

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM 8-K

### CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **May 21, 2014**

### RLJ LODGING TRUST

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Maryland**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

**001-35169**

(Commission File Number)

**27-4706509**

(IRS Employer Identification Number)

**3 Bethesda Metro Center  
Suite 1000**

**Bethesda, MD**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**20814**  
(Zip Code)

**(301) 280-7777**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not applicable**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

#### Item 8.01. Other Events.

RLJ Lodging Trust (the "Company") is filing as Exhibit 99.1 (which is incorporated by reference herein) to this Current Report of Form 8-K a description of the material federal income tax considerations relating to the taxation of the Company as a real estate investment trust for federal income tax purposes and the ownership and disposition of the Company's common shares, preferred shares and depository shares representing preferred shares, as well as its warrants and rights. This description contained in Exhibit 99.1 replaces and supersedes prior descriptions of the federal income tax treatment of the Company and its shareholders to the extent that they are inconsistent with the description contained in this Current Report on Form 8-K.

#### Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) The following exhibits are filed as part of this report:

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Material Federal Income Tax Considerations

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

RLJ LODGING TRUST

Date: May 21, 2014

By: /s/ Thomas J. Baltimore, Jr.  
Thomas J. Baltimore, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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EXHIBIT LIST

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Material Federal Income Tax Considerations

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## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Current Report on Form 8-K of RLJ Lodging Trust contains certain statements that are “forward-looking” statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These statements are included throughout this Current Report on Form 8-K and relate to, among other things, analyses and other information based on forecasts of future results and estimates of amounts not yet determinable. These forward-looking statements are identified by their use of terms and phrases such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “predict,” “project,” “will,” “continue,” and other similar terms and phrases, including references to assumptions.

These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties. Factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by us in the forward-looking statements include, among other things, the following:

- government approvals, actions and initiatives, including the need for compliance with environmental and safety requirements, and changes in laws and regulations or the interpretation thereof;
- the effects of tax legislative action;
- our ability, and the ability of each of our subsidiary real estate investment trusts (“REITs”), to continue to satisfy complex rules in order to maintain REIT status for federal income tax purposes, the ability of our operating partnership to satisfy the rules in order to maintain its status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, the ability of certain of our subsidiaries to maintain their status as taxable REIT subsidiaries (“TRSs”) for federal income tax purposes, and our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to operate effectively within the limitations imposed by these rules; and
- other factors discussed in other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”).

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in any of our forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions, any of these assumptions could prove to be inaccurate and the forward-looking statements based on these assumptions could be incorrect. Moreover, actual results could differ materially from those projected or assumed. Our future financial condition and results of operations, as well as any forward-looking statements, are subject to change and to inherent known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, our forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the factors described above and in other filings with the SEC. Except as otherwise required by the federal securities laws, we disclaim any obligation to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement contained in this Current Report on Form 8-K to reflect any change in our expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

## MATERIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences and other material tax considerations relating to our company and to the holders of our common shares, preferred shares, and depositary shares (together with our common shares and preferred shares, the “shares”), as well as our warrants and rights. The discussion set forth herein is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, tax advice. As used in this section, references to the terms “company,” “we,” “our,” and “us” mean only RLJ Lodging Trust, and not its subsidiaries or other lower-tier entities, except as otherwise indicated. We have not sought and will not seek an advance ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) regarding any matter discussed in this section. This discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the “Code,” the Treasury regulations, rulings and other administrative interpretations and practices of the IRS (including administrative interpretations and practices expressed in private letter rulings which are binding on the IRS only with respect to the particular taxpayers who requested and received those rulings), and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect, and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. This discussion also is based upon the assumption that we will operate our company and its subsidiaries and affiliated entities in accordance with their applicable organizational documents and in the manner that we have represented. This discussion does not address the actual material federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our shares to any particular holder, which depend on that shareholder’s particular tax circumstances. In addition, this discussion does not discuss any state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences, or any tax consequences arising under any federal tax other than the income tax, associated with the ownership or disposition of our shares or our election to be taxed as a REIT.

The U.S. federal income tax treatment of holders of our shares depends in some instances on determinations of fact and interpretations of complex provisions of U.S. federal income tax law for which no clear precedent or authority may be available. You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences to you of:

- the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our shares, including the federal, state, local, and foreign income and other tax consequences;
- our election to be taxed as a REIT for federal income tax purposes; and
- potential changes in applicable tax laws.

### Federal Income Taxation of the Company as a REIT

#### *General*

We are a self-managed and self-administered Maryland REIT that invests primarily in premium-branded, focused-service and compact full-service hotels. We conduct our business as an umbrella partnership REIT, pursuant to which structure substantially all of our properties and assets are held by RLJ Lodging Trust, L.P., or “RLJ LP.” We are the sole general partner of RLJ LP and, as of March 31, 2014, we owned, through a combination of direct and indirect interests, approximately 99.3% of its outstanding partnership interests. We made an election to be treated as a REIT, effective for our taxable year that ended December 31, 2011. We believe that we have been organized and have operated in a manner that has permitted us to qualify for taxation as a REIT

from the effective date of our REIT election. We own, through RLJ LP, 100% of the outstanding common stock of three entities that also have elected to be treated as REITs. These entities are subject to the same REIT qualification requirements and other limitations described herein that apply to us.

The law firm of Hogan Lovells US LLP, or Hogan Lovells, has acted as our tax counsel in connection with the registration statement of which this discussion is a part. We have received an opinion of Hogan Lovells to the effect that we have been organized and have operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT for each of our taxable years, beginning with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011, and that our current organization and current and intended method of operation (as described in our disclosure and a letter that we have provided to Hogan Lovells) will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and

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taxation as a REIT under the Code for the current taxable year and thereafter. It must be emphasized that the opinion of Hogan Lovells is based on various assumptions relating to our organization and operation, is conditioned upon factual representations and covenants made by our management regarding our organization, assets, income, the present and future conduct of our business operations, the economic terms of our leases, and other items regarding our ability to meet the various requirements for qualification as a REIT, and assumes that such representations and covenants are accurate and complete and that we will take no action inconsistent with our qualification as a REIT. While we intend to continue to operate so that we will qualify as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations, and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, no assurance can be given by Hogan Lovells or by us that we will qualify as a REIT for any particular year. The opinion of Hogan Lovells is expressed as of the date issued. Hogan Lovells has no obligation to advise us or our shareholders of any subsequent change in the matters stated, represented or assumed, or of any subsequent change in the applicable law. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the IRS, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge the conclusions set forth in such opinions. Hogan Lovells' opinion does not foreclose the possibility that we may have to utilize one or more of the REIT savings provisions discussed below, which could require us to pay an excise or penalty tax (which tax could be significant in amount) in order for us to maintain our REIT qualification.

