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EVERGREEN UTILITIES & HIGH INCOME FUND  
Form DEF 14A  
October 27, 2004

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION  
(Rule 14a-101)  
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT  
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant [X]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant [ ]

Check the Appropriate Box:

- [ ] Preliminary Proxy Statement
- [ ] Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only  
(as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- [X] Definitive Proxy Statement
- [ ] Definitive Additional Materials
- [ ] Soliciting Material Pursuant to (S)240.14a-11(c) or (S)240.14a-12

EVERGREEN UTILITIES AND HIGH INCOME FUND

-----  
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)  
-----

(Name of Person Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of filing fee (check the appropriate box):

- [X] No fee required.
- [ ] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
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statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid: \_\_\_\_\_
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EVERGREEN UTILITIES AND HIGH INCOME FUND

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200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
DECEMBER 17, 2004

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS  
OF EVERGREEN UTILITIES AND HIGH INCOME FUND

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting") of Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund (the "Fund") will be held on December 17, 2004 at (10:00 a.m.) Eastern time, at the offices of Evergreen Investments, 26th Floor, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, for the following purposes:

1. To elect four Trustees to serve for the term indicated herein and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified; and
2. To transact such other business as may properly be brought before the Meeting.

Shareholders of record at the close of business on October 15, 2004 will be entitled to vote at the Meeting. A complete list of the shareholders entitled to vote at the Meeting shall be available for examination by any shareholder at the principal office of the Fund during normal business hours from November 30, 2004 until the commencement of the Meeting, at which time the list will be available at the place of the Meeting.

It is hoped that you will attend the Meeting, but if you cannot do so, please complete and sign the enclosed proxy card, and return it in the accompanying envelope as promptly as possible. Any shareholder attending the Meeting can vote in person even though a proxy card may have already been returned.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

MICHAEL H. KOONCE  
Secretary

October 29, 2004

EVERGREEN UTILITIES AND HIGH INCOME FUND

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PROXY STATEMENT

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This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund (the "Fund") for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting") to be held at Evergreen Investments, 26th Floor, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, on December 17, 2004 at (10:00 a.m.) Eastern time. The address of the principal office of the Fund is Evergreen Investments, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

This proxy statement and form of proxy were first sent to shareholders on or about October 29, 2004.

### Proxy Solicitation

All proxies in the enclosed form which are properly executed and returned to the Fund will be voted as provided therein at the Meeting or at any adjournments thereof. A holder of either common or preferred shares (the "Shareholder") executing and returning a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time before it is exercised by giving written notice of such revocation to an officer of the Fund. Signing and mailing the proxy will not affect your right to give a later proxy or to attend the Meeting and vote your common shares or preferred shares (the "Shares") in person.

The Board of Trustees intends to bring before the Meeting the matter set forth in Proposal 1 in the foregoing notice. The persons named in the enclosed proxy cards and acting thereunder will vote with respect to Proposal 1 in accordance with the directions of the Shareholders as specified on the proxy cards; if no choice is specified, the Shares will be voted FOR the election of the four trustees named in Proposal 1. If any other matters are properly presented at the Meeting for action, it is intended that the persons named in the enclosed proxy cards and acting thereunder will vote in accordance with the views of management thereon. Abstentions and broker non-votes (i.e., Shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or the persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power on a particular matter) are counted for quorum purposes. The Fund's Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Declaration") provides that the holders of thirty-three and a third percent (33 1/3%) of the Shares issued and outstanding and entitled to vote, present in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Meeting. With regard to the election of trustees, votes may be cast in favor or withheld; votes that are withheld will be excluded entirely from the vote and will have no effect.

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the Shares present in person or represented by proxy at the Meeting is required for the election of trustees (Proposal 1). The four nominees that receive the most affirmative votes cast at the Meeting will be elected as trustees.

In the event a quorum is not present at the Meeting or in the event that a quorum is present but sufficient votes to approve the proposed item are not received, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the Meeting to permit further solicitation of proxies. Any such adjournment will require the affirmative vote of a majority of those Shares represented at such meeting in person or by proxy. The persons named as proxies will vote those proxies that they are entitled to vote FOR any such proposal, IN FAVOR of such an adjournment, and will vote those proxies required to be voted AGAINST any such proposal, AGAINST any such adjournment. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be voted as a motion to adjourn.

The Fund will bear the costs of preparing, printing and mailing this proxy statement, the proxies and any additional materials which may be furnished to Shareholders. Solicitation may be undertaken by mail, telephone, facsimile and personal contact. The Fund has engaged Georgeson Shareholder Communications,

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Inc. to solicit proxies from brokers, banks, other institutional holders and individual Shareholders for a fee of approximately \$3,500.00. This fee will be borne by the Fund. The Annual Report of the Fund will be mailed, along with this proxy statement, to all Shareholders on or about October 29, 2004.

### Voting Securities and Principal Holders Thereof

Holders of record of the Fund's Shares at the close of business on October 15, 2004 will be entitled to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. As of October 15, 2004, the Fund had outstanding 11,505,000 common shares and 3,600 preferred shares. Each Shareholder is entitled to one vote per Share on all business of the Meeting.

To the knowledge of the Fund, there is no beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding Shares of the Fund.

