instruments of comparable maturity and quality. Inverse floaters incorporate varying degrees of leverage. Generally, greater leverage results in greater price volatility for any given change in interest rates. Inverse floaters may be subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale and therefore may be less liquid than other types of securities.

**Lending.** The Fund may not lend any security or make any other loan, if as a result, more than 33 1/3% of its total assets would be lent to other parties. This limitation does not apply to the purchase of debt instruments, money market instruments, repurchase agreements, loans, or other direct indebtedness.

**Lending of Portfolio Securities.** Portfolio securities may be lent to qualified investors such as member firms of the New York Stock Exchange (the Exchange) (and subsidiaries thereof) and member banks of the Federal Reserve System, and would be required to be secured by collateral in cash, an irrevocable letter of credit, or U.S. Government securities maintained on a current basis at an amount at least equal to the market value of the securities loaned. When one party lends portfolio securities to another party, the lender has the right to call the loan and obtain the securities loaned at any time on customary industry settlement notice (which will not usually exceed five business days). For the duration of a loan, the borrower pays the lender an amount equal to any interest or dividends received on the securities loaned. The lender also receives a fee from the borrower or compensation from the investment of the collateral, less a fee paid to the borrower (if the collateral is in the form of cash). The lender does not, however, have the right to vote any securities having voting rights during the existence of the loan, but it can call the loan in anticipation of an important vote to be taken among holders of the securities or of the giving or withholding of their consent on a material matter affecting the investment. A Fund's performance will continue to reflect changes in the value of the securities loaned and will also reflect the receipt of interest, through investment of cash collateral by the Fund or a fee. If the borrower defaults on its obligation to return the securities loaned because of insolvency or other reasons, the lender may not be able to recover the securities loaned or gain access to the collateral. These delays and costs could be greater for foreign securities. If the lender is not able to recover the securities loaned, the lender may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement investment in the market. The value of the collateral could decrease below the value of the replacement investment by the time the replacement investment is purchased.

**Loans and Other Direct Indebtedness.** Loans and other direct indebtedness are interests in amounts owed by corporations, governmental or other borrowers to lenders or lending syndicates (loans and loan participations), to suppliers of goods and services (trade claims and other receivables), or to other parties. Some loans may be unsecured in part or in full. Loans may be in default at the time of purchase. Loans that are fully secured should protect the purchaser to a greater extent than unsecured loans in the event of nonpayment of scheduled interest or principal. However, there can be no assurance that the liquidation of collateral acquired in connection with the default of a secured loan would satisfy the borrower's obligation, or that such collateral could be liquidated.

Loans generally are made to finance internal growth, mergers, acquisitions, stock repurchases, leveraged buy-outs or other corporate activities. Such loans typically are originated, negotiated and structured by a syndicate of lenders represented by an agent lender that has negotiated and structured the loan and that is responsible for collecting interest and principal payments and other amounts due on behalf of all of the lenders in the syndicate, and for enforcing the lenders' rights against the borrower. Typically, the agent is given broad discretion in monitoring the borrower's performance and is obligated to use the same care it would use in the management of its own property. Upon an event of default, the agent typically will enforce the loan agreement after instruction from the lenders. The borrower compensates the agent for these services. This compensation may include special fees paid when the loan is structured or funded and other fees paid on a continuing basis. The typical practice of an agent or a lender to rely exclusively or primarily on reports from the borrower involves a risk of fraud by the borrower.

If an agent becomes insolvent, or has a receiver, conservator or similar official appointed for it by an appropriate authority, or if it becomes a debtor in a bankruptcy proceeding, the agent's appointment may be terminated, and a successor agent typically may be appointed by the lenders. If an appropriate authority determines that assets held by the agent for the benefit of lenders or purchasers of loans are subject to the claims of the agent's general or secured creditors, then such lenders or purchasers might incur certain costs and delays in realizing payment on a loan or suffer a loss of principal and/or interest. Furthermore, in the event of the borrower's bankruptcy or insolvency, the borrower's obligation to repay a loan may be subject to certain defenses that the borrower can assert as a result of improper conduct by the agent.

Loans may be acquired by participating directly in a lending syndicate as a lender. Alternatively, loans or an interest in loans may be acquired by novation, by assignment or by participation from members of the lending syndicate or from other participants. In a novation or an assignment, the acquirer assumes all of the rights of the lender in the loan or of the participant in the participants' portion of the loan and, in the case of a novation or an assignment from a member of the lending syndicate, becomes a party of record with respect to the loan. In a participation, the acquirer purchases a portion of the lender's or the participants' interest in the loan, but has no direct contractual relationship with the borrower. An investment in a loan by participation gives rise to several risks. The acquirer must rely on another party not only for the enforcement of the acquirer's rights against the borrower, but also for the receipt and processing of principal, interest or other payments due under the loan and may be subject to the credit risk of the other party in addition to the borrower. The acquirer may be subject to delays, expenses, and risks that are greater than those that would be involved if the acquirer could enforce its rights directly against the borrower. In addition, under the terms of a participation agreement, the acquirer may be regarded as a creditor of the seller of the participation interest (rather than of the borrower), so that the acquirer also may be subject to the risk that such seller could become insolvent. A participation agreement also may limit the rights of the acquirer to vote on changes that may be made to the underlying loan agreement, such as waiving a breach of a covenant.

Direct indebtedness includes trade or other claims against companies, which generally represent monies owed by such companies to suppliers of goods or services. Such claims may be purchased when such companies are in default.

The ability to receive payments of principal and interest on loans and other direct indebtedness will depend primarily on the financial condition of the borrower. Because an acquirer may be required to rely on another party to collect and to pass on to it amounts payable with respect to the loan or other direct indebtedness and to enforce the acquirer's rights under the loan or other direct indebtedness, an insolvency, bankruptcy or reorganization of such other party may delay or prevent the acquirer from receiving such amounts. The highly leveraged nature of many loans and other direct indebtedness may make such loans and other direct indebtedness especially vulnerable to adverse changes in economic or market conditions.

Revolving credit facilities and other standby financing commitments obligate the purchaser to fund additional cash on a certain date or on demand. A revolving credit facility differs from other types of financing commitments in that as the borrower repays the loan, an amount equal to the repayment may be borrowed again during the term of the revolving credit facility. These commitments may have the effect of requiring a purchaser to increase its investment in a company at a time when the purchaser might not otherwise decide to do so (including at a time when the company's financial condition makes it unlikely that such amounts will be repaid).

Floating rate loans generally are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale. Floating rate loans currently are not listed on any securities exchange or automatic quotation system. As a result, no active market may exist for some floating rate loans, and to the extent a secondary market exists for other floating rate loans, such market may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods. Additionally, the supply of floating rate loans may be limited from time to time due to a lack of sellers in the market for existing floating rate loans or to the number of new floating rate loans currently being issued. As a result, the floating rate loans available for purchase may be of lower quality or may have a higher price.

With respect to its management of investments in bank loans, MFS will normally seek to avoid receiving material, non-public information (MNPI) about the issuers of bank loans being considered for acquisition by the Fund or held in the Fund's portfolio. In many instances, borrowers may offer to furnish MNPI to prospective investors, and to holders, of the issuer's loans. MFS' decision not to receive MNPI may place MFS at a disadvantage relative to other investors in loans (which could have an adverse effect on the price the Fund pays or receives when buying or selling loans). Also, in instances where holders of loans are asked to grant amendments, waivers or consent, MFS' ability to assess their significance or desirability may be adversely affected. For these and other reasons, it is possible that MFS' decision not to receive MNPI under normal circumstances could adversely affect the Fund's investment performance.

Notwithstanding its intention generally not to receive MNPI with respect to its management of investments in loans, MFS may from time to time come into possession of MNPI about the issuers of loans that may be held in the Fund's portfolio. Possession of such information may in some instances occur despite MFS' efforts to avoid such possession, but in other instances MFS may choose to receive such information (for example, in connection with participation in a creditors' committee with respect to a financially distressed issuer). As, and to the extent, required by applicable law, MFS' ability to trade in these loans for the account of the Fund could potentially be limited by its possession of such information. Such limitations on MFS' ability to trade could have an adverse effect on the Fund by, for example, preventing the Fund from selling a loan that is experiencing a material decline in value. In some instances, these trading restrictions could continue in effect for a substantial period of time.



**Lower Quality Debt Instruments.** Lower quality debt instruments are considered speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to meet principal and interest payments and, while generally expected to provide greater income than investments in higher quality debt instruments, will involve greater risk of principal and income (including the possibility of default or bankruptcy of the issuers of such instruments) and may involve greater volatility of price (especially during periods of economic uncertainty or change) than higher quality debt instruments. In addition, because yields vary over time, no specific level of income can ever be assured. These lower quality debt instruments generally tend to reflect economic changes (and the outlook for economic growth), short-term corporate and industry developments and the market's perception of their credit quality to a greater extent than higher quality debt instruments, which react primarily to fluctuations in the general level of interest rates (although these lower quality debt instruments are also affected by changes in interest rates). In the past, economic downturns or an increase in interest rates have, under certain circumstances, resulted in a higher incidence of default by the issuers of these instruments and may do so in the future, especially in the case of highly leveraged issuers. The prices for these instruments may be affected by legislative and regulatory developments. The market for these lower quality debt instruments may be less liquid than the market for investment grade debt instruments. Furthermore, the liquidity of these lower quality debt instruments may be affected by the market's perception of their credit quality.

Instruments in the lowest tier of investment-grade debt instruments, while normally exhibiting adequate protection parameters, have speculative characteristics and changes in economic conditions or other circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to make principal and interest payments than in the case of higher grade securities.

See *Appendix A* for a description of bond ratings.

**Money Market Instruments.** Money market instruments, or short-term debt instruments, consist of obligations such as commercial paper, bank obligations (*e.g.*, certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances), repurchase agreements, and various government obligations, such as Treasury bills. Money market instruments may be structured to be, or may employ a trust or other form so that they are, eligible investments for money market funds. For example, put features can be used to modify the maturity of a security or interest rate adjustment features can be used to enhance price stability. If a structure fails to function as intended, adverse tax or investment consequences may result. Neither the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) nor any other regulatory authority has ruled definitively on certain legal issues presented by certain structured securities. Future tax or other regulatory determinations could adversely affect the value, liquidity, or tax treatment of the income received from these securities. Commercial paper is a money market instrument issued by banks or companies to raise money for short-term purposes. Unlike some other debt obligations, commercial paper is typically unsecured. Commercial paper may be issued as an asset-backed security.

**Mortgage-Backed Securities.** Mortgage-backed securities are securities that represent direct or indirect participation in, or are collateralized by and payable from, mortgage loans secured by real property or instruments derived from such loans. Mortgage-backed securities are backed by different types of mortgages, including commercial and residential properties and reverse mortgages. Mortgage-backed securities include various types of securities such as pass-throughs, stripped mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations. There are a wide variety of mortgage types underlying these securities, including mortgage instruments whose principal or interest payments may vary or whose terms to maturity may be shorter than customary.

Mortgage-backed securities represent interests in pools of mortgage loans assembled for sale to investors by various governmental agencies, such as the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), by government-related organizations, such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), and by private issuers, such as commercial banks, savings and loan institutions and mortgage companies. Government mortgage-backed securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States as to payment of principal and interest. GNMA, the principal U.S. guarantor of these securities, is a wholly-owned U.S. government corporation within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Government-related mortgage-backed securities are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Issuers of government-related mortgage-backed securities include FNMA and FHLMC. FNMA is a congressionally chartered corporation owned entirely by private stockholders, and is subject to general regulation by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Pass-through securities issued by FNMA are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by FNMA. FHLMC is a stockholder-owned government-sponsored enterprise established by Congress. Participation certificates representing interests in mortgages from FHLMC's national portfolio are guaranteed as to the timely payment of interest and principal by FHLMC.

Private mortgage-backed securities represent interest in pass-through pools consisting of residential or commercial mortgage loans created by non-government issuers, such as commercial banks and savings and loan

associations and private mortgage companies. Private mortgage-backed securities may be subject to greater credit risk and be more volatile than government or government-related mortgage-backed securities. In addition, private mortgage-backed securities may be less liquid than government or government-related mortgage-backed securities.