Qualification and taxation as a REIT depend on our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, through actual operating results, distribution levels, and diversity of share and asset ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code, the compliance with which will not be reviewed by Hogan Lovells. In addition, our ability to qualify as a REIT may depend in part upon the operating results, organizational structure and entity classification for U.S. federal income tax purposes of certain entities in which we invest, which entities will not have been reviewed by Hogan Lovells. Our ability to qualify as a REIT also requires that we satisfy certain asset tests, some of which depend upon the fair market values of assets that we own directly or indirectly. Such values may not be susceptible to a precise determination. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of our operations for any taxable year will satisfy such requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT.

Provided that we qualify as a REIT generally, we will not be subject to federal corporate income tax on our taxable income that is distributed currently to our shareholders. This substantially eliminates the "double taxation" at the corporate and shareholder levels that results generally from an investment in a corporation, because income generated by a REIT generally is taxed only at the shareholder level upon a distribution of dividends by the REIT to its shareholders. We will, however, be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the following circumstances:

- We will be taxed at regular federal corporate rates on any undistributed "REIT taxable income," including undistributed net capital gains, for any taxable year. REIT taxable income is the taxable income of the REIT, subject to specified adjustments, including a deduction for dividends paid.
- We (or our shareholders) may be subject to the "alternative minimum tax" on our items of tax preference, if any.
- If we have net income from prohibited transactions, which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of inventory or property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, other than foreclosure property, such income will be subject to a 100% tax. See "—Requirements for Qualification as a REIT—Gross Income Tests—Prohibited Transactions Tax" below.
- If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with certain leasehold terminations or a foreclosure of a mortgage loan as "foreclosure property," we may thereby avoid (1) the 100% prohibited transactions tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale otherwise would constitute a prohibited transaction); and (2) the inclusion of any income from such property as non-qualifying income for purposes of the REIT gross income tests discussed below. Income from the sale or operation of the property may be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%). See "—Requirements for Qualification as a REIT—Gross Income Tests—Income from Foreclosure Property," below.
- If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below, but our failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and we nonetheless maintain our

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REIT qualification because of specified cure provisions, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount equal to (1) the greater of (a) the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test, or (b) the amount by which we fail the 95% gross income test, as the case may be, multiplied by (2) a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

- If we violate the asset tests (other than a de minimis failure of the 5% or 10% asset test) or other requirements applicable to REITs, as described below, but our failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and we nonetheless maintain our REIT qualification because of specified cure provisions, we will be required to pay a tax equal to at least \$50,000 per failure, which, in the case of certain asset test failures, will be determined as the amount of net income generated by the assets in question multiplied by the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%), if that amount exceeds \$50,000 per failure.
- If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods (collectively, the required distribution), we will be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of (a) the amounts that we actually distributed (taking into account excess distributions from prior years), plus (b) retained amounts upon which we paid income tax at the corporate level.

- We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet record-keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of our shareholders, as described below under “—Requirements for Qualification as a REIT.”
- We will be subject to a 100% penalty tax on amounts we receive (or on certain expenses deducted by a taxable REIT subsidiary, or “TRS”) if certain arrangements between us and our TRSs are not comparable to similar arrangements among unrelated parties.
- If we acquire appreciated assets from a corporation that is or has been a C corporation (or a partnership in which a C corporation is a partner) in a transaction in which our basis in the assets is determined by reference to the C corporation’s (or such partnership’s) basis in such assets, provided no election is made for the transaction to be taxable currently, we will be subject to tax on such appreciation at the highest corporate income tax rate then applicable if we subsequently recognize gain on a disposition of any such assets during the 10-year period following the acquisition from the C corporation (or partnership). Legislation reduced the recognition period to five years for assets sold in 2012 or 2013.
- We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net long-term capital gain. See “Federal Income Taxation of Our Shareholders.”
- The earnings of our subsidiaries that are C corporations, including our TRSs, are subject to federal corporate income tax.

Notwithstanding our qualification as a REIT, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes, including payroll taxes and state, local, and foreign income, property and other taxes on our assets, operations and net worth. We also could be subject to tax in other situations and on transactions not presently contemplated.

### ***Requirements for Qualification as a REIT***

The Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
  - (2) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
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- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for Sections 856 through 860 of the Code;
  - (4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to applicable provisions of the Code;
  - (5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;
  - (6) during the last half of each taxable year not more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer “individuals” (as defined in the Code to include certain entities and as determined by applying certain attribution rules);
  - (7) that makes an election to be taxable as a REIT, or has made this election for a previous taxable year which has not been revoked or terminated, and satisfies all of the relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the IRS that must be met in order to elect and maintain REIT qualification;
  - (8) that uses a calendar year for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
  - (9) that meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions; and
  - (10) that has no earnings and profits from any non-REIT taxable year at the close of any taxable year.

The Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year, and condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Conditions (5) and (6) need not be satisfied during a corporation’s initial tax year as a REIT. For purposes of condition (6), an “individual” generally includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefit plan, a private foundation or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes. However, a trust that is a qualified trust under Code Section 401(a) generally is not considered an individual, and beneficiaries of a qualified trust are treated as holding shares of a REIT in proportion to their actual interests in the trust for purposes of condition (6) above.

To monitor compliance with the share ownership requirements, we generally are required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our shares. To do so, we must demand written statements each year from the record holders of significant percentages of our shares pursuant to which the record holders must disclose the actual owners of the shares (i.e., the persons required to include in gross income the dividends paid by us). We must maintain a list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand as part of our records. We could be subject to monetary penalties if we fail to comply with these record-keeping requirements. A shareholder that fails or refuses to comply with the demand is required by Treasury regulations to submit a statement with its tax return disclosing the actual ownership of our shares and other information. We have complied, and currently intend to continue to comply, with these requirements.

We believe that we have been organized, have operated and have issued sufficient shares with sufficient diversity of ownership to allow us to satisfy conditions (1) through (9) and we have no earnings and profits from a non-REIT year in satisfaction of condition (10). Our declaration of trust provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfers of our shares, which are intended to assist us in satisfying the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. These restrictions, however, do not ensure that we have previously satisfied, and may not ensure that we will, in all cases, be able to continue to satisfy, such share ownership requirements. If we fail to satisfy these requirements, except as provided in the next sentence, our status as a REIT will terminate. If, however, we comply with the demand and record-keeping requirements described in the previous paragraph and we do not know, or would not have known through the exercise of reasonable diligence, that we failed to meet the requirement described in condition (6), we will be treated as having satisfied this requirement. See “—Failure to Qualify as a REIT.”