As of October 15, 2004, the officers and Trustees of the Fund as a group beneficially owned in aggregate less than 1.00% of the outstanding Shares of the Fund and less than 1.00% of the outstanding securities of Wachovia Corporation ("Wachovia"), parent of Evergreen Investment Management Company, LLC ("EIMC"), the Fund's investment advisor.

### I. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES (Proposal 1)

In accordance with the Fund's Declaration, the Trustees have been divided into three classes (each a "Class"): Class I, Class II and Class III. The terms of the present Trustees in each Class expire at the annual meeting in the year indicated or thereafter in each case when their respective successors are elected and qualified: Class I, 2004, Class II, 2005 and Class III, 2006. At each subsequent annual meeting, successors to the Class of Trustees whose terms are expiring will be identified as being of that same Class and will be nominated for a three-year term. The effect of these staggered terms is to limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund by delaying the replacement of a majority of the Board of Trustees. If any nominee for any reason becomes unable to serve, the proxies will be voted for such other nominees as the Board of Trustees may recommend. The Board of Trustees has no reason to believe that any of the four nominees will be unable to serve.

The Board of Trustees of the Fund proposes the following Trustees for election at the 2004 Meeting:

| Trustee              | Class   | Expiration of Term if Elected |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Michael S. Scofield  | Class I | 2007 Annual Meeting           |
| Shirley L. Fulton    | Class I | 2007 Annual Meeting           |
| K. Dun Gifford       | Class I | 2007 Annual Meeting           |
| Dr. Leroy Keith, Jr. | Class I | 2007 Annual Meeting           |

As described above, there are four nominees for election to the Board of Trustees at this time. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the four nominees currently proposed to serve on the Board of Trustees.

### Nominees for Election as Trustees

The following table contains specific information about each Trustee and nominee, including: age, principal occupation and other affiliations for the last five years, term of office, length of time each has served, any other directorships held by the Trustee outside the Fund and number of portfolios in the Evergreen fund complex overseen by each Trustee. Unless otherwise indicated, the address for each Trustee is 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

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Independent Trustees:

| Name and Age<br>-----              | Position<br>Held with<br>the Fund<br>----- | Length of<br>Time<br>Served 1<br>----- | Principal Occupation(s)<br>During Past 5 Years<br>-----  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Charles A. Austin III 2<br>Age: 70 | Trustee                                    | Trustee<br>since 2004                  | Investment Counselor, Anchor Capital Advisors, Inc. (investment advice); Director, The Andover Companies (insurance); Trustee, Arthritis Foundation of New England; Director, The Francis Ouimet Society; Former Director, Health Development Corp. (fitness-wellness centers); Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust; Former Investment Counselor, Appleton Partners, Inc. (investment advice); Former Director, Executive Vice President and Treasurer, State Street Research & Management Company (investment advice) |
| Shirley L. Fulton 2<br>Age: 52     | Trustee                                    | Trustee<br>since<br>2004               | Partner, Helms, Henderson & Fulton, P.A. (law firm); Retired Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, 26th Judicial District, Charlotte, NC   |
| K. Dun Gifford 2,3<br>Age: 66      | Trustee                                    | Trustee<br>since 2004                  | Chairman and President, Oldways Preservation and Exchange Trust (education); Trustee, Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee, Cambridge College; Former Chairman of the Board, Director, and Executive Vice President, The London Harness Company (leather goods purveyor); Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust   |
| Dr. Leroy Keith, Jr. 4<br>Age: 66  | Trustee                                    | Trustee<br>since 2004                  | Partner, Stonington Partners, Inc. (private investment firm); Trustee of Phoenix Series Fund, Phoenix Multi-Portfolio Fund, and The Phoenix Big Edge Series Fund; Former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Carson Products Company (manufacturing); Director, Obagi Medical Products Co.; Director, Lincoln Educational Services; Director, Diversapack Co.; Former President, Morehouse College; Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust.  |
| Gerald M. McDonnell 2              | Trustee                                    | Trustee                                | Manager of Commercial Operations, SMI  |

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|   |         |         |            |  |
|---|---------|---------|------------|--|
| Age: 65                                       |         |         | since 2004 | STEEL Co. - South Carolina (steel producer); Former Sales and Marketing Management, Nucor Steel Company; Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust   |
| William Walt Pettit 2, 5<br>Age: 49           | Trustee | Trustee | since 2004 | Partner and Vice President, Kellam & Pettit, P.A. (law firm); Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust  |
| David M. Richardson4, 5<br>Age: 63            | Trustee | Trustee | since 2004 | President, Richardson, Runden & Company (executive recruitment business development/consulting company); Consultant, Kennedy Information, Inc. (executive recruitment information and research company); Consultant, AESC (The Association of Retained Executive Search Consultants); Trustee, NDI Technologies, LLP (communications); Director, J&M Cumming Paper Co. (paper merchandising); Former Vice Chairman, DHR International, Inc. (executive recruitment); Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust |
| Dr. Russell A. Salton,<br>III 3, 4<br>Age: 57 | Trustee | Trustee | since 2004 | President/CEO, AccessOne MedCard; Former Medical Director, Healthcare Resource Associates, Inc.; Former Medical Director, U.S. Health Care/Aetna Health Services; Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust  |
| Michael S. Scofield 3<br>Age: 61              | Trustee | Trustee | since 2004 | Attorney, Law Offices of Michael S. Scofield; Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust.   |
| Richard J. Shima 4<br>Age: 65                 | Trustee | Trustee | since 2004 | Independent Consultant; Director, Trust Company of CT; Trustee, Saint Joseph College (CT); Director, Hartford Hospital; Trustee, Greater Hartford YMCA; Former Director, Enhance Financial Services, Inc.; Former Director, Old State House Association; Former Director of CTG Resources, Inc. (natural gas); Former Director, Mentor Income Fund, Inc.; Former Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource Trust   |