Private, government, or government-related entities may create mortgage loan pools offering pass-through investments in addition to those described above. Interests in pools of mortgage-related securities differ from other forms of debt instruments, which normally provide for periodic payment of interest in fixed amounts with principal payments at maturity or specified call dates. Instead, these securities typically provide a monthly payment which consists of both interest and principal payments. In effect, these payments generally are a pass-through of the monthly payments made by the individual borrowers on their residential or commercial loans, net of any fees paid to the issuer or guarantor of such securities. Additional payments are caused by repayments of principal resulting from the sale of the underlying property, refinancing or foreclosure, net of fees or costs incurred.

Mortgage-backed securities are often subject to more rapid repayment than their stated maturity date would indicate as a result of the pass-through of prepayments of principal on the underlying loans. Prepayments of principal by mortgagors or mortgage foreclosures shorten the term of the mortgage pool underlying the mortgage-backed security. The occurrence of prepayments is a function of several factors, including interest rates, general economic conditions, the location of the mortgaged property, the age of the mortgage or other underlying obligations, and other social and demographic conditions. Because prepayment rates of individual mortgage pools vary widely, the average life of a particular pool is difficult to predict. The rate of principal payments for a reverse mortgage-backed security depends on a variety of economic, geographic, social, and other factors, including interest rates and borrower mortality. Reverse mortgage-backed securities may respond differently to economic, geographic, social, and other factors than other mortgage-backed securities. A Fund's ability to maintain positions in mortgage-backed securities is affected by the reductions in the principal amount of such securities resulting from prepayments. The values of mortgage-backed securities vary with changes in market interest rates generally and the differentials in yields among various kinds of U.S. government securities, mortgage-backed securities, and asset-backed securities. In periods of rising interest rates, the rate of prepayment tends to decrease, thereby lengthening the average life of a pool of mortgages supporting a mortgage-backed security. Conversely, in periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayment tends to increase thereby shortening the average life of such a pool. Because prepayments of principal generally occur when interest rates are declining, an investor generally has to reinvest the proceeds of such prepayments at lower interest rates than those at which its assets were previously invested. Therefore, mortgage-backed securities typically have less potential for capital appreciation in periods of falling interest rates than other income-bearing securities of comparable maturity.

Collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs) are mortgage-backed securities that are collateralized by whole loan mortgages or mortgage pass-through securities. The bonds issued in a CMO transaction are divided into groups, and each group of bonds is referred to as a tranche. Under the traditional CMO structure, the cash flows generated by the mortgages or mortgage pass-through securities in the collateral pool are used to first pay interest and then pay principal to the CMO bondholders. The bonds issued under a traditional CMO structure are retired sequentially as opposed to the pro-rata return of principal found in traditional pass-through obligations. Subject to the various provisions of individual CMO issues, the cash flow generated by the underlying collateral (to the extent it exceeds the amount required to pay the stated interest) is used to retire the bonds. Under a CMO structure, the repayment of principal among the different tranches is prioritized in accordance with the terms of the particular CMO issuance. The fastest-pay tranches of bonds, as specified in the prospectus for the issuance, would initially receive all principal payments. When those tranches of bonds are retired, the next tranche, or tranches, in the sequence, as specified in the prospectus, receive all of the principal payments until they are retired. The sequential retirement of bond groups continues until the last tranche is retired. Accordingly, the CMO structure allows the issuer to use cash flows of long maturity, monthly-pay collateral to formulate securities with short, intermediate, and long final maturities, as well as varied expected average lives and risk characteristics. In recent years, new types of CMO tranches have evolved. These include floating rate CMOs, parallel pay CMOs planned amortization classes, accrual bonds and CMO residuals. These newer structures affect the amount and timing of principal and interest received by each tranche from the underlying collateral. Under certain of these new structures, given classes of CMOs have priority over others with respect to the receipt of prepayments on the mortgages. Therefore, depending on the type of CMOs in which a Fund invests, the investment may be subject to a greater or lesser risk of prepayment than other types of mortgage-backed securities.

A primary risk of CMOs is the uncertainty of the timing of cash flows that results from the rate of prepayments on the underlying mortgages serving as collateral and from the structure of the particular CMO transaction (that is, the priority of the individual tranches). An increase or decrease in prepayment rates (resulting from a decrease or increase in mortgage interest rates) will affect the yield, average life, and price of CMOs. The prices of certain CMOs, depending on their structure and the rate of prepayments, can be volatile. Some CMOs may also not be as liquid as other securities.

Commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) are a type of mortgage-backed security that are collateralized by a pool of commercial mortgage loans. The bonds issued in a CMBS transaction are divided into groups, and each group of bonds is referred to as a tranche. Under a typical CMBS structure, the repayment of principal among the different tranches is prioritized in accordance with the terms of the particular CMBS issuance. The fastest-pay tranches of bonds, as specified in the prospectus for the issuance, would initially receive all principal payments. When those tranches of bonds are retired, the next tranche, or tranches, in the sequence, as specified in the prospectus, receive all of the principal payments until they are retired. The sequential retirement of bond groups continues until the last tranche is retired. Accordingly, the CMBS structure allows the issuer to use cash flows of long maturity, monthly-pay collateral to formulate securities with short, intermediate, and long final maturities. The value of CMBS depend on the cash flow and volatility of the commercial loans, the volatility and reliability of cash flows associated with the commercial properties; the type, quality, and competitiveness of the commercial properties; the experience, reputation and capital resources of the borrower and the manager; the location of the commercial properties; the quality of the tenants; and the terms of the loan agreements.

Stripped mortgage-backed securities (SMBSs) are derivative multi-class mortgage-backed securities. SMBSs may be issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. government, or by private originators of, or investors in, mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, mortgage banks, commercial banks, investment banks, and special purpose entities formed or sponsored by any of the foregoing. SMBSs may be less liquid than other types of mortgage-backed securities.

SMBSs are usually structured with two classes that receive different proportions of the interest and principal distributions on a pool of mortgage assets. A common type of SMBS will have one class receiving some of the interest and most of the principal from the mortgage assets, while the other class will receive most of the interest and the remainder of the principal. In the most extreme case, one class will receive all of the interest (the interest-only or IO class), while the other class will receive all of the principal (the principal-only or PO class). The price and yield-to-maturity on an IO class is extremely sensitive to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the related underlying mortgage assets, and a rapid rate of principal payments may have a material adverse effect on a Fund's yield to maturity from these securities. If the underlying mortgage assets experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, a Fund may fail to recoup some or all of its initial investment in these securities, even if the security is in one of the highest rating categories. The mortgages underlying these securities may be alternative mortgage instruments, that is, mortgage instruments whose principal or interest payments may vary or whose terms to maturity may be shorter than customary.

**Mortgage Dollar Roll Transactions.** In mortgage dollar roll transactions, the investor sells mortgage-backed securities for delivery in the future and simultaneously contracts to repurchase substantially similar securities on a specified future date. During the roll period, the investor foregoes principal and interest paid on the mortgage-backed securities. The lost interest is compensated by the difference between the current sales price and the lower price for the future purchase (often referred to as the drop) as well as by the interest earned on, and gains from, the investment of the cash proceeds of the initial sale. A commitment fee may also be received for participation in such transaction.

If the income and capital gains from the investment of the cash from the initial sale do not exceed the income, capital appreciation and gain or loss that would have been realized on the securities sold as part of the dollar roll, the use of this technique will result in a lower return than would have been realized without the use of the dollar rolls. Dollar roll transactions involve the risk that the market value of the securities that are required to be purchased in the future may decline below the agreed upon repurchase price of those securities. If the party to whom the securities are sold becomes insolvent, the right to purchase or repurchase securities may be restricted. Successful use of mortgage dollar rolls may depend upon the investor's ability to correctly predict interest rates and prepayments.

A dollar roll can be viewed as a borrowing. If a Fund makes additional investments while a dollar roll is outstanding, this may be considered a form of leverage.

**Municipal Instruments.** Debt instruments issued by or on behalf of states, territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities, are known as municipal instruments. Generally, interest received on municipal instruments is exempt from federal income tax. The tax-exempt nature of the interest on a municipal instrument is generally the subject of a bond counsel opinion delivered in connection with the issuance of the instrument. There is no assurance that the IRS will agree with bond counsel's opinion that such interest is tax-exempt or that the interest payments on such municipal instruments will continue to be tax exempt for the life of the municipal instrument. Issuers or other parties generally enter into covenants requiring continuing compliance with federal tax requirements to preserve

the tax-free status of interest payments over the life of the municipal instrument. If at any time the covenants are not complied with, or if the IRS otherwise determines that the issuer did not comply with relevant tax requirements, interest payments from a municipal instrument could become federally taxable, possibly retroactively to the date the municipal instrument was issued and an investor may need to file an amended income tax return. Certain types of structured securities are designed so that tax exempt interest from municipal instruments held by the underlying entity will pass through to the holders of the structured security. There is no assurance that the IRS will agree that such interest is tax exempt.

The value of municipal instruments can be affected by changes in their actual or perceived credit quality. The credit quality of municipal instruments can be affected by, among other things, the financial condition of the issuer or guarantor, the issuer's future borrowing plans and sources of revenue, the economic feasibility of the revenue bond project or general borrowing purpose, political or economic developments in the region where the instrument is issued and the liquidity of the security. Municipal instruments generally trade in the over-the-counter market.

General obligation bonds are backed by the issuer's pledge of its full faith and credit and taxing power for the repayment of principal and the payment of interest. Issuers of general obligation bonds include states, counties, cities, towns, and regional districts. The proceeds of these obligations are used to fund a wide range of public projects, including construction or improvement of schools, highways and roads, and water and sewer systems. The rate of taxes that can be levied for the payment of debt service on these bonds may be limited. Additionally, there may be limits as to the rate or amount of special assessments or taxes that can be levied to meet these obligations.

Some general obligation bonds are backed by both a pledge of a specific revenue source, such as a special assessment or tax and an issuer's pledge of its full faith and credit and taxing power. Debt service from these general obligation bonds is typically paid first from the specific revenue source and second, if the specific revenue source is insufficient, from the general taxing power.

Revenue bonds are generally backed by the net revenues derived from a particular facility, group of facilities, or, in some cases, the proceeds of a special excise tax or other specific revenue source, such as a state's or local government's proportionate share of the payments from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. Revenue bonds are issued to finance a wide variety of capital projects. Examples include electric, gas, water and sewer systems; highways, bridges, and tunnels; port and airport facilities; colleges and universities; and hospitals. Industrial development bonds, a type of revenue bond, are issued by or on behalf of public authorities to raise money to finance various privately operated facilities for a variety of purposes, including economic development, solid waste disposal, transportation, and pollution control. Although the principal security for revenue bonds is typically the revenues of the specific facility, project, company or system, many revenue bonds are secured by additional collateral in the form of a mortgage on the real estate comprising a specific facility, project or system, a lien on receivables and personal property, as well as the pledge of various reserve funds available to fund debt service, working capital, capital expenditures or other needs. Net revenues and other security pledged may be insufficient to pay principal and interest due which will cause the price of the bonds to decline. In some cases, revenue bonds issued by an authority are backed by a revenue stream unrelated to the issuer, such as a hotel occupancy tax, a sales tax, or a special assessment. In these cases, the ability of the authority to pay debt service is solely dependent on the revenue stream generated by the special tax. Furthermore, the taxes supporting such issues may be subject to legal limitations as to rate or amount.

Municipal insurance policies typically insure, subject to the satisfaction of the policy conditions, timely and scheduled payment of all principal and interest due on the underlying municipal instruments. The insurance may be obtained by either (i) the issuer at the time the municipal instrument is issued, commonly referred to as primary market insurance or (ii) another party after the municipal instrument has been issued, commonly referred to as secondary market insurance. The financial strength of the companies issuing the bond insurance can vary.

In general, municipal insurance does not insure any risk other than nonpayment. Municipal insurance does not insure against market fluctuations which affect the price of a security. In addition, a municipal insurance policy will not insure (i) the payment of regularly scheduled debt service payments until maturity if an issuer redeems the municipal bonds prior to maturity in accordance with the call provisions of the municipal instrument; (ii) over the loss of prepayment or other acceleration payment which at any time may become due in respect of any instrument, (except for a mandatory sinking fund redemption); (iii) the payment of a prepayment or acceleration premium; or (iv) nonpayment of principal or interest caused by negligence or bankruptcy of the paying agent. A municipal insurance policy often reserves to the insurer the exclusive right to accelerate the instruments upon a payment default.