## *Effect of Subsidiary Entities*

### *Ownership of Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies and Qualified REIT Subsidiaries*

In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership or a member of a limited liability company or other entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, Treasury regulations provide that the REIT is deemed to own its proportionate share of the partnership's assets, and to earn its proportionate share of the partnership's income, for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs, as described below. A REIT's proportionate share of a partnership's assets and income is based on the REIT's pro rata share of the capital interests in the partnership. However, solely for purposes of the 10% value test, described below, the determination of a REIT's interest in partnership assets is based on the REIT's proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by the partnership. In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership are deemed to retain the same character in the hands of the REIT. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of RLJ LP and any subsidiaries treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes will be treated as our assets and items of income for purposes of applying the REIT requirements. A summary of the rules governing the federal income taxation of partnerships and their partners is provided below in "—Tax Aspects of RLJ LP and Our Other Subsidiary Partnerships." As the sole general partner of RLJ LP, we have direct control over it and indirect control over the subsidiaries in which RLJ LP or a subsidiary has a controlling interest. We currently intend to operate these entities in a manner consistent with the requirements for our qualification as a REIT.

If a REIT owns a corporate subsidiary that is a "qualified REIT subsidiary," or "QRS," the QRS generally is disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and its assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit are treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit of the REIT itself, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs. A QRS is any corporation other than a TRS that is directly or indirectly wholly-owned by a REIT. Other entities that are wholly-owned by us, including single member limited liability companies that have not elected to be taxed as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes, also generally are disregarded as separate entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with any partnerships in which we hold an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as "pass-through subsidiaries."

In the event that a disregarded subsidiary ceases to be wholly-owned by us (for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than us or another disregarded subsidiary of ours), the subsidiary's separate existence no longer would be disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Instead, the subsidiary would have multiple owners and would be treated either as a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect our ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income requirements applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the securities of another corporation unless it is a TRS, a QRS or another REIT. See "—Gross Income Tests" and "—Asset Tests."

### *Ownership of Subsidiary REITs*

As discussed above, we own three subsidiary REITs. We believe that each such REIT is organized and has operated and will continue to operate in a manner to permit it to qualify for taxation as a REIT for federal income tax purposes from and after the effective date of its REIT election. However, if any of these subsidiary REITs were to fail to qualify as a REIT, then (i) the subsidiary REIT would become subject to regular U.S. corporate income tax, as described herein, see "—Failure to Qualify as a REIT" below, and (ii) our equity interest in such subsidiary REIT would cease to be a qualifying real estate asset for purposes of the 75% asset test and would become subject to the 5% asset test, the 10% voting share asset test, and the 10% value asset test generally applicable to our ownership in corporations other than REITs, QRSs and TRSs. See "—Asset Tests" below. If any of the subsidiary REITs were to fail to qualify as a REIT, it is possible that we would not meet the 10% voting share test and the 10% value test with respect to our indirect interest in such entity, in which event we would fail to qualify as a REIT, unless we could avail ourselves of certain relief provisions.

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### *Ownership of Taxable REIT Subsidiaries*

A TRS is an entity that is taxable as a corporation in which a REIT owns, directly or indirectly, an equity interest, including stock, and that elects with the REIT to be treated as a TRS under the Code. If a TRS owns, directly or indirectly, securities representing more than 35% of the vote or value of a subsidiary corporation, that subsidiary also will be treated as a TRS. A TRS is a regular corporation subject to federal income tax at applicable corporate rates. The income and assets of our TRSs are not attributable to us for purposes of satisfying the income and asset test requirements.

A TRS must not directly or indirectly operate or manage a lodging or health care facility or, generally, provide to another person, under a franchise, license or otherwise, rights to any brand name under which any lodging facility or health care facility is operated. Although a TRS may not operate or manage a lodging facility, it may lease or own such a facility so long as the facility is a "qualified lodging facility" and such facility is operated on behalf of the TRS by an "eligible independent contractor." A "qualified lodging facility" generally is a hotel at which no authorized gambling activities are conducted, and includes the customary amenities and facilities operated as part of, or associated with, the hotel. "Customary amenities" must be customary for other properties of a comparable size and class owned by other owners unrelated to the REIT. An "eligible independent contractor" is an independent contractor that, at the time a management agreement is entered into with a TRS to operate a "qualified lodging facility," is actively engaged in the trade or business of operating "qualified lodging facilities" for a person or persons unrelated to either the TRS or any REITs with which the TRS is affiliated. A hotel management company that otherwise would qualify as an "eligible independent contractor" with regard to a TRS of a REIT will not so qualify if the hotel management company and/or one or more actual or constructive owners of 10% or more of the hotel management company actually or constructively own more than 35% of the REIT, or one or more actual or constructive owners of more than 35% of the hotel management company own 35% or more of the REIT (determined with respect to a REIT whose stock is regularly traded on an established securities market by taking into account only the stock held by persons owning, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the outstanding stock of the REIT and, if the stock of the eligible independent contractor is publicly-traded, 5% of the publicly-traded stock of the eligible independent contractor). We believe, and currently intend to take all steps reasonably practicable to ensure, that none of our TRSs has engaged or will engage in "operating" or "managing" our hotels and that the hotel management companies engaged to operate and manage hotels leased to or owned by the TRSs have qualified and continue to qualify as "eligible independent contractors" with regard to those TRSs.

Certain restrictions are imposed on TRSs. First, a TRS may not deduct interest expense in any year paid or accrued to an affiliated REIT to the extent that such expense exceeds, generally, 50% of the TRS's adjusted taxable income for that year (although the TRS may carry forward to, and deduct in, a succeeding year interest expense disallowed under the 50% test, provided certain conditions are met). In addition, a REIT would be obligated to pay a 100% penalty tax on certain payments from the TRS that it receives, including interest or rent, or on certain expenses deducted by the TRS, if the IRS were able to

assert successfully that the economic arrangements between the REIT and the TRS did not meet specified arm's length standards set forth in the Code. Our TRSs make substantial payments to us, including payments of rent pursuant to the hotel leases and interest payments. There can be no assurance that the limitation on interest deductions applicable to TRSs will not apply to the interest payments made to us by one of our TRSs, resulting in an increase in the corporate income tax liability of such subsidiary. In addition, there can be no assurance that the IRS might not seek to impose the 100% excise tax on a portion of the payments received by us from, or expenses deducted by, our TRSs. While we believe that our arrangements with our TRSs reflect arm's length terms, these determinations inherently are factual, and the IRS has broad discretion to assert that amounts paid between related parties should be reallocated to reflect accurately their respective incomes.

Because of the restrictions applicable to the income, assets and activities of a REIT, a REIT may need to conduct certain business activities in one or more TRSs. These business activities include alternative uses of real estate, such as the development and/or sale of timeshare or condominium units. As discussed below under "—Asset Tests," the aggregate value of all of our TRSs may not exceed 25% of the value of all of our assets.

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### **Gross Income Tests**

To qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy two gross income requirements on an annual basis. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year must be derived from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including:

- "rents from real property";
- dividends or other distributions on, and gain from the sale of, stock in other REITs;
- gain from the sale of real property or mortgages on real property, in either case, not held for sale to customers;
- interest income derived from mortgage loans secured by real property or interests in real property; and
- income attributable to the temporary investment of new capital in stock and debt instruments during the one-year period following the receipt by us of new capital raised through equity offerings or the issuance of debt obligations with at least a five-year term.