Interested Trustee:

Position      Length of

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| Name and Age<br>-----                | Held with<br>the Fund<br>----- | Time<br>Served<br>----- | Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5<br>Years<br>-----  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Richard K. Wagoner, CFA 4<br>Age: 66 | Trustee                        | Trustee<br>since 2004   | Member and Former President, North<br>Carolina Securities Traders Association;<br>Member, Financial Analysts Society;<br>Former Consultant to the Boards of<br>Trustees of the Evergreen funds; Former<br>Trustee, Mentor Funds and Cash Resource<br>Trust |

- (1) All Trustees are elected to initially serve a one-, two- or three-year term and thereafter to serve a three-year term. Class II Trustees consist of Messrs. Austin, McDonnell and Shima whose terms expire in 2005; Class III Trustees consist of Messrs. Pettit, Richardson, Salton and Wagoner whose terms expire in 2006. Class I Trustee nominees' terms would expire in 2007.
- (2) Member of Audit Committee.
- (3) Member of Executive Committee.
- (4) Member of Performance Committee.
- (5) Preferred Shares Trustee.
- (6) The Evergreen fund complex consists of 9 open-end management investment companies with 90 separate funds or series organized as Delaware statutory trusts and 3 closed-end management investment companies organized as Delaware statutory trusts.

The following table contains specific information about the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by each Trustee in the Fund and the aggregate dollar range of equity securities in other funds in the Evergreen fund complex overseen by the Trustees.

| Name of Trustee<br>-----                | Dollar Range of Equity Securities<br>in the Fund as of September 30, 2004<br>----- | Aggregate Dollar Range of<br>Securities in All Funds Over<br>Trustee in Family of Inve<br>Companies as of December 3<br>----- |
|---|--|---|
| Charles A. Austin III <sup>1</sup>      | \$0  | Over \$100,000  |
| Shirley L. Fulton <sup>1</sup>          | \$0  | \$0   |
| K. Dun Gifford                          | \$0  | \$10,001 - \$50,000   |
| Dr. Leroy Keith, Jr.                    | \$0  | \$1 - \$10,000  |
| Gerald M. McDonnell <sup>1</sup>        | \$1 - \$10,000   | \$10,001 - \$50,000   |
| William W. Pettit <sup>1</sup>          | \$0  | \$10,001 - \$50,000   |
| David M. Richardson                     | \$0  | \$50,001 - \$100,000  |
| Dr. Russell A. Salton, III <sup>1</sup> | \$0  | \$0   |
| Michael S. Scofield <sup>1</sup>        | \$0  | Over \$100,000  |
| Richard J. Shimal                       | \$10,001 - \$50,000  | Over \$100,000  |
| Richard K. Wagoner                      | \$1 - \$10,000   | Over \$100,000  |

- (1) Each of the Trustees hold shares directly in one or more Evergreen funds and/or invest indirectly in Evergreen funds through the Trustees' Deferred Compensation Plan. In addition to any of the above direct Evergreen fund investment amounts, Messrs. Austin, McDonnell, Pettit, Salton and Scofield

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each have over \$100,000, Mr. Shima has over \$50,000, and Ms. Fulton, who joined the Board in April 2004, has between \$10,001 - \$50,000, invested indirectly in certain of the Evergreen funds through the Trustees' Deferred Compensation Plan. The Deferred Compensation Plan allows each Trustee to defer any or all of his or her compensation for serving as Trustee, and to have such compensation invested into a deferral account. The investment performance of the deferral account is based on the investment performance of the particular Evergreen fund(s) selected by the Trustee.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), Mr. Wagoner is an "interested person" of the Fund because of his ownership of shares in Wachovia.

### Board Meetings and Committees

The Fund commenced operations on April 27, 2004. During the fiscal period from April 27, 2004 to August 31, 2004, the Board of Trustees held one regular meeting and two special meetings. The Board of Trustees has appointed an Executive Committee consisting of Michael S. Scofield, K. Dun Gifford and Dr. Russell A. Salton, III. The Executive Committee recommends Trustees to fill vacancies, prepares the agenda for Board meetings and acts on routine matters between scheduled Board meetings. The Executive Committee met five times during fiscal period 2004. The Board of Trustees has also appointed an Audit Committee, as defined by Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to evaluate financial management, meet with the auditors and deal with other matters of a financial nature that it deems appropriate. The Audit Committee met once during fiscal period 2004. The Audit Committee consists of Charles A. Austin III, Shirley L. Fulton, K. Dun Gifford, Gerald M. McDonnell and William W. Pettit. Each member of the Audit Committee is "independent" as defined in the American Stock Exchange's listing standards. The Board of Trustees also has appointed a Performance Committee. The purpose of the Performance Committee is to review all activities involving investment-related issues and activities of EIMC and to assess the performance of the Fund. The Performance Committee met once during fiscal period 2004. The Performance Committee consists of Dr. Leroy Keith, David M. Richardson, Dr. Russell A. Salton, III, Richard J. Shima and Richard Wagoner. Each Trustee attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board and Committee meetings on which he or she served.