Because a significant portion of the municipal instruments issued and outstanding are insured by a small number of insurance companies, an event involving one or more of these insurance companies could have a significant adverse effect on the value of the securities insured by that insurance company and on the municipal market as a whole.

## Edgar Filing: MFS INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST - Form POS AMI

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The various insurance companies providing primary and secondary market insurance policies for municipal instruments are described below. Ratings reflect each respective rating agency's assessment of the creditworthiness of an insurer and the insurer's ability to pay claims on its insurance policies at the time of the assessment.

Ambac Assurance Corp. (AMBAC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Ambac Financial Group, Inc., is a guarantor of public finance and structured finance obligations. As of June 30, 2008, Ambac has earned Aa3 ratings from Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and AA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

Assured Guaranty Insurance Co. (ASSD GTY) is a provider of financial guaranty insurance and reinsurance to the U.S. and global capital markets. As of June 30, 2008, Assured Guaranty has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and AAA ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Berkshire Hathaway Assurance Company (BHAC) guarantees interest and principal on debt by U.S. states, cities and towns. As of June 30, 2008, BHAC has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc. and AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

CIFG Assurance North America (CIFG) provides insurance for investment grade transactions in the structured finance, public finance and project finance markets in the US and Europe. As of June 30, 2008, CIFG has earned Ba2 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., A- ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and CCC ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Financial Guaranty Insurance Co. (FGIC) is a provider of financial guaranties for a variety of debt securities. As of June 30, 2008, FGIC has earned B1 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., BB ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and BBB ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Financial Security Assurance Inc. (FSA) provides financial guaranty insurance for a broad range of financings, including municipal bonds and loans. As of June 30, 2008, FSA has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and AAA ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Government National Mortgage Assn. (GNMA) offers mortgage-backed securities carrying the full faith and credit guaranty of the United States government. As of June 30, 2008, GNMA has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and AAA ratings from Fitch, Inc.

MBIA Insurance Corp. (MBIA) is a financial guarantor and provider of specialized financial services. As of June 30, 2008, MBIA has earned A2 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc. and AA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

Permanent School Fund (PSF) was created by the Texas Legislature as a bond guarantee program for the benefit of Texas public schools. As of June 30, 2008, PSF has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and AAA ratings from Fitch, Inc.

XL Capital Insurance Co. (XLCA) is a provider of global insurance and reinsurance coverage to industrial, commercial and professional service firms, insurance companies, and other enterprises on a worldwide basis. As of June 30, 2008, XLCA has earned B2 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., BBB- ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and BB ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Federal Housing Administration (FHA) is a federal agency that provides mortgage insurance on loans made by FHA-approved lenders throughout the United States and its territories.

Federal National Mortgage Assn. (FNMA) is a financial services company serving the American home mortgage industry. Fannie Mae offers banks and other mortgage lenders financing, credit guarantees, technology and services so lenders can make more home loans to more consumers.

Connie Lee Insurance Co. (CONNIE LEE) was acquired by Ambac Assurance Corp in 1997, thus Connie Lee rated bonds carry the ratings of Ambac insured bonds.

Radian Asset Assurance, Inc. (RADIAN) provides financial guaranty insurance and reinsurance to US and international issuers of municipal bonds, asset-backed securities and structured finance transactions. As of June 30, 2008, RADIAN has earned A3 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc. and A ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

ACA Financial Guaranty Corp. (ACA) provides financial guaranty insurance on municipal and other public finance bonds that guarantee to the investor the timely payment of interest and principal on such obligations. As of June 30, 2008, ACA has earned CCC ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

*Education.* In general, there are two types of education-related bonds: (i) those issued to finance projects for public and private colleges and universities, charter schools and private schools, and (ii) those representing pooled interests in student loans. Bonds issued to supply educational institutions with funding are subject to many risks, including the risks of unanticipated revenue decline, primarily the result of decreasing student enrollment, decreasing state and federal funding, or a change in general economic conditions. Additionally, higher than anticipated costs associated with salaries, utilities, insurance or other general expenses could impair the ability of a borrower to make annual debt service payments. Student loan revenue bonds are generally offered by state (or substate) authorities or commissions and are backed by pools of student loans. Underlying student loans may be guaranteed by state guarantee agencies and may be subject to reimbursement by the United States Department of Education through its guaranteed student loan program. Others may be private, uninsured loans made to parents or students which may be supported by reserves or other forms of credit enhancement. Recoveries of principal due to loan defaults may be applied to redemption of bonds or may be used to re-lend, depending on program latitude and demand for loans. Cash flows supporting student loan revenue bonds are impacted by numerous factors, including the rate of student loan defaults, seasoning of the loan portfolio, and student repayment deferral periods of forbearance. Other risks associated with student loan revenue bonds include potential changes in federal legislation regarding student loan revenue bonds, state guarantee agency reimbursement and continued federal interest and other program subsidies currently in effect.

*Electric Utilities.* The electric utilities industry has been experiencing increased competitive pressures. Federal and state legislation in recent years has been moving the industry toward opening transmission access to any electricity supplier, although it is not presently known to what extent competition will evolve. Other risks include: (a) the availability and cost of fuel, (b) the availability and cost of capital, (c) the effects of conservation on energy demand, (d) the effects of rapidly changing environmental, safety, and licensing requirements, and other federal, state, and local regulations, (e) timely and sufficient rate increases thereby assisting utilities in recovering increasing energy costs, and (f) opposition to nuclear power.

*Health Care.* The health care industry is subject to regulatory action by a number of governmental agencies, including federal, state, and local governmental agencies. A major source of revenues for the health care industry is payments from the Medicare and Medicaid programs. As a result, the industry is sensitive to legislative changes and reductions in governmental spending for such programs. A second major source of revenues for the health care industry is payments from private insurance companies and health maintenance organizations. As such, any changes to and reductions in reimbursement rates from these entities for services provided could be detrimental to the revenues of the providers. Numerous other factors may affect the industry, such as general and local economic conditions; demand for services; expenses (including for example, labor, malpractice insurance premiums and pharmaceutical products); and competition among health care providers. In the future, the following factors may adversely affect health care facility operations: adoption of legislation proposing a national health insurance program; other state or local health care reform measures; medical and technological advances which dramatically alter the need for health services or the way in which such services are delivered; changes in medical coverage which alter the traditional fee-for-service revenue stream; and efforts by employers, insurers, and governmental agencies to reduce the costs of health insurance and health care services.

*Housing.* Housing revenue bonds typically are issued by a state, county, or local housing authority and are secured by the revenues of mortgages originated by the authority using the proceeds of the bond issue. These bonds may be used to make mortgage loans for single-family housing, multi-family housing, or a combination of the two. Because of the impossibility of precisely predicting demand for mortgages from the proceeds of such an issue, there is a risk that the proceeds of the issue will be in excess of demand, which would result in early retirement of the bonds by the issuer. Moreover, such housing revenue bonds depend for their repayment upon the cash flow from the underlying mortgages, which cannot be precisely predicted when the bonds are issued. Any difference in the actual cash flow from such mortgages from the assumed cash flow could have an adverse impact upon the ability of the issuer to make scheduled payments of principal and interest on the bonds, or could result in early retirement of the bonds. Additionally, such bonds depend in part for scheduled payments of principal and interest upon reserve funds established from the proceeds of the bonds, assuming certain rates of return on investment of such reserve funds. If the assumed rates of return are not realized because of changes in interest rate levels or for other reasons, the actual cash flow for scheduled payments of principal and interest on the bonds may be inadequate. The financing of multi-family housing projects is affected by a variety of factors which may impact the borrower's ability to pay debt service and may impair the value of the collateral securing the bonds, if any. These factors include satisfactory completion of construction within cost constraints, the achievement and maintenance

of a sufficient level of occupancy, sound management of the developments, timely and adequate increases in rents to cover increases in operating expenses, including taxes, utility rates and maintenance costs, changes in applicable laws and governmental regulations and social and economic trends. Some authorities provide additional security for the bonds in the form of insurance, subsidies, additional collateral, or state pledges (without obligation) to make up deficiencies.

*Transportation.* Transportation debt may be issued to finance the construction of airports, toll roads, highways, or other transit facilities. Airport bonds are dependent on the economic conditions of the airport's service area and may be affected by the business strategies and fortunes of specific airlines. They may also be subject to competition from other airports and modes of transportation. Air traffic generally follows broader economic trends and is also affected by the price and availability of fuel. Toll road bonds are also affected by the cost and availability of fuel as well as toll levels, the presence of competing roads and the general economic health of an area. Fuel costs, transportation taxes and fees, and availability of fuel also affect other transportation-related securities, as do the presence of alternate forms of transportation, such as public transportation.

*Tobacco Settlement Revenue Bonds.* Tobacco settlement revenue bonds are secured by a single source of revenue—a state or jurisdiction's proportionate share of periodic payments made by tobacco companies under the Master Settlement Agreement (the MSA) entered into by participating cigarette manufacturers, 46 states, and other jurisdictions in November of 1998 in settlement of certain smoking-related litigation. Annual payments on the bonds are dependent on the receipt by the issuer of future settlement payments under the MSA. These annual payments are subject to numerous adjustments. The actual amount of future settlement payments depends on annual domestic cigarette shipments, inflation, market share gains by non-participating cigarette manufacturers, and other factors. MSA adjustments may cause bonds to be repaid faster or slower than originally projected. Tobacco bonds are subject to additional risks, including the risk that cigarette consumption declines, that a tobacco company defaults on its obligation to make payments to the state or that the MSA or state legislation enacted pursuant to the MSA is void or unenforceable.

*Water and Sewer.* Water and sewer revenue bonds are generally secured by the fees charged to each user of the service. The issuers of water and sewer revenue bonds generally enjoy a monopoly status and latitude in their ability to raise rates. However, lack of water supply due to insufficient rain, run-off, or snow pack can be a concern and has led to past defaults. Further, public resistance to rate increases, declining numbers of customers in a particular locale, costly environmental litigation, and Federal environmental mandates are challenges faced by issuers of water and sewer bonds.

**Municipal Lease Obligations.** Municipal lease obligations and participations in municipal leases are undivided interests in a portion of an obligation in the form of a lease or installment purchase or conditional sales contract which is issued by a state, local government, or a municipal financing corporation to acquire land, equipment, and/or facilities (collectively hereinafter referred to as lease obligations). Generally lease obligations do not constitute general obligations of the municipality for which the municipality's taxing power is pledged. Instead, a lease obligation is ordinarily backed by the municipality's covenant to budget for, appropriate, and make the payments due under the lease obligation. As a result of this structure, municipal lease obligations are generally not subject to state constitutional debt limitations or other statutory requirements that may apply to other municipal securities.

Lease obligations may contain non-appropriation clauses which provide that the municipality has no obligation to make lease or installment purchase payments in future years unless money is appropriated for that purpose on a yearly basis. If the municipality does not appropriate in its budget enough to cover the payments on the lease obligation, the lessor may have the right to repossess and relet the property to another party. Depending on the property subject to the lease, the value of the property may not be sufficient to cover the debt.

In addition to the risk of non-appropriation, municipal lease securities may not have as highly liquid a market as conventional municipal bonds. Furthermore, municipal lease obligations have the same risk characteristics as Municipal Instruments do generally.

**Options.** An option is a contract which conveys the right, but not the obligation, to purchase (in the case of a call option) or sell (in the case of a put option) a specific amount or value of a particular underlying interest at a specific price (called the exercise or strike price) at one or more specific times before the option expires. The underlying interest of an option contract can be a security, currency, index, future, swap, commodity, or other type of financial instrument. The seller of an option is called an option writer. The purchase price of an option is called the premium. The potential loss to an option purchaser is limited to the amount of the premium plus transaction costs. This will be the case, for example, if the option is held and not exercised prior to its expiration date.

Options can be traded either through established exchanges (exchange traded options) or privately negotiated transactions (over-the-counter or OTC options). Exchange traded options are standardized with respect to,

among other things, the underlying interest, expiration date, contract size and strike price. The terms of OTC options are generally negotiated by the parties to the option contract which allows the parties greater flexibility in customizing the agreement, but OTC options are generally less liquid than exchange traded options.

All option contracts involve credit risk if the counterparty to the option contract fails to perform. Credit risk is low in exchange traded options because the performance of the contract by the counterparty is backed by the clearing agency for the exchange on which the options are traded. The credit risk in OTC options is dependent on the credit worthiness of the individual counterparty to the contract and may be greater than the credit risk associated with exchange traded options.