Second, at least 95% of our gross income in each taxable year must be derived from some combination of income that qualifies under the 75% gross income test described above, as well as (1) other dividends, (2) interest, and (3) gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, in either case, not held for sale to customers.

For purposes of one or both of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, the following items of income are excluded from the computation of gross income: (1) gross income from prohibited transactions; (2) certain foreign currency gain; and (3) income and gain from certain hedging transactions. See "—Income from Hedging Transactions," "—Foreign Currency Gain," and "—Prohibited Transactions Tax," below.

### **Rents from Real Property**

Currently, rents paid pursuant to the leases of our hotels to our TRSs, together with gain from the sale of hotels and dividends and interest received from the TRSs, constitute substantially all of our gross income. Rents received by us will qualify as "rents from real property" in satisfying the gross income requirements described above only if the following conditions are met:

- First, if rent attributable to personal property, leased in connection with a lease of real property, is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to the personal property will not qualify as rents from real property.
- Second, the amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. Amounts received as rent, however, generally will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on fixed percentages of gross receipts or sales.
- Third, rents we receive from a "related party tenant" generally will not qualify as rents from real property. A tenant is a related party tenant if the REIT, or an actual or constructive owner of 10% or more of the REIT, actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the tenant. Two exceptions apply with respect to the lease of property by a REIT to a TRS. We may lease our hotels that qualify as "qualified lodging facilities" to our TRSs if the hotel is operated on behalf of the TRS by an "eligible independent contractor." In addition, a REIT may lease any property to a TRS if at least 90% of the property is leased to unrelated tenants, and the rent paid by the TRS is substantially comparable to rent paid by the unrelated tenants for comparable space. Amounts attributable to certain rental increases charged to a controlled TRS can fail to qualify even if the above conditions are met.
- Fourth, for rents to qualify as rents from real property for the purpose of satisfying the gross income tests, we generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to the tenants

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of such property, other than through an "independent contractor" who is adequately compensated and from whom we derive no revenue, or through a TRS. To the extent that impermissible services are provided by an independent contractor, the cost of the services generally must be borne by the independent contractor. A REIT is permitted to provide directly to tenants services that are "usually or customarily rendered" in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and not otherwise considered to be provided for the tenants' convenience. A REIT may provide a minimal amount of "non-customary" services to its tenants, other than through an independent contractor, but if the income from these impermissible tenant services exceeds 1% of the total income from a property, then all of the income from that property will fail to qualify as rents from real property. If the total amount of the income from impermissible tenant services does not exceed 1% of the total income from the property, the services will not "taint" the other income from the property (that is, it will not cause the rent paid by tenants of that property to fail to qualify as rents from real property), but the impermissible tenant services income will not qualify as rents from real property. A REIT is deemed to have received income from the provision of impermissible services in an amount equal to at least 150% of the direct cost of providing the service.

Because we lease substantially all of our properties to our TRSs, we generally do not provide services to our tenants. However, we have a few small leases of space at our hotels with tenants that are unrelated third parties. In that case, we cannot provide any assurance that the IRS will agree with our positions related to whether any services we provide directly to tenants are “usually or customarily rendered” in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only. We monitor the activities at our properties and do not intend to provide services that will cause us to fail to meet the gross income tests.

In order for the rent paid pursuant to the leases with our TRSs to constitute “rents from real property,” the leases must be respected as true leases for federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, the leases cannot be treated as service contracts, joint ventures or some other type of arrangement. The determination of whether the leases are true leases for federal income tax purposes depends upon an analysis of all the surrounding facts and circumstances. In making such a determination, courts have considered a variety of factors, including the following:

- the intent of the parties;
- the form of the agreement;
- the degree of control over the property that is retained by the property owner (e.g., whether the lessee has substantial control over the operation of the property or whether the lessee was required simply to use its best efforts to perform its obligations under the agreement); and
- the extent to which the property owner retains the risk of loss with respect to the property (e.g., whether the lessee bears the risk of increases in operating expenses or the risk of damage to the property) or the potential for economic gain (e.g., appreciation) with respect to the property.

In addition, Section 7701(e) of the Code provides that a contract that purports to be a service contract or a partnership agreement is treated instead as a lease of property if the contract properly is treated as such, taking into account all relevant factors. Since the determination of whether a service contract should be treated as a lease is inherently factual, the presence or absence of any single factor may not be dispositive in every case.

Our leases have been structured with the intent to qualify as true leases for federal income tax purposes. However, this determination is inherently a question of fact, and we cannot assure you that the IRS will not successfully assert a contrary position. If the leases were recharacterized as service contracts or partnership agreements, rather than true leases, or disregarded altogether for tax purposes, all or part of the payments that we receive from the TRSs would not be considered rent or would not otherwise satisfy the various requirements for qualification as “rents from real property.” In that case, we likely would not be able to satisfy either the 75% or 95% gross income tests and, as a result, would lose our REIT status.

As indicated above, “rents from real property” must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. Each of our leases provides for periodic payments of a specified base rent plus, to the extent

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that it exceeds the base rent, additional rent which is calculated based upon the gross sales of the hotels subject to the lease, plus certain other amounts. Payments made pursuant to these leases should qualify as “rents from real property” since generally they are based on either fixed dollar amounts or on specified percentages of gross sales that are fixed at the time the leases are entered into. The foregoing assumes that the leases have not been and will not be renegotiated during their term in a manner that has the effect of basing either the percentage rent or the base rent on income or profits. The foregoing also assumes that the leases are not in reality used as a means of basing rent on income or profits. More generally, the rent payable under the leases will not qualify as “rents from real property” if, considering the leases and all of the surrounding circumstances, the arrangement does not conform with normal business practice. We have not renegotiated, and currently do not intend to renegotiate, the percentages used to determine the percentage rent during the terms of the leases in a manner that has had or will have the effect of basing rent on income or profits. In addition, we believe that the rental provisions and other terms of the leases conform with normal business practice and generally are not intended to be used as a means of basing rent on income or profits. Furthermore, currently we intend that, with respect to properties that we acquire in the future, we will not charge rent for any property that is based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person, except by reason of being based on a fixed percentage of gross revenues, as described above.

As noted above, under the Code, if a lease provides for the rental of both real and personal property and the portion of the rent attributable to personal property is 15% or less of the total rent due under the lease, then all rent paid pursuant to such lease qualifies as “rents from real property.” If, however, a lease provides for the rental of both real and personal property, and the portion of the rent attributable to personal property exceeds 15% of the total rent due under the lease, then no portion of the rent that is attributable to personal property will qualify as “rents from real property.” The amount of rent attributable to personal property is the amount which bears the same ratio to total rent for the taxable year as the average of the fair market value of the personal property at the beginning and end of the year bears to the average of the aggregate fair market value of both the real and personal property at the beginning and end of such year. Currently, a significant portion of our personal property is owned by our TRSs. We believe that, to the extent that any of our leases includes a lease of items of personal property, either the amount of rent attributable to personal property with respect to such lease would not exceed 15% of the total rent due under the lease (determined under the law in effect for the applicable period), or, with respect to leases where the rent attributable to personal property constitutes non-qualifying income, such amounts, when taken together with all other non-qualifying income, would not jeopardize our status as a REIT.