### Nominating Committee Process

The Executive Committee functions as the Nominating Committee. The members of the Executive Committee are "independent" as defined in the American Stock Exchange listing standards. The Executive Committee Charter addresses the Nominating Committee functions. A copy of the Evergreen funds' Executive Committee Charter is attached as Exhibit A.

The Board of Trustees has approved a policy for the consideration of Trustee nominees. The policy states the minimum nominee qualifications, the process for identifying and evaluating trustee nominees and the process for considering nominees recommended by shareholders. The Evergreen funds' Policy for the Consideration of Trustee Nominees is attached as Exhibit B.

### Communications with Board Members

The Board of Trustees has approved a policy for communications with Board members. Any shareholder who wishes to send a communication to the Board of Trustees of an Evergreen fund should send the communications to the Evergreen Board of Trustees, P.O. Box 20083, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202. If a shareholder wishes to send a communication directly to an individual Trustee or to a Committee of the Fund's Board of Trustees, then the communication should be specifically addressed to such individual Trustee or Committee and sent to the



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above address.

### Trustee Attendance Policy At Annual Shareholder Meetings

The Board of Trustees has approved a policy for Trustee attendance at annual shareholder meetings. The Evergreen funds listed on the American Stock Exchange are required to hold an Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Accordingly, it is the policy of the Board of Trustees of the Fund to encourage Trustees' attendance at each Annual Meeting of Shareholders in person or by video conference. The December 17, 2004 shareholder meeting is the first shareholder meeting of the Fund.

### Current Officers

The following table contains specific information about each principal officer of the Fund, including: name, address and age, position held with the Fund, term of office and length of time each has served, and principal occupation(s) during the past five years including offices held with EIMC, Wachovia and their affiliated companies.

| Name, Address and Age<br>-----  | Position Held<br>with the Fund<br>----- | Term of Office and<br>Length of Time Served 1<br>----- | Principal Occupations<br>During Past Five Years<br>-----   |
|---|---|--|--|
| Dennis H. Ferro<br>401 S. Tyron<br>Charlotte, NC 28288<br>Age: 59       | President                               | Since 2003   | President and Chief E<br>Evergreen Investment<br>Executive Vice Presid<br>N.A.                                   |
| Carol A. Kosel<br>200 Berkeley Street<br>Boston, MA 02116<br>Age: 40    | Treasurer                               | Since 2003   | Senior Vice President<br>Investment Services,  |
| Michael H. Koonce<br>200 Berkeley Street<br>Boston, MA 02116<br>Age: 44 | Secretary                               | Since 2003   | Senior Vice President<br>Counsel, Evergreen In<br>Inc.; Senior Vice Pre<br>Assistant General Cou<br>Corporation. |
| James F. Angelos<br>200 Berkeley Street<br>Boston, MA 02116<br>Age: 57  | Chief Compliance Officer                | Since 2004   | Senior Vice President<br>Compliance, Evergreen<br>Services, Inc.   |

(1) The term of office for each principal officer is until a successor is duly elected or qualified or until their death, resignation, retirement or removal from office.

Dennis H. Ferro oversees the operations of the Fund. Michael H. Koonce is responsible for the Fund's compliance with governing law. Carol A. Kosel is responsible for maintaining the books and records of the Fund and for working with the portfolio managers on a continuous basis to assure that accounting records are properly maintained. James F. Angelos is responsible for reviewing Fund policies and procedures and monitoring the Evergreen funds' compliance with them.

### Other Remuneration and Affiliations of Officers and Trustees

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The Fund reimburses all Trustees for expenses incurred in connection with attending meetings of the Board of Trustees. For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2005, aggregate Trustee fees are estimated to be \$71,500, and expenses are estimated to be \$200. Fees, salaries or other remuneration of officers of the Fund who also serve as officers or employees of EIMC or any of its affiliated companies are borne by EIMC or the Wachovia affiliate for whom the individual serves. All present officers are covered by this provision, and did not receive any compensation or expense reimbursement from the Fund. For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2005, the Trustees are estimated to earn the following compensation from the Fund and the Evergreen fund complex:

| Name of Person and<br>Position with the Fund<br>----- | Estimated<br>Aggregate Compensation<br>From the Fund for the<br>Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2005<br>----- | Pension or Retirement<br>Benefits Accrued as<br>Part of Fund Expenses 1 Year En<br>----- | Total C<br>Fund an<br>to Trus<br>En |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Charles A. Austin III,<br>Trustee 3                   | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| K. Dun Gifford, Trustee                               | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| Shirley L. Fulton, Trustee 3                          | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| Dr. Leroy Keith, Jr.,<br>Trustee                      | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| Gerald M. McDonnell,<br>Trustee 3                     | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| William W. Pettit, Trustee 3                          | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| David M. Richardson,<br>Trustee                       | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| Dr. Russell A. Salton, III,<br>Trustee                | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| Michael S. Scofield, Trustee                          | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$2                                 |
| Richard J. Shima, Trustee 3                           | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |
| Richard K. Wagoner, Trustee                           | \$6,500   | N/A  | \$1                                 |

(1) The Fund does not currently provide pension or retirement plan benefits to the Trustees.