When purchasing a put option, the purchaser obtains the right (but not the obligation) to sell a specific amount or value of a particular interest to the option writer at a fixed strike price. In return for this right, the purchaser pays the option premium. The purchaser of a typical put option can expect to realize a gain if the price of the underlying interest falls. However, if the underlying interest's price does not fall enough to offset the cost of purchasing the option, the purchaser of a put option can expect to suffer a loss (limited to the amount of the premium, plus related transaction costs).

The purchaser of a put option may terminate its position by allowing the option to expire, exercising the option or closing out its position in the secondary market at the option's current price, if a liquid secondary market exists. If the option is allowed to expire, the purchaser will lose the entire premium. If the option is exercised, the purchaser would complete the sale of the underlying interest to the option writer at the strike price.

When purchasing a call option, the purchaser obtains the right (but not the obligation) to purchase a specified amount or value of a particular interest from the option writer at a fixed strike price. In return for this right, the purchaser pays the option premium. The purchaser of a typical call option can expect to realize a gain if the price of the underlying interest rises. However, if the underlying interest's price does not rise enough to offset the cost of purchasing the option, the buyer of a call option can expect to suffer a loss (limited to the amount of the premium, plus related transaction costs).

The writer of a put or call option takes the opposite side of the transaction from the option's purchaser. In return for receipt of the premium, the writer assumes the obligation to buy or sell (depending on whether the option is a put or a call) a specified amount or value of a particular interest at the strike price if the purchaser of the option chooses to exercise it.

Generally, an option writer sells options with the goal of obtaining the premium paid by the option purchaser. If an option sold by an option writer expires without being exercised, the writer retains the full amount of the premium. The option writer, however, has unlimited economic risk because its potential loss, except to the extent offset by the premium received when the option was written, is equal to the amount the option is in-the-money when the option is exercised. A call option is in-the-money if the value of the underlying interest exceeds the strike price of the option. A put option is in-the-money if the strike price of the option exceeds the value of the underlying interest. Generally, any profit realized by an option purchaser represents a loss for the option writer. The writer of a futures option is required to deposit and maintain initial and variation margin with respect to the option in the same manner as if the writer were entering into a futures contract.

The writer of a put option may seek to terminate a position in the put option before exercise by closing out the option in the secondary market at its current price. If the secondary market is not liquid for a put option, however, the writer must continue to be prepared to pay the strike price while the option is outstanding, regardless of price changes.

A physical delivery option gives its owner the right to receive physical delivery (if it is a call), or to make physical delivery (if it is a put) of the underlying interest when the option is exercised. A cash-settled option gives its owner the right to receive a cash payment based on the difference between a determined value of the underlying interest at the time the option is exercised and the fixed exercise price of the option. In the case of physically settled options, it may not be possible to terminate the position at any particular time or at an acceptable price. A cash-settled call conveys the right to receive a cash payment if the determined value of the underlying interest at exercise exceeds the exercise price of the option, and a cash-settled put conveys the right to receive a cash payment if the determined value of the underlying interest at exercise is less than the exercise price of the option.

Combination option positions are positions in more than one option at the same time. A spread involves being both the buyer and writer of the same type of option on the same underlying interest but different exercise prices and/or expiration dates. A straddle consists of purchasing or writing both a put and a call on the same underlying interest with the same exercise price and expiration date.



The principal factors affecting the market value of a put or call option include supply and demand, interest rates, the current market price of the underlying interest in relation to the exercise price of the option, the volatility of the underlying interest and the remaining period to the expiration date.

If a trading market in particular options were to become unavailable, investors in those options would be unable to close out their positions until trading resumes, and option writers may be faced with substantial losses if the value of the underlying interest moves adversely during that time. Lack of investor interest, changes in volatility, or other factors or conditions might adversely affect the liquidity, efficiency, continuity, or even the orderliness of the market for particular options. Exchanges or other facilities on which options are traded may establish limitations on options trading, may order the liquidation of positions in excess of these limitations, or may impose other sanctions that could adversely affect parties to an options transaction.

Many options, in particular OTC options, are complex and often valued based on subjective factors. Improper valuations can result in increased cash payment requirements to counterparties or a loss of value to a Fund.

**Preferred Stock.** Preferred stock represents an equity or ownership interest in an issuer and is therefore subject to the same risks as other equity securities. Preferred stock has precedence over common stock in the event the issuer is liquidated or declares bankruptcy, but is junior to the interests of the debt instruments of the issuer. Preferred stock, unlike common stock, often has a stated dividend rate payable from the corporation's earnings. Preferred stock dividends may be cumulative or non-cumulative, participating, or auction rate. Cumulative dividend provisions require all or a portion of prior unpaid dividends to be paid before dividends can be paid to the issuer's common stock. Participating preferred stock may be entitled to a dividend exceeding the stated dividend in certain cases. The level of auction rate dividends are reset periodically through an auction process. If interest rates rise, the fixed dividend on preferred stocks may be less attractive, causing the price of such stocks to decline. Preferred stock may have mandatory sinking fund provisions, as well as provisions allowing the stock to be called or redeemed, which can limit the benefit of a decline in interest rates. The value of preferred stock is sensitive to changes in interest rates and to changes in the issuer's credit quality.

**Real Estate Related Investments.** Investment in real estate related investments or derivatives whose value is based on real estate related indicators are subject to similar risks to those associated with the direct ownership of real estate and with the real estate industry in general. These risks include, among others: possible declines in the value of real estate; risks related to general and local economic conditions; possible lack of availability of mortgage funds; overbuilding; extended vacancies of properties; increases in competition, property taxes and operating expenses; changes in zoning or applicable tax law; costs resulting from the clean-up of, and liability to third parties for damages resulting from, environmental problems; casualty or condemnation losses; uninsured damages from floods, earthquakes or other natural disasters; limitations on and variations in rents; and changes in interest rates.

Real estate investment trusts ( REITs ) are pooled investment vehicles that invest primarily in income producing real estate or real estate related loans or interests. REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs, or a combination of equity and mortgage REITs. Equity REITs invest most of their assets directly in real property and derive income primarily from the collection of rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling properties that have appreciated in value. Mortgage REITs invest most of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from interest payments. An investor will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any expenses (such as operating expenses and advisory fees) paid by REITs in which it invests in addition to the expenses paid by the investor.

Equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the trusts, while mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of any credit extended. Further, equity and mortgage REITs are dependent upon management skills of the REIT's manager and generally are not diversified. Equity and mortgage REITs are also subject to heavy cash flow dependency, borrower default, and self-liquidation.

Mortgage REITs are also subject to different combinations of prepayment, extension, interest rate and other market risks. The real estate mortgages underlying mortgage REITs are generally subject to a faster rate of principal repayments in a declining interest rate environment and to a slower rate of principal repayments in an increasing interest rate environment.

In addition, a REIT may be unable to obtain financing to satisfy income and gain distributions required by federal tax law, may fail to qualify for the federal tax exemption for distributed income, or may be adversely affected by changes in federal tax law, for example, by limiting their permissible businesses or investments.

**Repurchase Agreements.** A repurchase agreement is an agreement under which a buyer would acquire a security for a relatively short period of time (usually not more than a week) subject to the obligation of the seller to

repurchase and the buyer to resell such security at a fixed time and price (representing the buyer's cost plus interest). The buyer bears the risk of loss in the event that the other party to a repurchase agreement defaults on its obligations and the buyer is delayed or prevented from exercising its rights to dispose of the collateral. This risk includes the risk of procedural costs or delays in addition to a loss on the securities if their value should fall below their repurchase price.

**Restricted Securities.** Restricted securities are securities that are subject to legal restrictions on their re-sale. Difficulty in selling securities may result in a loss or be costly to an investor. Restricted securities generally can be sold in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, or in a registered public offering. Where registration is required, the holder of a registered security may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expense and a considerable period may elapse between the time it decides to seek registration and the time it may be permitted to sell a security under an effective registration statement. If, during such a period, adverse market conditions were to develop, the holder might obtain a less favorable price than prevailed when it decided to seek registration of the security.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreements.** In a reverse repurchase agreement, an investor sells securities and receives cash proceeds, subject to its agreement to repurchase the securities at a later date for a fixed price reflecting a market rate of interest. There is a risk that the counter party to a reverse repurchase agreement will be unable or unwilling to complete the transaction as scheduled, which may result in losses to the investor. Unless the appreciation and income on assets purchased with proceeds from reverse repurchase agreements exceed the costs associated with them, the investor's performance is lower than it otherwise would have been. A reverse repurchase agreement can be viewed as a borrowing. If a Fund makes additional investments while a reverse repurchase agreement is outstanding, this may be considered a form of leverage.

**Securities of Other Investment Companies.** Securities of other investment companies include shares of closed-end investment companies, unit investment trusts, exchange-traded funds, business development companies, and open-end investment companies, represent interests in professionally managed portfolios that may invest in any type of interest. Investing in other investment companies involves substantially the same risks as investing directly in the underlying interests, but involve additional expenses at the investment company-level, such as a proportionate share of portfolio management fees and operating expenses. Certain types of investment companies, such as closed-end investment companies and exchange-traded funds, trade on a stock exchange or over-the-counter at a premium or a discount to their net asset value (NAV) per share. The extent to which a Fund can invest in securities of other investment companies is limited by the Investment Company Act of 1940.

**Short Sales.** A seller may make short sales that are made against the box and also those that are not made against the box. A short sale that is not made against the box is a transaction in which a party sells a security it does not own, in anticipation of a decline in the market value of that security. To complete such a transaction, the seller must borrow the security to make delivery to the buyer. The seller then is obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing it at the market price at the time of replacement. It may not be possible to liquidate or close out the short sale at any particular time or at an acceptable price. The price at such time may be more or less than the price at which the security was sold by the seller. To the extent that the seller invests the proceeds from the short sale in other securities, the seller is subject to the risks of the securities purchased with the proceeds in addition to the risks of the securities sold short. Until the security is replaced, the seller is required to repay the lender any dividends or interest which accrue during the period of the loan. To borrow the security, the seller also may be required to pay a premium, which would increase the cost of the security sold. The seller also will incur transaction costs in effecting short sales.

The seller will incur a loss as a result of the short sale if the price of the security or index increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the seller replaces the borrowed security. Such loss may be unlimited. The seller will realize a gain if the price of the security declines between those dates. The amount of any gain will be decreased, and the amount of any loss increased, by the amount of the premium, dividends or interest the seller may be required to pay in connection with a short sale. The overall benefit to the seller will depend on how the short sale performs relative to the market price of the securities purchased with the proceeds from the short sale.

A seller may also make short sales against the box, i.e., when a security identical to one owned by the seller is borrowed and sold short. If the seller enters into a short sale against the box, it is required to hold securities equivalent in kind and amount to the securities sold short (or securities convertible or exchangeable into such securities) while the short sale is outstanding. The seller will incur transaction costs, including interest, in connection with opening, maintaining, and closing short sales against the box and will forgo an opportunity for capital appreciation in the security.

**Sovereign Debt Obligations.** Sovereign debt obligations are issued or guaranteed by foreign governments or their agencies, including debt of developing countries. Sovereign debt may be in the form of conventional securities or other types of debt instruments such as loans or loan participations. Sovereign debt of developing countries may involve a high degree of risk, and may be in default or present the risk of default. Governmental entities responsible for repayment of the debt may be unable or unwilling to repay principal and pay interest when due, and may require renegotiation or rescheduling of debt payments. In addition, prospects for repayment of principal and payment of interest may depend on political as well as economic factors. Although some sovereign debt, such as Brady Bonds, is collateralized by U.S. Government securities, repayment of principal and payment of interest is not guaranteed by the U.S. Government.

**Structured Securities.** Structured securities (also called structured notes ) are derivative debt instruments, the interest rate or principal of which is determined by an unrelated indicator. The value of the principal of and/or interest on structured securities is determined by reference to the value of one or more underlying indicators or the difference between underlying indicators. Underlying indicators may include a security or other financial instrument, asset, currency, interest rate, credit rating, commodity, volatility measure or index. If MFS attempts to use a structured security as a hedge against, or as a substitute for, a portfolio investment, the structured security may not correlate as expected with the portfolio investment, resulting in losses to the Fund. While hedging strategies involving structured securities can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain or even result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in other Fund investments.