#### *Interest Income*

Interest generally will be non-qualifying income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income tests if it depends in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, interest based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales still may qualify under the gross income tests. We receive interest payments from our TRSs and from third parties, which constitutes qualifying income for purpose of the 95% gross income test but not necessarily the 75% gross income test. We do not expect that the interest income from these sources will affect our ability to qualify under the 75% gross income test.

#### *Dividend Income*

We receive distributions from our TRSs or other corporations that are not REITs or QRSs. These distributions generally are treated as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. We also may recognize capital gain with respect to our investments in our TRSs or such other corporations. Such dividend income or capital gain will constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. We do not expect that these amounts will affect our ability to qualify under the 75% gross income test. Any



dividends that we receive from a REIT, or capital gain recognized in connection with an investment in a REIT, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income tests.

#### *Income from Hedging Transactions*

From time to time, we may enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Any such hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including the use of derivative instruments such as interest rate swap or cap agreements, option agreements, and futures or forward contracts. Income of a

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REIT, including income from a pass-through subsidiary, arising from “clearly identified” hedging transactions that are entered into in order to manage the risk of interest rate or price changes with respect to borrowings, including gain from the disposition of such hedging transactions, to the extent the hedging transactions hedge indebtedness incurred, or to be incurred, by the REIT to acquire or carry real estate assets, will not be treated as gross income for purposes of either the 75% or the 95% gross income tests. Income of a REIT arising from hedging transactions that are entered into in order to manage the risk of currency fluctuations will not be treated as gross income for purposes of either the 95% gross income test or the 75% gross income test, provided that the transaction is “clearly identified” as specified in the Code. To the extent that we hedge with other types of financial instruments or in other situations, the resultant income will be treated as income that does not qualify under the gross income tests unless the hedge meets certain requirements, and we elect to integrate it with a specified asset and to treat the integrated position as a synthetic debt instrument. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT, although this determination depends on an analysis of the facts and circumstances concerning each hedging transaction.

#### *Foreign Currency Gain*

“Real estate foreign exchange gain” is excluded from the calculation of the 75% gross income test and “passive foreign exchange gain” is excluded from the calculation of the 95% gross income test. “Real estate foreign exchange gain” means (i) foreign currency gain attributable (without duplication) to (A) an item of income or gain to which the 75% gross income test applies, (B) the acquisition or ownership of obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property, or (C) becoming or being the obligor under obligations secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property, or (ii) foreign currency gain attributable to a “qualified business unit” or “QBU” of the REIT under Code Section 987, provided the QBU itself satisfies both the 75% gross income test and the 75% asset test described below under “—Asset Tests.” “Passive foreign exchange gain” is (without duplication) real estate foreign exchange gain, foreign currency gain attributable to an item of income or gain to which the 95% gross income test applies, foreign currency gain attributable to the acquisition or ownership of obligations, or foreign currency gain attributable to becoming or being the obligor under obligations.

#### *Prohibited Transactions Tax*

Net income that we derive from a prohibited transaction is excluded from gross income solely for purposes of the gross income tests and is subject to a 100% tax. Any foreign currency gain (as defined in Section 988(b)(2) of the Code) recognized in connection with a prohibited transaction will be taken into account in determining the amount of income subject to the 100% tax. The term “prohibited transaction” generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property, as discussed below) that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business by us. Under existing law, whether property is held “primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business” depends on the particular facts and circumstances. We currently intend that we will hold our hotels for investment with a view to long-term appreciation, engage in the business of acquiring and owning hotels, and make sales of hotels consistent with our investment objectives. No assurance can be given that any of the hotels or other property that we sell will not be treated as property held for sale to customers, or that we can comply with certain safe-harbor provisions of the Code that would prevent such treatment. The 100% tax does not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will be subject to tax in the hands of the corporation at regular corporate tax rates.

#### *Income from Foreclosure Property*

We generally will be subject to tax at the maximum corporate tax rate (currently 35%) on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property and any foreign currency gain, other than income that constitutes qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test (other than by reason of such income being income or gain from foreclosure property). Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property (1) that we acquire as the result of having bid on the property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after a default (or upon imminent default) on a lease of the property or a mortgage loan held by us and secured by the property, (2) for which we acquired the related loan or lease at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated, and (3) with respect to which we made a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure

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property. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure property election has been made will not be subject to the 100% tax on gain from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property otherwise would constitute inventory or dealer property. If an unrelated third party lessee defaults under a lease, we are permitted to lease the related hotel to a TRS, in which case the hotel would not become foreclosure property. To the extent that we receive any income from property described in clause (1) above that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test, we intend to make an election to treat the related property as foreclosure property.

#### *Failure to Satisfy the Gross Income Tests*

We intend to continue to monitor our sources of income, including any non-qualifying income received by us, and manage our assets so as to ensure our compliance with the gross income tests. If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we still may qualify as a REIT for such year if we are entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Code. These relief provisions generally will be available if (1) our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, and (2) following our identification of the failure to meet the 75% and/or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we file a schedule with the IRS setting forth a description of each item of our gross income that satisfies the gross income tests for such taxable year in accordance with Treasury regulations. It is not possible to state whether we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief

provisions in all circumstances. As discussed above under “—General,” even where these relief provisions apply, the Code imposes a tax, which could be significant in amount, based upon the profit attributable to the amount by which we fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

#### *Certain Potential Excise Taxes on TRS Payments*

Any redetermined rents, redetermined deductions or excess interest will be subject to a 100% penalty tax. In general, redetermined rents are rents from real property that are overstated as a result of services furnished by a TRS to our tenants, and redetermined deductions and excess interest represent items that are deducted by a TRS for amounts paid to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been deducted and paid to us based on arm’s length negotiations. While we believe that our arrangements with our TRSs reflect arm’s length terms, these determinations inherently are factual, and the IRS has broad discretion to assert that amounts paid between related parties should be reallocated to reflect accurately their respective incomes.

#### *Asset Tests*

At the close of each calendar quarter, we must satisfy the following tests relating to the nature of our assets:

- at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of “real estate assets,” cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include interests in real property, such as land, buildings and leasehold interests in real property, stock of other corporations that qualify as REITs, and some types of mortgage-backed securities and mortgage loans. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% asset test are subject to the additional asset tests described below;
- not more than 25% of our total assets may be represented by securities other than those described in the first bullet above;
- except for securities described in the first bullet above and securities in TRSs or QRSs, the value of any one issuer’s securities owned by us may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets;
- except for securities described in the first bullet above and securities in TRSs or QRSs, we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer’s outstanding voting securities;
- except for securities described in the first bullet above, securities in TRSs or QRSs, and certain types of indebtedness that are not treated as securities for purposes of this test, as discussed below, we may not own more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer; and

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- not more than 25% of our total assets may be represented by securities of one or more TRSs.