(2) The Evergreen fund complex consists of 9 open-end management investment companies with 90 separate funds or series organized as Delaware statutory trusts and 3 closed-end management investment companies organized as Delaware statutory trusts.

(3) Includes compensation deferred pursuant to a Trustee Compensation Deferral Plan. The total amounts of deferring compensation payable to Messrs. Austin, McDonnell, Pettit, Shima and Ms. Fulton for the fiscal period from April 27, 2004 (commencement of operations) to August 31, 2004 were \$1,800, \$900, \$1,050, \$1,050 and \$375, respectively. A portion of this compensation may be deferred by the Trustees.

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Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance. Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Fund's Trustees and officers and certain other persons to file reports regarding ownership of, and transactions in, the Fund's securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Copies of the required filings must also be furnished to the Fund. The Fund believes that all reports required to be filed by the Fund's officers and Trustees were filed on a timely basis.

Forms 3, 4, and 5 for the officers and Trustees are available on our website at [www.EvergreenInvestments.com](http://www.EvergreenInvestments.com).

### Service Providers

**Investment Advisor.** EIMC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Wachovia, a North Carolina-based, multi-bank financial holding company subject to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, currently serves as the Fund's investment advisor. EIMC has been managing mutual funds and private accounts since 1932. For the fiscal period from April 27, 2004 to August 31, 2004, the Fund paid \$534,261 (0.72% of average daily net assets, or 0.60% of average daily total assets, which are the net assets of the Fund plus borrowings or other leverage for investment purposes to the extent excluded in calculating net assets) to EIMC in advisory fees. The principal business address of EIMC is 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

**Administrator.** Administrative services are provided by Evergreen Investment Services, Inc. ("EIS"), an affiliated company of EIMC. EIS is located at 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.** KPMG LLP ("KPMG"), 99 High Street, Boston, MA 02110, has been selected by the Trustees of the Fund as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Fund for the current fiscal year ending August 31, 2005.

The Audit Committee of the Board of the Fund unanimously recommended the selection of KPMG, and the Trustees unanimously approved such selection, at a meeting held on June 17, 2004.

The Fund's Audit Committee has established and adopted policies and procedures for pre-approving audit services, audit-related services, tax services and all other services provided by the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm as well as the fee levels or budgeted amounts for those services. The Fund's policies and procedures include reporting and request or application requirements that are intended to keep the Audit Committee informed of all the services provided by the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer is required to monitor the performance of all services provided by the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm in order to determine whether those services are in compliance with the Fund's pre-approval policies and procedures and to report the results of this monitoring to the Audit Committee on a periodic basis. The Fund's pre-approval policies and procedures do not delegate any of the Audit Committee's responsibilities under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for pre-approving services performed by the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm to the Fund's management.

A representative of KPMG, if requested by any Shareholder, will be present via telephone at the Meeting to respond to appropriate questions from Shareholders and will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she chooses to do so.

The following table presents fees billed for professional audit services rendered by KPMG for the audit of the Fund's annual financial statements for the

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fiscal period ended August 31, 2004 (the year of inception), and for fees billed for other services rendered by KPMG to the Fund. There were no fees paid to KPMG during the fiscal year where the de minimis exception was used.

| Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund |          |
|--|----------|
| 2004                                     |          |
| -----                                    |          |
| -----                                    |          |
| Audit fees                               | \$46,000 |
| Audit-related fees 1                     | \$ 3,250 |
| Tax fees                                 | \$ 0     |
| All other fees                           | \$ 0     |
| -----                                    |          |

(1) Audit-related fees consist principally of fees for performing agreed upon procedure engagements relating to the leveraged preferred shares of the Fund.

In approving the selection of KPMG for the Fund, the Audit Committee considered, in addition to other practices and requirements relating to the selection of the Fund's auditors, whether the non-audit services covered in the table above under "Audit-related fees," "Tax fees" and "All other fees" performed by KPMG for the Fund and the investment advisor and for certain related parties are compatible with maintaining the independence of KPMG as the Fund's principal accountants.

The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statements on Auditing Standards, No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees. The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the independent registered public accounting firm's independence. Additionally, on October 22, 2004, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with management the Fund's audited financial statements for the fiscal period ended August 31, 2004. Based on these reviews and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Trustees that the audited financial statements be included in the annual report to shareholders for the last fiscal period for filing with the SEC.

The Board of Trustees has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee which is attached to this proxy statement as Exhibit C. Each member of the Audit Committee is independent as independence is defined in the listing standards of the American Stock Exchange.

Other Business. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the Fund's officers and the investment advisor are not aware of any other business to come before the Meeting other than as set forth in the Notice. If any other business is properly brought before the Meeting, or any adjournment thereof, the persons named as proxies will vote in their sole discretion.