Structured securities may also be subject to liquidity risk since the derivatives are often customized to meet the portfolio needs of a particular investor, and therefore, the number of investors that are willing and able to buy such derivatives in the secondary market may be smaller than that for more traditional debt instruments. In addition, because the purchase and sale of structured securities takes place in an over-the-counter market, structured securities are subject to the creditworthiness of the counterparty to the swap or related derivative, and their values may decline substantially if the counterparty's creditworthiness deteriorates. If the counterparty defaults, the other party's risk of loss consists of the net amount of payments that the non-defaulting party is contractually entitled to receive.

**Swaps and Related Derivatives.** A swap is an agreement between two parties pursuant to which each party agrees to make one or more payments to the other based on the value of one or more underlying indicators or the difference between underlying indicators. Underlying indicators may include a security or other financial instrument, asset, currency, interest rate, credit rating, commodity, volatility measure, or index. Swaps can be closed out by physical delivery of the underlying indicator(s) or payment of the cash settlement on settlement date, depending on the terms of the particular agreement. For example, in a typical credit default swap on a specific security, in the event of a credit event one party agrees to pay par on the security while the other party agrees to deliver the security. In the case of physically settled swaps, it may not be possible to close out the swap at any particular time or at an acceptable price. Other swap agreements provide for cash settlement. For example, in a typical interest rate swap, one party agrees to pay a fixed rate of interest determined by reference to a specified interest rate or index multiplied by a specified amount (the notional amount ), while the other party agrees to pay an amount equal to a floating rate of interest determined by reference to an interest rate or index which is reset periodically and multiplied by the same notional amount. On each payment date, the obligations of parties are netted against each other, with only the net amount paid by one party to the other.

Swap agreements are typically individually negotiated and structured to provide exposure to a variety of different types of investments or market factors. Swap agreements may be entered into for hedging or non-hedging purposes. Swap agreements can take many different forms and are known by a variety of names and other types of swap agreements may be available.

Other types of over-the-counter derivatives, such as caps, floors, collars and options on swaps, or swaptions, may be entered into for the same types of hedging or non-hedging purposes as swaps. A cap transaction is one in which one party pays a single or periodic fixed amount and the other party pays a floating amount equal to the amount by which a specified fixed or floating rate or other indicator exceeds another rate or indicator (multiplied by a notional amount). A floor transaction is one in which one party pays a single or periodic fixed amount and the other party pays a floating amount equal to the excess, if any, of a specified rate or other indicator over a different rate or indicator (multiplied by a notional amount). A collar transaction is a combination of a cap and a floor in which one party pays the floating amount on the cap and the other party pays the floating amount on the floor. A swaption is an option to enter into a swap agreement. Like other types of options, the buyer of a swaption pays a non-refundable premium for the option and obtains the right, but not the obligation, to enter into the underlying swap on the agreed-upon terms.

The most significant factor in the performance of swaps, caps, floors, and collars is the change in the underlying price, rate, index level or other indicator that determines the amount of payments to be made under the arrangement.

If MFS attempts to use a swap or related investment as a hedge against, or as a substitute for, a portfolio investment, the swap or related derivative may not correlate as expected with the portfolio investment, resulting in losses to the Fund. While hedging strategies involving swaps and related derivatives can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain or even result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in other Fund investments.

Swaps and related derivatives may also be subject to liquidity risk since the derivatives are often customized to meet the portfolio needs of a particular investor, and therefore, the number of investors that are willing and able to buy such derivatives in the secondary market may be smaller than that for more traditional debt instruments. The swaps market is largely unregulated. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including potential government regulations, could adversely affect an investor's ability to terminate its existing swap agreements or to realize amounts received under such agreements.

In addition, because the purchase and sale of swap and related derivatives takes place in an over-the-counter market, swaps and related derivatives are subject to the creditworthiness of the counterparty to the swap or related derivative, and their values may decline substantially if the counterparty's creditworthiness deteriorates. If the counterparty defaults, the other party's risk of loss consists of the net amount of payments that the non-defaulting party is contractually entitled to receive. The counterparties may be able to eliminate or reduce their exposure under these arrangements by assignment or other disposition or by entering into an offsetting agreement with the same or another counterparty.

**Temporary Defensive Positions.** In response to market, economic, political, or other conditions, MFS may depart from its investment strategies for a Fund by temporarily investing for defensive purposes. MFS may invest a large portion or all of a Fund's assets in cash (including foreign currency) or cash equivalents, including, but not limited to, obligations of banks (including certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, time deposits and repurchase agreements), commercial paper, short-term notes, U.S. Government Securities and related repurchase agreements.

**Tender Option Bonds.** Tender option bonds are created when municipal instruments are transferred to a special purpose trust which issues two classes of certificates. The first class, commonly called floating rate certificates, pays an interest rate that is typically reset weekly based on a specified index. The second class, commonly called inverse floaters, pays an interest rate based on the difference between the interest rate earned on the underlying municipal instruments and the interest rate paid on the floating rate certificates, after expenses.

**Warrants.** Warrants are instruments which entitle the holder to buy an equity security at a specific price for a specific period of time. Changes in the value of a warrant do not necessarily correspond to changes in the value of its underlying security. The price of a warrant may be more volatile than the price of its underlying security, and a warrant may offer greater potential for capital appreciation as well as capital loss. Warrants do not entitle a holder to dividends or voting rights with respect to the underlying security and do not represent any rights in the assets of the issuing company. A warrant ceases to have value if it is not exercised prior to its expiration date. These factors can make warrants more speculative than other types of investments.

**When-Issued, Delayed-Delivery, and Forward-Commitment Transactions.** When-issued, delayed-delivery, and forward-commitment transactions involve a commitment to purchase or sell specific securities at a predetermined price or yield in which payment and delivery take place after the customary settlement period for that type of security. Typically, no interest accrues to the purchaser until the security is delivered. When purchasing securities pursuant to one of these transactions, payment for the securities is not required until the delivery date. However, the purchaser assumes the rights and risks of ownership, including the risks of price and yield fluctuations and the risk that the security will not be issued or delivered as anticipated. If a Fund makes additional investments while a delayed delivery purchase is outstanding, this may result in a form of leverage.

**Variable and Floating Rate Securities.** Variable and floating rate securities are debt instruments that provide for periodic adjustments in the interest rate paid on the security. Variable rate securities provide for a specified periodic adjustment in the interest rate, while floating rate securities have interest rates that may change with changes to the level of prevailing interest rates or the issuer's credit quality. There is a risk that the current interest rate on variable and floating rate securities may not accurately reflect current market interest rates or adequately compensate the holder for the current creditworthiness of the issuer. Some variable or floating rate securities are structured with liquidity features such as (1) put options or tender options that permit holders (sometimes subject to conditions) to demand payment of the unpaid principal balance plus accrued interest from the issuers or certain financial intermediaries or (2) auction rate features, remarketing provisions, or other maturity-shortening devices designed to enable the issuer to refinance or redeem outstanding debt securities (market-dependent liquidity features). The market-dependent liquidity features may not operate as intended as a result of the issuer's declining creditworthiness, adverse market conditions, or other factors or the inability or unwillingness of a

participating broker-dealer to make a secondary market for such securities. As a result, variable or floating rate securities that include market-dependent liquidity features may lose value and the holders of such securities may be required to retain them for an extended period of time or until maturity.

**Zero Coupon Bonds, Deferred Interest Bonds, and Payment-In-Kind Bonds.** Zero coupon and deferred interest bonds are debt instruments which are issued at a discount from face value. The discount approximates the total amount of interest the instruments will accrue and compound over the period until maturity or the first interest payment date at a rate of interest reflecting the market rate of the instrument at the time of issuance. While zero coupon bonds do not require the periodic payment of interest, deferred interest bonds provide for a period of delay before the regular payment of interest begins. Payment-in-kind bonds are debt instruments which provide that the issuer may, at its option, pay interest on such instruments in cash or in the form of additional debt instruments. Such instruments may involve greater credit risks and may experience greater volatility than debt instruments which pay interest in cash currently.

### Investment Restrictions

The Fund has adopted the following policies which cannot be changed without the approval of the holders of a majority of its shares as defined currently in the 1940 Act to be the lesser of (i) 67% or more of the voting securities present at a meeting at which holders of voting securities representing more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities are present or represented by proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities ( Majority Shareholder Vote ). Except for fundamental investment restriction (1), these investment restrictions are adhered to at the time of purchase or utilization of assets; a subsequent change in circumstances will not be considered to result in a violation of policy.

The Fund may not:

- (1) **Borrow Money:** borrow money except to the extent such borrowing is not prohibited by the 1940 Act and exemptive orders granted under such Act.
- (2) **Underwrite Securities:** underwrite securities issued by other persons, except that all or any portion of the assets of the Fund may be invested in one or more investment companies, to the extent not prohibited by the 1940 Act and exemptive orders granted under such Act, and except insofar as the Fund may technically be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in selling a portfolio security.
- (3) **Senior Securities:** issue any senior securities except to the extent not prohibited by the 1940 Act and exemptive orders granted under such Act. For purposes of this restriction, collateral arrangements with respect to any type of swap, option, Forward Contract and Futures Contract and collateral arrangements with respect to initial and variation margin are not deemed to be the issuance of a senior security.
- (4) **Make Loans:** make loans except to the extent not prohibited by the 1940 Act and exemptive orders granted under such Act.
- (5) **Real Estate, Oil and Gas, Mineral Interests and Commodities:** purchase or sell real estate (excluding securities secured by real estate or interests therein and securities of companies, such as real estate investment trusts, which deal in real estate or interests therein), interests in oil, gas or mineral leases, commodities or commodity contracts (excluding currencies and any type of option, Futures Contract and Forward Contract) in the ordinary course of its business. The Fund reserves the freedom of action to hold and to sell real estate, mineral leases, commodities or commodity contracts (including currencies and any type of option, Futures Contract and Forward Contract) acquired as a result of the ownership of securities.
- (6) **Industry Concentration:** purchase any securities of an issuer in a particular industry if as a result 25% or more of its total assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) would be invested in securities of issuers whose principal business activities are in the same industry.

For purposes of investment restriction no. 5, investments in certain types of derivative instruments whose value is related to commodities or commodity contracts, including swaps and structured notes, are not considered commodities or commodity contracts.

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For purposes of fundamental investment restriction (6) investments in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities and tax-exempt obligations issued or guaranteed by a U.S. territory or possession, a state or local government, or a political subdivision of any of the foregoing, are not considered an investment in any particular industry.

For purposes of fundamental investment restriction (6), investments in other investment companies are not considered an investment in any particular industry and portfolio securities held by an underlying fund in which the Fund may invest are not considered to be securities purchased by the Fund.

For purposes of fundamental investment restriction (6), MFS uses a customized set of industry groups for classifying securities based on classifications developed by third party providers.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

### Trustees/Officers

**Board Oversight** The Board of Trustees which oversees the Fund provides broad supervision over the business and operations of the Fund.

**Trustees and Officers Identification and Background** The identification and background of the Trustees and officers of the Fund are set forth in *Appendix C*.

### Trustee Compensation and Committees

Compensation paid to the non-interested Trustees for certain specified periods, as well as information regarding committees of the Board of Trustees, is set forth in *Appendix D*

### Share Ownership

Information concerning the ownership of Fund shares by Trustees and officers of the Fund as a group, as well as the dollar value range of each Trustee's share ownership in the Fund and, on an aggregate basis, in all MFS Fund overseen, by investors who are deemed to control the Fund, if any, and by investors who own 5% or more of any class of Fund shares, if any, is set forth in *Appendix F*

### Portfolio Manager(s)

Information regarding the portfolio manager(s) of the fund is set forth below. Further information regarding the portfolio manager(s), including other accounts managed, compensation, ownership of fund shares, and possible conflicts of interest, is set forth in *Appendix B*. Each portfolio manager is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the fund, unless otherwise specified.

Portfolio Manager	Primary Role	Since	Title and Five Year History
James J. Calmas	Lead Portfolio Manager	2002	Investment Officer of MFS; employed in the investment area of MFS since 1988.
Erik S. Weisman	International Government Securities Portfolio Manager	2004	Investment Officer of MFS; employed in the investment area of MFS since 2002.

### Investment Adviser

MFS, 500 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, provides the Fund with investment advisory services. MFS is a subsidiary of Sun Life of Canada (U.S.) Financial Services Holdings, Inc., which in turn is an indirect majority-owned subsidiary of Sun Life Financial, Inc. (a diversified financial services company).