For purposes of the asset tests, a REIT is not treated as owning the stock of a QRS or an equity interest in any entity treated as a partnership or disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Instead, a REIT is treated as owning its proportionate share of the assets held by such entity. Solely for purposes of the 10% value test, the determination of our interest in the assets of an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes in which we own an interest will be based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership, excluding for this purpose certain securities described in the Code.

The 10% value test does not apply to certain “straight debt” and other excluded securities, as described in the Code, including (1) loans to individuals or estates, (2) obligations to pay rents from real property, (3) rental agreements described in Section 467 of the Code (generally, obligations related to deferred rental payments, other than with respect to transactions with related party tenants), (4) securities issued by other REITs, (5) certain securities issued by a state, the District of Columbia, a foreign government, or a political subdivision of any of the foregoing, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and (6) any other arrangement as determined by the IRS. In addition, (1) a REIT’s interest as a partner in a partnership is not considered a security for purposes of the 10% value test; (2) any debt instrument issued by a partnership (other than straight debt or other excluded security) will not be considered a security issued by the partnership if at least 75% of the partnership’s gross income is derived from sources that would qualify for the 75% REIT gross income test; and (3) any debt instrument issued by a partnership (other than straight debt or other excluded security) will not be considered a security issued by a partnership to the extent of the REIT’s interest as a partner in the partnership.

For purposes of the 10% value test, “straight debt” means a written unconditional promise to pay on demand on a specified date a sum certain in money if (1) the debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into stock, (2) the interest rate and interest payment dates are not contingent on profits, the borrower’s discretion, or similar factors, other than certain contingencies relating to the timing and amount of principal and interest payments, as described in the Code, and (3) in the case of an issuer which is a corporation or a partnership, securities that otherwise would be considered straight debt will not be so considered if we, and any of our “controlled TRSs” (as defined in the Code), hold securities of the corporate or partnership issuer which (a) are not straight debt or other excluded securities (prior to the application of this rule), and (b) have an aggregate value greater than 1% of the issuer’s outstanding securities (including, for purposes of a partnership issuer, our interest as a partner in the partnership).

We intend to continue to maintain adequate records of the value of our assets to ensure compliance with the asset tests and to take any available actions within 30 days after the close of any quarter as may be required to cure any non-compliance with the asset tests. See “—Failure to Satisfy the Asset Tests.” We may not obtain independent appraisals to support our conclusions concerning the values of some or all of our assets. We do not intend to seek an IRS ruling as to the classification of our properties for purposes of the REIT asset tests. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that our assets or our interest in other securities will not cause a violation of the REIT asset test requirements.

#### *Failure to Satisfy the Asset Tests*

The asset tests must be satisfied not only on the last day of the calendar quarter in which we, directly or through pass-through subsidiaries, acquire securities in the applicable issuer, but also on the last day of the calendar quarter in which we increase our ownership of securities in such issuer, including as a result of increasing our interest in pass-through subsidiaries. An example of such an acquisition would be an increase in our interest in RLJ LP as a result of the exercise of a limited partner’s redemption right relating to units in RLJ LP or an additional capital contribution to RLJ LP of proceeds from an offering of shares by us. After initially meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, we will not lose our qualification as a REIT for failure to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a later quarter solely by reason of changes in asset values (including a failure caused solely by a change in the foreign currency exchange rate

used to value a foreign asset). If we fail to satisfy the asset tests because we acquire assets during a quarter, we can cure this failure by disposing of sufficient non-qualifying assets or acquiring sufficient qualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. We intend to continue to maintain adequate records of the value of our assets to ensure compliance with the asset tests and to take any available action within 30 days after the close of any quarter as may be required to cure any non-compliance with the asset tests. Although

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we plan to take steps to ensure that we satisfy such tests for any quarter with respect to which testing is to occur, there can be no assurance that such steps always will be successful. If we fail to timely cure any non-compliance with the asset tests, we would cease to qualify as a REIT, unless we satisfy certain relief provisions.

The failure to satisfy the 5% asset test, or the 10% vote or value asset tests, can be remedied even after the 30-day cure period under certain circumstances. Specifically, if we fail these asset tests at the end of any quarter and such failure is not cured within 30 days thereafter, we may dispose of sufficient assets (generally within six months after the last day of the quarter in which our identification of the failure to satisfy these asset tests occurred) in order to cure such a violation that does not exceed the lesser of 1% of our assets at the end of the relevant quarter or \$10,000,000. If we fail any of the other asset tests or our failure of the 5% and 10% asset tests results in a violation in excess of the de minimis amount described above, as long as such failure was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, we are permitted to avoid disqualification as a REIT, after the 30-day cure period, by taking steps including disposing of sufficient assets to meet the asset test (generally within six months after the last day of the quarter in which our identification of the failure to satisfy the REIT asset test occurred), paying a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate income tax rate (currently 35%) of the net income generated by the non-qualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset test, and filing, in accordance with applicable Treasury regulations, a schedule with the IRS that describes the assets that caused us to fail to satisfy the asset test(s). We intend to take advantage of any and all relief provisions that are available to us in order to cure any violation of the asset tests applicable to REITs. In certain circumstances, utilization of such provisions could result in us being required to pay an excise or penalty tax, which tax could be significant in amount.

### ***Annual Distribution Requirements***

In order to qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to our shareholders in an amount at least equal to:

- the sum of: (1) 90% of our “REIT taxable income,” computed without regard to our net capital gain and the deduction for dividends paid, and (2) 90% of our net income, after tax, if any, from foreclosure property; minus
- the sum of specified items of “non-cash income.”

For purposes of this test, “non-cash income” means income attributable to (1) leveled stepped rents, (2) original issue discount included in our taxable income without the receipt of a corresponding payment, (3) cancellation of indebtedness, or (4) a like-kind exchange that later is determined to be taxable.

We generally must make dividend distributions in the taxable year to which they relate. Dividend distributions may be made in the following year in two circumstances. First, we may declare a dividend in October, November, or December of any year with a record date in one of these months if we pay the dividend on or before January 31 of the following year. Such distributions are treated as both paid by us and received by our shareholders on December 31 of the year in which they are declared. Second, distributions may be made in the following year if they are declared before we timely file our tax return for the year and if made with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration. These distributions are taxable to our shareholders in the year in which paid, even though the distributions relate to our prior taxable year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement.

In order for distributions to be counted as satisfying the annual distribution requirement for REITs, and to provide us with a REIT-level dividends paid deduction, the distributions must not be “preferential dividends.” A distribution is not a preferential dividend if the distribution is (1) pro rata among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class, and (2) in accordance with the preferences among different classes of shares as set forth in our organizational documents.