Required Vote. Election of each nominated Trustee to the Board of Trustees of the Fund will be decided by a plurality of the common shares and preferred shares of the Fund (voting together as a single class) voted in the election of Trustees at the Meeting, in person or by proxy.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FUND UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THIS PROPOSAL FOR THE FUND.

### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

Any Shareholder desiring to present a proposal for consideration at the

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2005 annual meeting of Shareholders of the Fund should submit such proposal in writing to the Secretary, c/o Evergreen Investment Services, Inc., Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116-5034 so that it is received by the Fund no later than July 6, 2005. Proxies submitted by Shareholders confer discretionary authority on the individually named proxies to vote on all matters presented at the meeting. Mere submission of a Shareholder proposal does not guarantee inclusion of the proposal in the proxy statement or presentation of the proposal at the 2005 annual meeting since such inclusion and presentation are subject to compliance with certain federal regulations.

Michael H. Koonce, Secretary

October 29, 2004

### EXHIBIT A

EVERGREEN INCOME ADVANTAGE FUND  
EVERGREEN MANAGED INCOME FUND  
EVERGREEN UTILITIES AND HIGH INCOME FUND

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHARTER

- 1) The Executive Committee shall be composed entirely of independent Trustees.
- 2) The purposes of the Executive Committee are:
  - a) To formulate policies and procedures governing the Board's structure and operation;
  - b) To act as liaison between Evergreen (Evergreen Investment Management Company, LLC, Evergreen Investment Services, Inc. and Evergreen Service Company, LLC) and the full Board of Trustees;
  - c) To act on behalf of the Board between regular Board meetings;
  - d) To act as the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee of the Board of Trustees;
  - e) To act as the Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees;
  - f) To act as the 15(c) Committee of the Board of Trustees; and
  - g) To review and resolve conflicts of interest between the Evergreen Funds and the Funds' investment adviser or its affiliates.
- 3) To carry out its purposes, the Executive Committee shall have the following duties and powers:
  - a) To prepare and recommend to the full Board written policies and procedures governing the structure and operation of the Board, including but not limited to policies relating to Board size, qualifications for Board membership, filling of vacancies, committees, compensation and retirement; and from

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time to time to review such policies and procedures and recommend any changes;

- b) To select and to recommend to the full Board persons to fill vacancies on the Board;
  - c) To recommend to the full Board the amount of compensation to be paid to Trustees for service on the Board and on committees of the Board;
  - d) To take on behalf of the Board, between regular meetings of the full Board, any actions required to be taken by the Board that are not required by the Declaration of Trust or applicable law to be taken by the full Board or by another group of Trustees;
  - e) To report its activities to the full Board on a regular basis and to make such recommendations with respect to the above and other matters as the Executive Committee may deem necessary or appropriate;
  - f) To request from the Evergreen Funds' investment adviser and its affiliates information it believes is necessary to the full Board of Trustees' determination of whether or not to enter into or renew contracts;
  - g) To submit Trustees' inquiries to the Evergreen Funds' investment adviser and its affiliates in connection with contract approvals;
  - h) To request information it considers necessary or appropriate to its determination of whether a potential or actual conflict of interest exists between the Evergreen Funds and the Funds' investment adviser or its affiliates; and
  - i) If the Executive Committee determines a potential or actual conflict of interest exists: (i) to recommend to the Evergreen Funds' investment adviser or its affiliates an appropriate resolution to the conflict of interest and (ii) to inform the full Board of Trustees of the conflict of interest, the course of action the Executive Committee recommended to resolve the conflict of interest, and whether the Executive Committee's recommendation was implemented.
- 4) The Executive Committee shall meet on a regular basis and is empowered to hold special meetings as circumstances require.
- 5) The Executive Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities.
- 6) The Executive Committee shall review this Charter at least annually and recommend any changes to the full Board.

Last Approved: September 23, 2004

Last Revised: August 20, 2004

EXHIBIT B

EVERGREEN TRUSTS

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### Policy for the Consideration of Trustee Nominees

The following Policy for the Consideration of Trustee Nominees (the "Policy") shall be followed by the Executive Committee (the "Committee") of each Evergreen Trust in filling vacancies on the Boards of Trustees or when Trustees are to be nominated for election by shareholders.

#### Minimum Nominee Qualifications

1. With respect to nominations for Trustees who are not interested persons of a Fund as defined by Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act") ("Disinterested Trustees"), nominees shall be independent of the Fund's investment adviser and other principal service providers. The Committee shall also consider the effect of any relationship beyond those delineated in the 1940 Act that might impair independence, such as business, financial or family relationships with the investment adviser or its affiliates.
2. Disinterested Trustee nominees must qualify for service on the Fund's Audit Committee under the rules of the American Stock Exchange (including financial literacy requirements) or other applicable securities exchange.
3. With respect to all Trustees, nominees must qualify under all applicable laws and regulations.
4. The proposed nominee may not be within five years of the Fund's retirement age for Trustees unless he or she is nominated for re-election.
5. The Committee may also consider such other factors as it may determine to be relevant.

#### Other Qualifications

1. With respect to all proposed nominees, the Committee shall consider whether the proposed nominee serves on boards of or is otherwise affiliated with competing financial service organizations or their related fund complexes or companies in which the Evergreen Funds may invest.
2. The Committee shall consider whether the proposed nominee is able to and intends to commit the time necessary for the performance of Trustee duties.
3. The Committee shall consider the integrity and character of the proposed nominee, and the proposed nominee's compatibility with the current Trustees.
4. The Committee may require an interview with the proposed nominee.