MFS is America's oldest mutual fund organization. MFS and its predecessor organizations have a history of money management dating from 1924 and the founding of the first mutual fund, Massachusetts Investors Trust. Assets under the management of the MFS organization were approximately \$184 billion as of March 31, 2008.

MFS votes proxies on behalf of the Fund pursuant to the proxy voting policies described in *Appendix G*. Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the 12-month period ended June 30th is available, without charge, by visiting [mfs.com](http://mfs.com) and clicking on Proxy Voting and by visiting the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. The Fund makes available on [mfs.com](http://mfs.com), free of charge, the information disclosed in its most recently filed report on Form N-PX as soon as reasonably practicable after filing the report with the SEC.

**Investment Advisory Agreement** MFS manages the Fund pursuant to an Investment Advisory Agreement (the Advisory Agreement). Under the Advisory Agreement, MFS provides the Fund with investment advisory services. Subject to such policies as the Trustees may determine,

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MFS makes investment decisions for the Fund. For these services, MFS receives an annual investment advisory fee, computed and paid monthly.



MFS pays the compensation of the Fund's officers and of any Trustee who is an employee of MFS. MFS also furnishes at its own expense investment advisory and administrative services, office space, equipment, clerical personnel, investment advisory facilities, and executive and supervisory personnel necessary for managing the Fund's investments and effecting its portfolio transactions.

The Fund pays the compensation of the Trustees who are not affiliated with MFS and all expenses of the Fund incurred in its operation and offering of shares (other than those assumed by MFS in writing) including but not limited to: management fees; administrative services fees; governmental fees; interest charges; taxes; membership dues in the Investment Company Institute allocable to the Fund; fees and expenses of independent auditors, of legal counsel, and of any transfer agent, registrar, or dividend disbursing agent of the Fund; expenses of repurchasing and redeeming shares and servicing shareholder accounts; expenses of preparing, printing and mailing stock certificates, shareholder reports, notices, proxy statements, confirmations, periodic investment statements and reports to governmental officers and commissions; brokerage and other expenses connected with the execution, recording, and settlement of portfolio security transactions; insurance premiums; fees and expenses of the Fund's custodian, for all services to the Fund, including safekeeping of Fund and securities and maintaining required books and accounts; expenses of calculating the net asset value of shares of the Fund; organizational and start up costs; and such non-recurring or extraordinary expenses as may arise, including those relating to actions, suits, or proceedings to which the Fund is a party or otherwise may have an exposure, and the legal obligation which the Fund may have to indemnify the Fund's Trustees and officers with respect thereto. Expenses relating to the issuance, registration and qualification of shares of the Fund and the preparation, printing and mailing of prospectuses for such purposes are borne by the Fund except to the extent that the Distribution Agreement to which the Fund is a party provides that other party to pay some or all of such expense.

The Advisory Agreement has an initial two-year term and continues in effect thereafter only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board of Trustees or by a Majority Shareholder Vote and, in either case, by a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Fund or MFS as defined by the 1940 Act. The Advisory Agreement terminates automatically if it is assigned and may be terminated without penalty by a Majority Shareholder Vote, or by either party on not more than 60 days nor less than 30 days written notice.

The Advisory Agreement also provides that neither MFS nor its personnel shall be liable for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss arising out of any investment or for any act or omission in the execution and management of the Fund, except for willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of its or their duties and obligations under the Advisory Agreement.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2007, the Fund paid MFS an effective management fee equal to 0.62% of the Fund's average daily net assets. The management fee set forth in the Investment Advisory Agreement is 0.32% of the Fund's average daily net assets plus 5.65% of the Fund's gross income. MFS has agreed in writing to reduce its management fee to the lesser of the management fee in the Investment Advisory Agreement or 0.85% of the Fund's average daily net assets. This voluntary agreement will remain in effect until modified by MFS.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board of Trustees' approval of the Investment Advisory Agreement is available in the fund's most recent annual report for the one year period that ends October 31.

Since December 2003, MFS, MFS Fund Distributors, Inc., MFS Service Center, Inc., Sun Life Financial Inc., various MFS funds, certain current and/or former Trustees of the MFS funds, and certain officers of MFS have been named as defendants in multiple lawsuits filed in federal and state courts. The various lawsuits that are still pending generally allege that some or all of the defendants permitted or acquiesced in market timing and/or late trading in some of the MFS funds, and inadequately disclosed MFS' internal policies concerning market timing and such matters. The pending lawsuits assert that some or all of the defendants violated the federal securities laws, including the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as well as fiduciary duties and other violations of common law. The pending lawsuits variously have been commenced as class actions or individual actions on behalf of investors who purchased, held, or redeemed shares of the MFS funds during specified periods, or as derivative actions on behalf of the MFS funds.

The lawsuits relating to market timing and related matters have been transferred to, and consolidated before, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, as part of a multi-district litigation of market timing and related claims involving several other fund complexes (*In re Mutual Funds Investment Litigation (Alger, Columbia, Janus, MFS, One Group, Putnam, Allianz Dresdner)*, No. 1:04-md-15863 (transfer began March 19, 2004)). The pending market timing cases related to the MFS funds include *Riggs v. MFS et al., Case No. 04-CV-01162-JFM*

(consolidated class action complaint filed September 30, 2004), *Hammerslough v. MFS et al.*, Case No. 04-MD-01620 (consolidated derivative complaint filed September 30, 2004), and *Reaves v. MFS Series Trust I, et al.*, Case No. 1:05-CV-02220-JFM (complaint related to Class B shares filed March 21, 2005). The plaintiffs in these consolidated lawsuits generally seek injunctive relief including removal of the named Trustees, adviser and distributor, rescission of contracts and 12b-1 Plans, disgorgement of fees and profits, monetary damages, punitive damages, attorney's fees and costs and other equitable and declaratory relief. Insofar as any of the actions is appropriately brought derivatively on behalf of any of the MFS funds, any recovery will inure to the benefit of the MFS funds. Several claims of the various lawsuits have been dismissed; MFS and the other named defendants continue to defend the various lawsuits.

### Administrator

MFS provides the Fund with certain financial, legal and other administrative services under a Master Administrative Services Agreement between the Fund and MFS. Under the Agreement, the Fund pays an annual fee to MFS for providing these services.

As of January 1, 2008, the annual fee payable by the Fund is \$17,500 plus an amount equal to the following percentage of the Fund's average daily assets (except that Funds investing primarily in shares of other MFS Funds pay only \$17,500):

On the first \$50,000,000 in assets	0.0000%
Over \$50,000,000 in assets	0.0121%

These fees are subject to maximum fees.

### Certain Service Provider Oversight

MFS Service Center, Inc. ( MFSC ), with a place of business at 100 Hancock Street, North Quincy, MA 02171, a wholly owned subsidiary of MFS, provides oversight services with respect to the performance by Computershare and CSS (each as defined below) of their respective obligations to the Fund, for which MFSC receives a monthly fee. Computershare Trust Company, N.A. ( Computershare ), a federally chartered trust company doing business at 250 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021, is the Fund's common share transfer agent, common share registrar, and administrator of the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan, and Computershare Shareholder Services, Inc. ( CSS ), a Delaware corporation doing business at 250 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021, a wholly owned subsidiary of Computershare, is the Fund's dividend disbursing agent and processor of all payments received or made by the Fund under the Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan.

### Certain Service Provider Compensation

Compensation paid by the Fund to MFS for investment advisory and administrative services, and to MFS Service Center, Inc. for oversight services with respect to shareholder servicing services, for certain specified periods, is set forth in *Appendix E*.

### Code of Ethics

The Fund and its Adviser have adopted a code of ethics as required under the 1940 Act. Subject to certain conditions and restrictions, the code permits personnel subject to the code to invest in securities for their own accounts, including securities that may be purchased, held or sold by the Fund. Securities transactions by some of these persons may be subject to prior approval of the Adviser's Compliance Departments, and securities transactions of certain personnel are subject to quarterly reporting and review requirements.

The 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 Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-202-551-8090. The Code of Ethics is also available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, and copies of the Code of Ethics may be obtained, after paying all duplicating fees, 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.

### Custodian

State Street Bank and Trust Company, with a place of business at State Street Financial Center, One Lincoln Street, Boston, MA 02111, serves as the custodian of the assets of the Fund (the Custodian). The Custodian is

responsible for safekeeping and controlling the Fund's cash and securities, handling the receipt and delivery of securities, collecting interest and dividends on the Fund's investments, serving as the Fund's foreign custody manager, providing reports on foreign securities depositaries, maintaining books of original entry and other required books and accounts for the Fund, and calculating the daily net asset value of shares of the Fund. The Fund may invest in securities of the Custodian and may deal with the Custodian as principal in securities transactions.

The Fund has an expense offset arrangement that reduces the Fund's custodian fees based upon the amount of cash maintained by the Fund with its custodian.

### Shares Outstanding

The following information is furnished as of July 10, 2008:

(1) Title of Class	(2) Amount Authorized	(3) Amount Held by Trust or for its Account	(4) Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Amount Shown Under (3)
Common Shares	116,512,419	0	116,512,419
<b>Description of Shares</b>			

The Fund's Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest, without par value. The Fund's Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees to divide or combine the shares into a greater or lesser number of shares without thereby changing the proportionate beneficial interests in the Fund. In addition, the Declaration of Trust authorizes the issuance of one or more classes of shares having such preferences, voting powers, terms of redemption, if any, and special or relative voting rights or privileges as the Trustees may determine. Shares have no pre-emptive or conversion rights, nor any sinking fund provisions. Shares when issued are fully paid and non-assessable.

Except in limited circumstances, the Trustees may, without any shareholder vote, amend or otherwise supplement the Fund's Declaration of Trust. The Fund may reincorporate or reorganize without any shareholder vote. The Fund may enter into a merger or consolidation, or sell all or substantially all of its assets, if approved by the holders of two-thirds of its outstanding shares, except that if the Trustees recommend such transaction, the approval by the holders of a majority of its outstanding shares will be sufficient. The Fund may be terminated upon liquidation and distribution of its assets, if approved by the vote of the holders of two-thirds of its outstanding shares. If not so terminated, the Fund will continue indefinitely. Upon liquidation of the Fund, the Fund's shareholders are entitled to share pro rata according to their respective rights and preferences in the Fund's assets available for distribution to its shareholders.

### Common Shares

The Trustees have authorized the issuance of an unlimited number of common shares ( Common shares and together with any preferred shares shares ). Holders of Common shares are entitled to one vote for each share held and to vote in the election of Trustees and on other matters submitted to meetings of shareholders. In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the fund, holders of Common shares are entitled to share pro rata in the Fund's assets available for distribution to shareholders. The Fund has no present intention of offering additional Common shares, except that additional shares may be issued under the Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan. Other offerings of its Common shares, if made, will require approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees. Any additional offering will be subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act that Common shares may not be sold at a price below the then-current net asset value, exclusive of underwriting discounts and commissions, except among other things, in connection with an offering to existing shareholders or with the consent of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities.

### **Certain Provisions of the Declaration of Trust**

The Fund is an entity of the type commonly known as a Massachusetts business trust. Under Massachusetts law, shareholders of such a trust may, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable as partners for its obligations. However, the Declaration of Trust contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Fund and provides for indemnification and reimbursement of expenses out of the Fund property for any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. The Declaration of Trust also provides

that the Fund may maintain insurance (for example, fidelity bonding and errors and omissions insurance) for the protection of the Fund, its shareholders, Trustees, officers, employees and agents covering possible tort and other liabilities. The risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which both inadequate insurance exists and the Fund itself is unable to meet its obligations.

The Declaration of Trust further provides that obligations of the Fund are not binding upon the Trustees individually but only upon the property of the Fund and that the Trustees will not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law, but nothing in the Declaration of Trust protects a Trustee against any liability 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.