To the extent that we distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our “REIT taxable income,” as adjusted, we will be subject to tax at ordinary corporate tax rates on the retained portion. We may elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net long-term capital gain and pay tax on such gain. In this case, we could elect for our shareholders to include their proportionate share of such undistributed long-term capital gain in their taxable income, and for them to receive a corresponding credit for their share of the tax that we paid. Our shareholders

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would then increase the adjusted basis of their share by the difference between (1) the amount of capital gain dividends that we designated and that they included in their taxable income, minus (2) the tax that we paid on their behalf with respect to that income.

To the extent that in the future we may have available net operating losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, (1) generally will not affect the character, in the hands of our shareholders, of any distributions that actually are made as ordinary dividends or capital gain; and (2) cannot be passed through or used by our shareholders. See “—Federal Income Taxation of Our Shareholders—Taxation of Taxable U.S. Shareholders—Distributions Generally.”

If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the sum of (a) the amount actually distributed, and (b) the amount of income we retained and on which we paid corporate income tax.

In addition, if we were to recognize “built-in-gain” (as defined below) on the disposition of any assets acquired from a C corporation in a transaction in which our basis in the assets was determined by reference to the C corporation’s basis (for instance, if the assets were acquired in a tax-free reorganization), we would be required to distribute at least 90% of the built-in-gain, net of the tax we would pay on such gain. “Built-in-gain” is the excess of (1) the fair market value of the asset (measured at the time of acquisition) over (2) the tax basis of the asset (measured at the time of acquisition).

We currently intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements. RLJ LP's partnership agreement authorizes us, as general partner, to take such steps as may be necessary to cause RLJ LP to distribute to its partners an amount sufficient to permit us to meet these distribution requirements. Our subsidiary REITs may use consent dividends, in addition to cash dividends, in order to satisfy all or a portion of their distribution requirements.

It is possible that, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash with which to meet the distribution requirements due to timing differences between our actual receipt of cash, including receipt of distributions from our subsidiaries, and our inclusion of items in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes or for other reasons. If we do not have sufficient cash to meet our distribution requirements, it might be necessary for us to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings, or to pay dividends in the form of taxable in-kind distributions of property. Alternatively, we may declare a taxable dividend payable in cash or shares at the election of each shareholder, where the aggregate amount of cash to be distributed as part of such dividend may be subject to limitation.

We may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements for a particular tax year by paying "deficiency dividends" to shareholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. In this case, we may be able to avoid losing REIT qualification or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. We will be required to pay interest to the IRS based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

We calculate our REIT taxable income based upon the conclusion that the lessor is the owner of the hotels for federal income tax purposes. As a result, we expect that the depreciation deductions with respect to the hotels owned by the lessors will reduce our REIT taxable income. This conclusion is consistent with the conclusion discussed above that the leases with respect to our hotels have been and will continue to be treated as true leases for federal income tax purposes. If, however, the IRS were to challenge successfully this position, in addition to failing in all likelihood the 75% and 95% gross income tests described above, we also might be deemed retroactively to have failed to meet the REIT distribution requirements and would have to rely on the payment of a "deficiency dividend" in order to retain REIT status.

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### ***Record-Keeping Requirements***

We are required to maintain records and request on an annual basis information from specified shareholders. These requirements are designed to assist us in determining the actual ownership of our outstanding shares and in maintaining our qualification as a REIT. Failure to comply therewith could result in monetary fines.

### ***Failure to Qualify as a REIT***

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification other than the gross income or asset tests, we could avoid disqualification if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure. Relief provisions are available for failures of the gross income tests and asset tests, as described above in "—Gross Income Tests" and "—Asset Tests."

If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions described above do not apply, we would be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate tax rates. We could not deduct distributions to shareholders in any year in which we were not a REIT, and we would not be required to make distributions in such a year. The cash available for distribution to our shareholders would be reduced significantly and the value of our shares could be reduced materially. Any distributions to shareholders would be taxable as regular corporate dividends to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Unless we were entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we also would be disqualified from re-electing to be treated as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we lost qualification. In addition, if we merge with another REIT, and we are the "successor" to the other REIT, the other REIT's disqualification from taxation as a REIT would prevent us from being taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which the other REIT's qualification was lost. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we would be entitled to statutory relief, although we intend to take advantage of any and all relief provisions that are available to us to cure any violation of the requirements applicable to REITs.

### **Tax Aspects of RLJ LP and Our Other Subsidiary Partnerships**

#### ***General***

Substantially all of our assets are owned indirectly through RLJ LP, which owns hotels either directly or through certain subsidiaries (including through the subsidiary REITs). This discussion focuses on the tax aspects of RLJ's ownership of its hotel properties through partnerships and entities, such as limited liability companies, that are treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. In general, partnerships are "pass-through" entities that are not subject to federal income tax. Rather, partners are allocated their proportionate shares of the items of income, gain, loss, deduction and credit of a partnership, and potentially are subject to tax thereon, without regard to whether the partners receive a distribution from the partnership. We include in our gross income our proportionate share of partnership items for purposes of the gross income tests and in the computation of our REIT taxable income. Moreover, for purposes of the REIT asset tests, we include our proportionate share of assets held through RLJ LP and those of its subsidiaries that either are disregarded as separate entities or treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. See "—Effect of Subsidiary Entities—Ownership of Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies and Qualified REIT Subsidiaries" above.

#### ***Entity Classification***

If RLJ LP or any non-corporate subsidiary were treated as an association, the entity would be taxable as a corporation and, therefore, would be subject to federal income tax on its taxable income. In such a situation, the character of our assets and items of gross income would change and could preclude us from qualifying as a REIT (see "—Asset Tests" and "—Gross Income Tests" above).

We assume for purposes of this discussion that RLJ LP and all of its subsidiaries (other than our TRSs and the subsidiary REITs) are classified as partnerships or disregarded as separate entities for federal income tax purposes. Pursuant to Treasury regulations under Section 7701 of the Code, a partnership will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes unless it elects to be treated as a corporation or would be treated as a corporation because it is a "publicly traded partnership."

Neither RLJ LP nor any of its non-corporate subsidiaries that is not a TRS has elected or will elect to be treated as a corporation. Therefore, subject to the disclosure below, RLJ LP and each such subsidiary will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes (or, if such an entity only has one partner or member, a disregarded entity for federal income tax purposes).