#### Nominees Recommended by Shareholders

1. The Committee shall consider nominations for openings on the Board of Trustees from shareholders who have separately or as a group held for at least one full year 5% of the shares of a Fund.
2. The Committee shall give candidates recommended by shareholders the same consideration as any other candidate.
3. Shareholder recommendations should be sent to the attention of the Committee in care of the Fund's Secretary and should include

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biographical information, including business experience for the past ten years and a description of the qualifications of the proposed nominee, along with a statement from the proposed nominee that he or she is willing to serve and meets the requirements to be a Disinterested Trustee, if applicable.

### Process for Identifying and Evaluating Trustee Nominees

1. When identifying and evaluating prospective nominees for openings on the Board of Trustees, the Committee shall review all recommendations in the same manner, including those received from shareholders.
2. The Committee shall first determine if the prospective nominee meets the minimum qualifications set forth above. Those proposed nominees meeting the minimum qualifications will then be considered by the Committee with respect to the other qualifications listed above, and any other qualifications deemed to be important by the Committee.
3. Those nominees selected by the Committee shall be recommended to the Boards of Trustees.

Last Approved: June 17, 2004

Last Revised: June 17, 2004

EXHIBIT C

EVERGREEN INCOME ADVANTAGE FUND  
EVERGREEN MANAGED INCOME FUND  
EVERGREEN UTILITIES AND HIGH INCOME FUND

### AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

- 1) The Audit Committee (the "Committee") of Evergreen Income Advantage Fund, Evergreen Managed Income Fund and Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund (the "Funds") shall be composed entirely of independent Trustees who, in the view of the Board of Trustees of the Funds (the "Board"), are free of any relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment. The independent Trustees (i) are barred from accepting, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Funds or an affiliate of the Funds, other than in the capacity as a member of the Board and any Board committee, and (ii) cannot be an "interested person" of the Funds as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- 2) The Board will determine whether there is at least one member of the Committee who is an independent audit committee financial expert as defined in Item 3 of Form N-CSR.
- 3) The purposes of the Committee are:
  - a) To review the Funds' accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, their internal controls and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers;
  - b) To review the quality and objectivity of the Funds' financial



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statements and the independent audits thereof; and

- c) To act as liaison between the Funds' independent auditors and the Board.

The function of the Committee is to review; it is management's responsibility to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal control, and the auditors' responsibility to plan and carry out a proper audit.

- 4) To carry out its purposes, the Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

- a) To be directly responsible for the appointment, retention, compensation, and oversight of the work of any registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Funds, and each such registered public accounting firm must report directly to the Committee;
- b) To recommend to the independent Trustees the selection, retention or termination of auditors and, in connection therewith, to evaluate the independence of the auditors, including whether the auditors provide any non-audit services to the Funds' investment advisers or affiliated persons of the investment advisers, and to receive the auditors' formal written statement delineating specific representations as to the auditors' independence and all relationships between the auditors and the Funds' investment advisers and any affiliated persons of the investment advisers, consistent with Independence Standards Board Standard 1. The Committee shall have responsibility for actively engaging in a dialogue with the auditors with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the auditors and for taking or recommending that the Board take appropriate action to oversee the independence of the auditors;
- c) To instruct the auditors of the auditors' ultimate responsibility to the Board and the Committee, as representatives of shareholders, and the Board's and Committee's ultimate authority to select, evaluate, and, where appropriate, replace the auditors and to nominate the auditors for shareholder approval in any proxy statement;
- d) To pre-approve all audit and non-audit services, except those within the de minimis statutory exception, provided to the Funds by their auditors or to establish pre-approval policies and procedures (which may include the establishment of a pre-approval sub-committee consisting of one or more independent audit committee members who serve on the Board), to pre-approve non-audit services provided directly to the Funds' investment advisers and any entity in the Funds' complex where the nature of the services provided have a direct impact on the operations or financial reporting of the Funds, to review in advance the related estimate of fees, and to recommend pre-approved audit and non-audit services and fee estimates for Board approval;
- e) To meet with the Funds' independent auditors, including private meetings, as necessary (i) to review the arrangements for and scope of the annual audits and any special audits; (ii) to discuss any matters of concern relating to the Funds' financial statements, including any adjustments to such statements recommended by the auditors, or other results of said audit(s); (iii) to consider the auditors' comments with respect to the Funds' financial policies, procedures and internal