The Fund presently has certain anti-takeover provisions in its Declaration of Trust which could have the effect of limiting the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund, to cause it to engage in certain transactions, or to modify its structure. The Board of Trustees is divided into three classes, each having a term of three years. Each year the term of one class expires. This provision could delay for up to two years the replacement of a majority of the Board of Trustees. In addition, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of 66 2/3% of the shares of the Fund (a greater vote than that required by the 1940 Act and, in some cases, greater than the required vote applicable to business corporations under state law) is required to authorize the conversion of the Fund from a closed-end to an open-end investment company, or generally to authorize any of the following transactions:

- (i) merger or consolidation of the Fund with or into any other corporation;
- (ii) issuance of any securities of the Fund to any person or entity for cash;
- (iii) sale, lease or exchange of all or any substantial part of the assets of the Fund to any entity or person (except assets having an aggregate fair market value of less than \$1,000,000); or
- (iv) sale, lease or exchange to the Fund, in exchange for securities of the Fund, of any assets of any entity or person (except assets having an aggregate fair market value of less than \$1,000,000)

if such corporation, person or entity is directly, or indirectly through affiliates or associates, the beneficial owner of 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund. However, such vote or consent will not be required with respect to the foregoing transactions where the Board of Trustees makes certain approvals with respect to the transaction, or where the transaction involves a corporation in which the Fund has a certain ownership interest.

The foregoing provisions will make more difficult a change in the Fund's management, or consummation of the foregoing transactions without the Trustees' approval, and could have the effect of depriving shareholders of an opportunity to sell their Common shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control of the Fund in a tender offer or similar transaction. However, the Board of Trustees has considered these anti-takeover provisions and believes that they are in the shareholders' best interests and benefit shareholders by providing the advantage of potentially requiring persons seeking control of the Fund to negotiate with its management regarding the price to be paid and facilitating the continuity of the Fund's management.

#### **Repurchase of Common Shares and Other Methods to Address Discount**

The Fund is a closed-end management investment company and as such its shareholders do not, and will not, have the right to redeem their Common shares of the Fund. The Fund, however, may repurchase its Common shares from time to time in the open market or otherwise as and when it is deemed advisable by the Trustees. The Trustees have authorized the repurchase by the fund of its Common shares of up to 10% annually. The Trustees, in consultation with the Adviser, may from time to time review possible actions to reduce discounts, including open market repurchases or tender offers, the addition of leverage, managed distribution plans, and revised investment strategies.

The Common shares of the Fund will trade on a national securities exchange at a price determined by the market based on all available information, including the Fund's net asset value and yield. The common shares of closed-end investment companies generally sell at market prices varying from their net asset values. When the Fund repurchases its Common shares for a price below their net asset value, the net asset value of those Common shares that remain outstanding will be enhanced, but this does not necessarily mean that the market price of those outstanding Common shares will be affected either positively or negatively. In addition, interest or borrowings to finance share repurchase

transactions will reduce the Fund's net income.

## Distributions

The fund intends to declare and pay a dividend to shareholders at least monthly.

Any capital gains are distributed at least annually.

## Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan

If your Common shares are registered directly with the Fund or if you hold your Common shares with a brokerage firm that participates in the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan (the Plan), you may elect to have all distributions, including any capital gain distributions or just long-term capital gain distributions, automatically reinvested in additional Common shares under the Plan. If you do not elect to participate in the Plan, or are not eligible to participate because your brokerage firm does not participate in the Plan, you will receive all distributions in cash paid by check mailed directly to you or your brokerage firm by ComputerShare Trust Company, N.A. (the Plan Agent). If you hold your Common shares with a brokerage firm, you may not be able to continue to participate in the Plan if you transfer your shares to another brokerage firm. Distributions from the Fund are taxable whether you receive them in cash or reinvest them in additional Common shares.

Participants in the Plan have the option of making additional cash payments in any amount over \$100 to the Plan Agent, on a semi-annual basis, for investment in additional Common shares. Interest will not be paid on any invested cash payments.

Under the Plan, the number of Common shares you will receive will be determined as follows:

1. If the Common shares are trading *at or above* net asset value on the payment date, the Fund will issue new Common shares at a price equal to the greater of (i) net asset value per share on the payment date or (ii) 95% of the market price on the payment date.
2. If Common shares are trading *below* net asset value on the payment date, the Plan Agent will receive the dividend or distribution in cash and will purchase Common shares on any securities exchange where the Fund's Common shares are traded, in the over-the-counter market, or in negotiated transactions, for the participants' accounts. It is possible that the market price for the Common shares may increase before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases. Therefore, the average purchase price per share paid by the Plan Agent may exceed the market price on the payment date, resulting in the purchase of fewer Common shares than if the distribution had been paid in Common shares issued by the Fund.

You may withdraw from the Plan at any time by giving notice to the Plan Agent. If you withdraw or the Plan is terminated, you will receive whole Common shares in your account under the Plan and you will receive cash payment for any fraction of a share in your account, less applicable fees and brokerage charges. If you wish, the Plan Agent will sell your Common shares and send you the proceeds, minus brokerage charges and a \$2.50 service fee.

There is no service charge for reinvestment of your distributions in Common shares. However, all participants will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred by the Plan Agent when it makes open market purchases.

If you would like to enroll in or withdraw from the Plan, or if you want additional information about the Plan, please contact the Plan Agent at [www.computershare.com/mfs](http://www.computershare.com/mfs), by calling 1-800-637-2304, or by writing P.O. Box 43078, Providence, RI 02940-3078.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan if in the judgment of the Board of Trustees the change is warranted. The Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants.

## TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion is a brief summary of some of the important U.S. federal (and, where noted, state) income tax consequences affecting the Fund and its shareholders. The discussion is very general, and therefore prospective investors are urged to consult their tax advisers about the impact an investment in the Fund may have on their own tax situations.

### Tax Treatment of the Fund

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Federal Taxes The Fund (even if it is a Fund in a Trust with multiple series) is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). The Fund has elected (or in the case of a new Fund, intends to elect) to be, and intends to qualify to be treated each year as, a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code.

In order to qualify for the special tax treatment accorded regulated investment companies and their shareholders, the Fund must, among other things:

(a) derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from (i) dividends, 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 gains from options, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities, or currencies and (ii) net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships (as defined below);

(b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of the Fund's taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's total assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. Government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities limited in respect of any one issuer to a value 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 (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets is invested (x) in the securities (other than those of the U.S. Government or other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer or of two or more issuers which the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same, similar, or related trades or businesses or (y) in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships (as defined below); and

(c) distribute with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its investment company taxable income (as that term is defined in the Code without regard to the deduction for dividends paid; generally, taxable ordinary income and the excess, if any, of the net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) and net tax-exempt interest income, for such year.

In general, for purposes of the 90% income requirement described in paragraph (a) above, income derived from a partnership will be treated as qualifying income only to the extent such income is attributable to items of income of the partnership which would be qualifying income if realized directly by the regulated investment company. However, 100% of the net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership (which is defined as any partnership (x) whose interests are traded on an established securities market or whose interests are readily traded on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof, (y) that derives at least 90% of its income from passive income sources defined in Code section 7704(d), and (z) that derives less than 90% of its income from the qualifying income described in paragraph (a)(i) above) will be treated as qualifying income. In addition, although in general the passive loss rules of the Code do not apply to regulated investment companies, such rules do apply to a regulated investment company with respect to items attributable to an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership. In the case of the Fund's investment in loan participations, the Fund shall treat both the entity from whom the loan participation is acquired and the borrower as an issuer for the purposes of meeting the diversification requirement described in paragraph (b). Finally, for purposes of paragraph (b) above, the term outstanding voting securities of such issuer will include the equity securities of a qualified publicly traded partnership.

As a regulated investment company, the Fund will not be subject to any U.S. federal income or excise taxes on its net investment income and net realized capital gains that it distributes to shareholders in accordance with the timing requirements imposed by the Code. The Fund's foreign-source income, if any, may be subject to foreign withholding taxes, which could decrease the Fund's return on the underlying investments. If the Fund failed to qualify as a regulated investment company in any year, it would incur a regular federal corporate income tax on all of its taxable income, whether or not distributed, and Fund distributions, including any distributions of net tax-exempt income and net long-term capital gains, would generally be taxable as dividend income to the shareholders. Some portions of such distributions may be eligible for the dividends received deduction in case of corporate shareholders and may be eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income in the case of shareholders taxed as individuals. In addition, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment.

If the Fund fails to distribute in a calendar year substantially all (at least 98%) of its ordinary income for such year and substantially all (at least 98%) of its capital gain net income for the one-year period ending October 31 (or later if the Fund is permitted so to elect and so elects), plus any retained amount from the prior year, the Fund will be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the undistributed amounts. A dividend paid to shareholders by the Fund in January of a year generally is deemed to have been paid by the Fund on December 31 of the preceding year, if the dividend was declared and payable to shareholders of record on a date in October, November, or December of that preceding year. The Fund intends generally to make distributions sufficient to avoid imposition of the 4% excise tax, although there can be no assurance that it will be able to do so.



**Massachusetts Taxes** As long as it qualifies as a regulated investment company under the Code, the Fund will not be required to pay Massachusetts income or excise taxes.

### **Taxation of Shareholders**

**Tax Treatment of Distributions** Shareholders of the Fund normally will have to pay federal income tax and any state or local income taxes on the dividends and Capital Gain Dividends (as defined below) they receive from the Fund. Except as described below, any distributions from ordinary income or from net short-term capital gains are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income for federal income tax purposes whether paid in cash or reinvested in additional shares.

With respect to distributions received in cash or reinvested in shares purchased on the open market, the amount of the distribution for tax purposes is the amount of cash distributed or allocated to the shareholder. However, with respect to distributions made in shares issued by the Fund pursuant to the Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan, the amount of the distribution for tax purposes is the fair market value of the issued shares on the payment. In the case of shares purchased on the open market, a participating shareholder's tax basis in each share received is its cost. In the case of shares issued by the Fund, the shareholder's tax basis in each share received is its fair market value on the payment date.

For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011, qualified dividend income received by an individual will be taxed at the rates applicable to long-term capital gains. In order for some portion of the Fund's dividends to be qualified dividend income, the Fund must meet holding period and other requirements with respect to some portion of the dividend-paying stocks in its portfolio and the Fund shareholder must meet holding period and other requirements with respect to the Fund's shares. A dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income (at either the Fund or shareholder level) (1) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of stock held for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date which is 60 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (or, in the case of certain preferred stock, 91 days during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date), (2) to the extent that the recipient is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (3) if the recipient elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, or (4) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (with the exception of dividends paid on stock of such a foreign corporation readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States) or (b) treated as a passive foreign investment company. Payments in lieu of dividends, such as payments pursuant to securities lending arrangements, also do not qualify to be treated as qualified dividend income.

In general, a distribution of investment income designated by the Fund as derived from qualified dividend income will be treated as qualified dividend income by a shareholder taxed as an individual provided the shareholder meets the holding period and other requirements described above with respect to the Fund's shares. In any event, if the qualified dividend income received by the Fund during any taxable year is 95% or more of its gross income for that taxable year, then 100% of the Fund's dividends (other than Capital Gain Dividends), will be eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income. For this purpose, in the case of a sale or other disposition of the Fund of stock or securities, the only gain included in the term gross income is the excess of net short-term capital gain from such sales or dispositions over the net long-term capital loss from such sales or dispositions. The fund does not expect a significant portion of fund distributions to be derived from qualified dividend income.

Properly designated distributions of net capital gain (i.e., the excess of net long-term capital gain over the net short-term capital loss) ( Capital Gain Dividends ), whether paid in cash or reinvested in additional shares, are taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gains for federal income tax purposes without regard to the length of time the shareholders have held their shares.

Long-term capital gain rates applicable to individuals have been temporarily reduced in general, to 15% with lower rates applying to taxpayers in the 10% and 15% rate brackets for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011.

Any Fund dividend that is declared in October, November, or December of any calendar year, payable to shareholders of record in such a month and paid during the following January, will be treated as if received by the shareholders on December 31 of the year in which the dividend is declared. The Fund will notify shareholders regarding the federal tax status of its distributions after the end of each calendar year.

Any Fund distribution, other than dividends that are declared by the Fund on a daily basis, will have the effect of reducing the per share net asset value of Fund shares by the amount of the distribution. If you buy shares when a Fund has unrealized or realized but not yet distributed ordinary income or capital gains, you will pay full price for the shares and then receive a portion back as a taxable distribution even though such distribution may economically represent a return of your investment.

The Internal Revenue Service currently requires that a regulated investment company that has two or more classes of stock allocate to each such class proportionate amounts of each type of its income (such as ordinary income, exempt-interest dividends and capital gains) based upon the percentage of total dividends distributed to each class for the tax year. Accordingly, for each tax year in which the Fund has Common and Preferred Shares outstanding, the Fund intends to allocate each type of its income between and among its Common Shares and any series of its Preferred Shares in proportion to the total dividends paid to each class with respect to such tax year. Dividends qualifying and not qualifying for the dividends-received deduction and/or as qualified dividend income will similarly be allocated between and among the two (or more) classes.