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- accounting controls and management's responses thereto; (iv) to review the form of opinion the auditors propose to render to the Board and shareholders; (v) to receive reports from time to time about the nature of conversations, if any, between the auditors of Wachovia and its affiliates and the auditors of the Funds, and (vi) to discuss the results of the auditors' peer review, if any;
- f) To receive at least annually a report from the auditors within 90 days prior to the filing of the auditors' report (or receive an updated report within such 90 day period, if the auditors' annual report is presented to the Committee more than 90 days prior to the filing of the auditors' report) which includes the following: (i) all critical accounting policies and practices used by the Funds (or, in connection with any update, any changes in such accounting policies and practices), (ii) all material alternative accounting treatments within GAAP that have been discussed with management since the last annual report or update, including the ramifications of the use of the alternative treatments and the treatment preferred by the accounting firm, (iii) other material written communications between the auditors and the management of the Funds since the last annual report or update, and (iv) a description of all non-audit services provided, including fees associated with the services, to the Funds' complex since the last annual report or update that were not subject to the pre-approval requirements as discussed above;
  - g) To consider the effect upon the Funds of any changes in accounting principles or practices proposed by management or the auditors;
  - h) To review and discuss with management, including any officers certifying the Funds' Form N-CSR, the Funds' audited financial statements and to review any officer's certifications and reports to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of the Funds; to offer guidance with respect to such audited financial statements, certifications and reports; and to determine whether to recommend that the financial statements be included in the annual report;
  - i) To discuss all disclosures made by the Funds' officers certifying the Funds' Form N-CSR to the Committee, based on such officers' most recent evaluation as to (i) all significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls which could adversely affect the Funds' ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data, and (ii) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have significant roles in the Funds' internal controls;
  - j) To investigate improprieties or suspected improprieties in the Funds' operations;
  - k) To establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, including procedures for the confidential, anonymous submission by officers of the Funds or by employees of the Funds' investment advisers or other service providers, of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters; and
  - l) To report its activities to the Board on a regular basis and to make such recommendations with respect to the above and other matters as the Committee may deem necessary or appropriate.
- 5) The Committee shall meet at least quarterly and is empowered to hold special meetings, as circumstances require.

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- 6) The Committee shall meet with internal auditors to review their audit plan and the result of completed audits.
- 7) The Committee shall have the authority to engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties.
- 8) The Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities.
- 9) The Committee shall review this Charter at least annually and recommend any changes to the Board.

Last Approved: September 23, 2004  
Last Revised: September 16, 2004

PROXY

EVERGREEN UTILITIES AND HIGH INCOME FUND

COMMON SHARES

This Proxy is solicited on Behalf of the Board of Trustees of  
Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund for  
the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, December 17, 2004

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Catherine F. Kennedy, Michael H. Koonce, Lloyd Lipsett and Maureen E. Towle, or any of them, with full power of substitution, as attorneys and proxies to appear and vote all of the common shares standing in the name of the undersigned at the annual meeting of shareholders of Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund to be held at the offices of Evergreen Investments, 26th Floor, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 on December 17, 2004 at (10:00 o'clock a.m.), Eastern time, and at any and all adjournments thereof, and the undersigned hereby instructs said attorneys to vote:

(Continued, and to be signed on other side)

X Please mark your  
votes as in this  
example.

The shares represented by this proxy will be voted as specified in the following Item 1, but if no choice is specified, they will be voted FOR the election of the 4 persons named in the proxy statement as proposed Trustees under "Election of Trustees."

1. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

FOR all nominees (except as marked to [ ] WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to [ ] Nominees: Michael

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the contrary below\*)

vote for all nominees

Shirley  
K. Dun G  
Dr. Lero

- 2. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon any other business which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

(\*INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, write the name of the nominee(s) below.)

SIGNATURE(S) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.  
(Signature of all joint owners is required. Fiduciaries please indicate your full title. Sign exactly as name appears hereon.)

If any other matters properly come before the meeting about which the proxy holders were not aware prior to the time of the solicitation, authorization is given to the proxy holders to vote in accordance with the views of the management thereto. The management is not aware of any such matters.

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PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN  
THIS PROXY CARD IN THE  
ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.  
-----

PROXY

EVERGREEN UTILITIES AND HIGH INCOME FUND

PREFERRED SHARES

This Proxy is solicited on Behalf of the Board of Trustees of  
Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund for  
the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, December 17, 2004

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Catherine F. Kennedy, Michael H. Koonce, Lloyd Lipsett and Maureen E. Towle, or any of them, with full power of substitution, as attorneys and proxies to appear and vote all of the preferred shares standing in the name of the undersigned at the annual meeting of shareholders of Evergreen Utilities and High Income Fund to be held at the offices of Evergreen Investments, 26th Floor, 200 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 on December 17, 2004 at (10:00 o'clock a.m.), Eastern time, and at any and all adjournments thereof, and the undersigned hereby instructs said attorneys to vote:

(Continued, and to be signed on other side)

X Please mark your  
votes as in this  
example.

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The shares represented by this proxy will be voted as specified in the following Item 1, but if no choice is specified, they will be voted FOR the election of the 4 persons named in the proxy statement as proposed Trustees under "Election of Trustees".

1. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

FOR all nominees (except as marked to [ ] WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to [ ] Nominees: the contrary below\*) vote for all nominees

Michael  
Shirley  
K. Dun G  
Dr. Lero

2. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon any other business which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

(\*INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, write the name of the nominee(s) below.)

SIGNATURE(S) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.  
(Signature of all joint owners is required. Fiduciaries please indicate your full title. Sign exactly as name appears hereon.)

If any other matters properly come before the meeting about which the proxy holders were not aware prior to the time of the solicitation, authorization is given to the proxy holders to vote in accordance with the views of the management thereto. The management is not aware of any such matters.

-----  
PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN  
THIS PROXY CARD IN THE  
ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.  
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