Any distribution by the Fund will result in a reduction in the fair market value of the Fund's shares by the amount of the distribution. Should a distribution reduce the fair market value below a shareholder's cost basis, the distribution is nevertheless taxable to the shareholder as ordinary income or capital gain, as described above, even though, from an investment standpoint, it may constitute a partial return of capital. Shareholders who purchase shares of the Fund shortly before a distribution may therefore pay the full price for the shares and then effectively receive a portion of the purchase price back as a taxable distribution.

**Return of Capital Distributions** If the Fund makes a distribution to a shareholder in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits in any taxable year, the excess distribution will be treated as a return of capital to the extent of such shareholder's tax basis in its shares, and thereafter as capital gain. A return of capital is not taxable, but it reduces a shareholder's tax basis in its shares, thus reducing any loss or increasing any gain on a subsequent taxable disposition by the shareholder of its shares. Where one or more such distributions occur in any taxable year of the Fund, the available earnings and profits will be allocated, first, to the distributions made to the holders of Preferred Shares, if any, and only thereafter to distributions made to holders of Common Shares. As a result, the holders of Preferred Shares, if any, will receive a disproportionate share of the distributions treated as dividends, and the holders of the Common Shares will receive a disproportionate share of the distributions treated as a return of capital.

**Capital Loss Carryforwards** Distributions from capital gains are generally made after applying any available capital loss carryforwards. The amounts and expiration dates of any capital loss carryforwards available to the Fund are shown in the notes to the financial statements for the Fund.

**Dividends-Received Deduction** A portion of the dividends the Fund receives from U.S. corporations, if any, is normally eligible for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders if the shareholder otherwise qualifies for that deduction with respect to its holding of Fund shares. Availability of the deduction for particular corporate shareholders is subject to certain limitations, and deducted amounts may be subject to the alternative minimum tax or result in certain basis adjustments.

**Disposition of Shares** In general, any gain or loss realized upon a disposition of Fund shares by a shareholder that holds such shares as a capital asset will be treated as a long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than 12 months and otherwise as a short-term capital gain or loss. However, any loss realized upon a disposition of Fund shares held for six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any Capital Gain Dividends received (or deemed received) by the shareholder with respect to those shares. All or a portion of any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of Fund shares will be disallowed if other substantially identical shares of the Fund are purchased within 30 days before or after the disposition. In such a case, the basis of the newly purchased shares will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

**Tender Offers** From time to time the Fund may make a tender offer for its Common Shares. It is expected that the terms of any such offer will require a tendering shareholder to tender all Common Shares and dispose of all Preferred Shares (e.g., by redeeming such Preferred Shares with the Fund or by selling or otherwise transferring such Preferred Shares to a third party) held, or considered to be held under certain attribution rules of the Code, if any, by such shareholder. Shareholders who tender all Common Shares and dispose of all Preferred Shares held, or considered to be held, by them, if any, will be treated as having sold their shares and generally will realize a capital gain or loss. If a shareholder tenders fewer than all of their Common Shares, or retains a substantial portion of their Preferred Shares, if any, such shareholder may be treated as having received a taxable dividend upon the tender of their Common Shares. In such a case, there is a remote risk that non-tendering shareholders

will be treated as having received taxable distributions from the Fund. Likewise, if the Fund redeems some but not all of the Preferred Shares, if any, held by a Preferred Shareholder and such shareholder is treated as having received a taxable dividend upon such redemption, there is a remote risk that Common Shareholders and non-redeeming Preferred Shareholders, if any, will be treated as having received taxable distributions from the Fund. To the extent that the Fund recognizes net gains on the liquidation of portfolio securities to meet such tenders of Common Shares, the Fund will be required to make additional distributions to its Common Shareholders.

**Shares Purchased Through Tax-Qualified Plans** Distributions by the Fund to retirement plans that qualify for tax-exempt treatment under federal income tax laws will not be taxable. Special tax rules apply to investments through such plans. You should consult your tax adviser to determine the suitability of the Fund as an investment through such a plan and the tax treatment of distributions (including distributions of amounts attributable to an investment in the Fund) from such a plan.

**U.S. Taxation of Non-U.S. Persons** Capital Gain Dividends and exempt-interest dividends, if any, will not be subject to withholding of federal income tax. However, distributions properly designated as exempt-interest dividends may be subject to backup withholding, as discussed below. In general, dividends other than Capital Gain Dividends and exempt-interest dividends, if any, paid by the Fund to a shareholder that is not a U.S. person within the meaning of the Code (such shareholder, a Non-U.S. Person) are subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) even if they are derived from income or gains (such as portfolio interest, short-term capital gains, or foreign-source dividend and interest income) that, if paid to a Non-U.S. Person directly, would not be subject to withholding. However, effective for taxable years of the Fund beginning after December 31, 2004, and before January 1, 2008, the Fund will not be required to withhold any amounts with respect to (i) distributions (other than distributions to a Non-U.S. Person (w) that has not provided a satisfactory statement that the beneficial owner is not a U.S. person, (x) to the extent that the dividend is attributable to certain interest on an obligation if the Non-U.S. Person is the issuer or is a 10% shareholder of the issuer, (y) that is within certain foreign countries that have inadequate information exchange with the United States, or (z) to the extent the dividend is attributable to interest paid by a person that is a related person of the Non-U.S. Person and the Non-U.S. Person is a controlled foreign corporation) from U.S.-source interest income that would not be subject to U.S. federal income tax if earned directly by an individual Non-U.S. Person (an interest-related dividend), and (ii) distributions (other than (a) distributions to an individual Non-U.S. Person who is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the year of the distribution and (b) distributions subject to special rules regarding the disposition of U.S. real property interests as described below) of net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses (a short-term capital gain dividend), in each such case to the extent such distributions are properly designated by the Fund. Depending on the circumstances, the Fund may make such designations with respect to all, some or none of its potentially eligible dividends and/or treat such dividends, in whole or in part, as ineligible for this exemption for withholding. Pending legislation would extend the exemption from withholding for interest-related and short-term capital gain dividends. As of the date of this document, it is unclear whether the legislation will be enacted. The Fund does not currently intend to, but may in certain circumstances, designate distributions as interest-related dividends or as short-term capital gain dividends. In order to qualify for this exemption from withholding, a foreign person will need to 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 shares held through an intermediary, the intermediary may withhold even if the Fund makes a designation with respect to a payment. Foreign persons should contact their intermediaries with respect to the application of these rules to their accounts.

If a beneficial holder who is a Non-U.S. Person has a trade or business in the United States, and the dividends are effectively connected with the conduct by the beneficial holder of a trade or business in the United States, the dividend will be subject to U.S. federal net income taxation at regular income tax rates.

Special rules apply to distributions to foreign shareholders from a Fund that is either a U.S. real property holding corporation (USRPHC) or would be a USRPHC but for the operation of the exceptions to the definition described below. Additionally, special rules apply to the sale of shares in a Fund that is a USRPHC. Very generally, a USRPHC is a domestic corporation that holds U.S. real property interests (USRPIs). USRPIs are defined as any interest in U.S. real property or any equity interest in a USRPHC the fair market value of which equals or exceeds 50% of the sum of the fair market values of the corporation's USRPIs, interests in real property located outside the United States and other assets. A Fund that holds (directly or indirectly) significant interests in REITs may be a USRPHC. The special rules discussed below will also apply to distributions from a Fund that would be a USRPHC absent exclusions from USRPI treatment for interests in domestically controlled REITs and not-greater-than-5% interests in publicly traded classes of stock in REITs.

In the case of a Fund that is a USRPHC or would be a USRPHC but for the exceptions from the definition of USRPI (described immediately above), amounts the Fund receives from REITs derived from gains realized from USRPIs will retain their character as gains realized from USRPIs in the hands of the Fund's foreign shareholders. Under current law, any direct USRPI gain the Fund recognizes does not retain its character as USRPI gain in the hands of foreign shareholders of the Fund, although this may change if certain pending legislation is enacted. In the hands of a foreign shareholder that holds (or has held in the prior year) more than a 5% interest in the Fund, such amounts will be treated as gains effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, and subject to tax at graduated rates. Moreover, such shareholders will be required to file a U.S. income tax return for the year in which the gain was recognized and the Fund will be required to withhold 35% of the amount of such distribution. In the case of all other foreign shareholders (i.e., those whose interest in the Fund did not exceed 5% at any time during the prior year), the USRPI distribution will be treated as ordinary income (regardless of any designation by the Fund that such distribution is a short-term capital gain dividend (in the event that certain pending legislation is enacted) or a Capital Gain Dividend), and the Fund must withhold 30% (or a lower applicable treaty rate) of the amount of the distribution paid to such foreign shareholder. Foreign shareholders of the Fund are also subject to wash sale rules to prevent the avoidance of the tax-filing and -payment obligations discussed above through the sale and repurchase of Fund shares.

In addition, if the Fund were a USRPHC, upon the sale of shares of the Fund, the purchaser of shares typically would be required to withhold 10% of the amount realized in a redemption by a greater-than-5% foreign shareholder, and that shareholder would be required to file a U.S. income tax return for the year of the disposition of the USRPI and pay any additional tax due on the gain. Before January 1, 2008, no withholding was generally required with respect to amounts paid in redemption of shares of a Fund that (i) was either a USRPHC or would have been a USRPHC but for the exceptions from the definition of USRPI (described above) and (ii) was domestically controlled (such Fund, a domestically controlled qualified investment entity). Pending legislation would extend the exemption from withholding for amounts paid in redemption of shares of a Fund that is a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, fully retroactively, for one year, i.e., through December 31, 2008. If enacted, the pending legislation would be effective as of January 1, 2008. Unless and until the legislation is enacted, the exemption does not apply to amounts paid in redemption of shares of a Fund that is a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, and withholding is required.

Under U.S. federal tax law, a beneficial holder of shares who is a Non-U.S. Person is not, in general, subject to U.S. federal income tax on gains (and is not allowed a deduction for losses) realized on the sale of shares of the Fund or on Capital Gain Dividends unless (i) such gain or Capital Gain Dividend is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business carried on by such holder within the United States, (ii) in the case of an individual holder, the holder is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the year of the sale or Capital Gain Dividend and certain other conditions are met, or (iii) the shares are USRPIs or the Capital Gain Dividends are USRPI Distributions.

Foreign investors in the Fund should consult their tax advisers with respect to the potential application of these rules.

**Backup Withholding** The Fund is also required in certain circumstances to apply backup withholding on taxable dividends, including Capital Gain Dividends, redemption proceeds (except for redemptions by money market funds), and certain other payments that are paid to any non-corporate shareholder (including a Non-U.S. Person) who does not furnish to the Fund certain information and certifications or who is otherwise subject to backup withholding. The backup withholding rate is currently 28% and will be 31% for amounts paid after December 31, 2010, unless Congress enacts tax legislation providing otherwise. Shareholders who are neither citizens nor residents of the United States may qualify for exemption from backup withholding and should consult their tax advisers in the regard. The back-up withholding rules may also apply to distributions that are properly designated as exempt-interest dividends.

**Foreign Income Taxation of a Foreign Investor** Distributions received from the Fund by a foreign investor may also be subject to tax under the laws of the investor's own jurisdiction.

**State and Local Income Taxes: U.S. Government Securities** Dividends paid by the Fund that are derived from interest on obligations of the U.S. Government and certain of its agencies and instrumentalities (but generally not distributions of capital gains realized upon the disposition of such obligations) may be exempt from state and local income taxes. The Fund generally intends to advise shareholders of the extent, if any, to which its dividends consist of such interest. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the possible exclusion of such portion of their dividends for state and local income tax purposes.

**Certain Investments** Any investment in zero coupon bonds, deferred interest bonds, payment-in-kind bonds, certain inflation-adjusted debt instruments, certain stripped securities, and certain securities purchased at a market discount (including certain high yield debt obligations) will cause the Fund to recognize income prior to the

receipt of cash payments with respect to those securities. To distribute this income and avoid a tax on the Fund, the Fund may be required to liquidate portfolio securities that it might otherwise have continued to hold, potentially resulting in additional taxable gain or loss to the Fund. In the event the Fund realizes net capital gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive a larger capital gain distribution than they would in the absence of such transactions. Such investments may also affect the character of income recognized by the Fund.