Pursuant to Section 7704 of the Code, a partnership that does not elect to be treated as a corporation nevertheless will be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes if it is a “publicly traded partnership” and it does not derive at least 90% of its gross income from certain specified sources of “qualifying income” within the meaning of that section. A “publicly traded partnership” is any partnership (i) the interests of which are traded on an established securities market, or (ii) the interests of which are readily tradable on a “secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof.” RLJ LP units currently are not and in the future will not be traded on an established securities market. There is a significant risk, however, that the RLJ LP units could be considered readily tradable on the substantial equivalent of a secondary market. In that event, RLJ LP could be treated as a “publicly traded partnership,” but even then it only would be taxable as a corporation if less than 90% of its gross income were to constitute “qualifying income.” Treasury regulations under Section 7704 of the Code set forth certain “safe harbors” under which interests will not be treated as “readily tradable on a secondary market (or the substantial equivalent thereof)” within the meaning of Section 7704 of the Code (the “Safe Harbors”).

“Qualifying income,” for purposes of the “qualifying income” exception, generally is real property rents and other types of passive income. We believe that RLJ LP has had and will continue to have sufficient qualifying gross income so that it would be taxed as a partnership even if it were considered a publicly traded partnership. The gross income requirements applicable to us in order for us to qualify as a REIT under the Code and the definition of qualifying income under the publicly traded partnership rules are very similar. Although differences exist between these two income tests, we do not believe that these differences would cause RLJ LP not to satisfy the 90% gross income test applicable to publicly traded partnerships.

If RLJ LP were taxable as a corporation, most, if not all, of the tax consequences described herein would be inapplicable. In particular, we would not qualify as a REIT because the value of our ownership interest in RLJ LP would exceed 5% of our assets and we would be considered to hold more than 10% of the voting securities (and more than 10% of the value of the outstanding securities) of another corporation (see “—Asset Tests” above). In this event, the value of our shares could be materially adversely affected (see “—Failure to Qualify as a REIT” above).

Except with regard to the exercise of the right to redeem RLJ LP units and certain “permitted transfers” (generally among related individuals or entities) under RLJ LP’s partnership agreement, no limited partner may transfer RLJ LP units without our prior written consent, as general partner of RLJ LP, which consent may be withheld in our sole discretion. RLJ LP’s partnership agreement provides that we shall take such actions, if any, that are reasonably necessary or appropriate to prevent RLJ LP from being classified as a publicly traded partnership and, except as provided otherwise in the partnership agreement, to permit RLJ LP to insure that at least one of the Safe Harbors is met. We may exercise our authority, as general partner, under the partnership agreement to impose limitations on the right to redeem RLJ LP units only to the extent that outside tax counsel provides to us an opinion to the effect that, in the absence of such limitation or restriction, there is a significant risk that RLJ LP will be treated as a publicly traded partnership and, by reason thereof, taxable as a corporation. These limitations, if imposed, could adversely affect the interests of holders of RLJ LP units.

#### *Partnership Tax Allocations*

A partnership agreement generally will determine the allocation of income and loss among partners. However, such allocations will be disregarded for federal income tax purposes if they do not comply with the provisions of Section 704(b) of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Generally, Section 704(b) of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder require that partnership allocations respect the economic arrangement of the partners.

If an allocation is not recognized for federal income tax purposes, the item subject to the allocation will be reallocated in accordance with the partners’ interests in the partnership, which will be determined by taking into account all of the facts and circumstances relating to the economic arrangement of the partners with respect to such

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item. The allocations of taxable income and loss provided for in RLJ LP’s partnership agreement and the partnership agreements and operating agreements of the non-corporate subsidiaries are intended to comply with the requirements of Section 704(b) of the Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

#### *Tax Allocations with Respect to the Hotels*

Pursuant to Section 704(c) of the Code, income, gain, loss and deduction attributable to appreciated or depreciated property, such as the hotels, that is contributed to a partnership in exchange for an interest therein must be allocated in a manner such that the contributing partner is charged with, or benefits from, the difference between the adjusted tax basis and the fair market value of such property at the time of contribution. This difference is known as built-in gain or built-in loss. RLJ LP’s partnership agreement requires that such allocations be made in a manner consistent with Section 704(c) of the Code. In general, the partners of RLJ LP, including us, who contributed appreciated assets with built-in gain are allocated depreciation deductions for federal income tax purposes that are lower than such deductions would be if determined on a pro rata basis. Thus, the carryover basis of the contributed assets in the hands of RLJ LP may cause us to be allocated lower depreciation and other deductions, and therefore to be effectively allocated more income, which might adversely affect our ability to comply with the REIT distribution requirements and/or cause a higher proportion of our distributions to our shareholders to be taxed as dividends. See “—Annual Distribution Requirements” above.

In addition, in the event of the disposition of any of the contributed assets with built-in gain, all income attributable to the built-in gain generally will be allocated to the contributing partners, even though the proceeds of such sale would be distributed proportionately among all the partners and could be retained by us rather than distributed to our shareholders. Thus, if RLJ LP were to sell a hotel with built-in gain that was contributed to RLJ LP by us, we generally would be allocated all of the income attributable to the built-in gain, which amount could exceed the economic, or “book,” income allocated to us as a result of such sale. Such an allocation might cause us to recognize taxable income in excess of cash proceeds, which might adversely affect our ability to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. It should be noted that, as the general partner of RLJ LP, we will determine whether or not to sell a hotel that we contributed to RLJ LP.

As the general partner of RLJ LP, we have the authority to elect the method to be used to account for built-in gain with respect to assets contributed to RLJ LP. Any property purchased by RLJ LP initially will have an adjusted tax basis equal to its fair market value, and Section 704(c) of the Code will not

apply.

## **Federal Income Taxation of Our Shareholders**

The following discussion describes the material federal income tax consequences to you of owning and disposing of our shares. This summary does not address state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences.

This discussion assumes that you hold our shares as “capital assets” (generally, property held for investment within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code). This discussion is not intended to constitute, and should not be construed as, tax advice and does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular investor in light of its investment or tax circumstances, or to investors subject to special tax rules, including:

- tax-exempt organizations, except to the extent discussed below in “—Taxation of Tax-Exempt U.S. Shareholders”;
- broker-dealers;
- traders in securities that elect to mark to market;
- trusts, estates, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, financial institutions, insurance companies or S corporations;
- investors subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code;

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- investors that hold their shares as part of a “hedge,” “straddle,” “conversion transaction,” “synthetic security,” or other integrated investment;
  - investors that hold their shares through a partnership or similar pass-through entity;
  - holders who receive our shares through the exercise of employee share options or otherwise as compensation;
  - persons holding 10% or more (by vote or value) of our outstanding shares, except to the extent discussed below;
  - non-U.S. shareholders (as defined below), except to the extent discussed below in “—Federal Income Taxation of Our Shareholders —Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders”;
  - foreign (non-U.S.) governments;
  - persons with a “functional currency” other than the U.S. dollar;
  - U.S. expatriates; or
  - investors who are otherwise subject to special tax treatment under the Code.

For purposes of this discussion, a U.S. shareholder is a beneficial owner of our shares that for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (including an entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of a political subdivision thereof (including the District of Columbia);
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- any trust if (1) a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (2) it has a valid election in place to be treated as a U.S. person.

If an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our shares, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A partner of a partnership holding our shares should consult its own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences to the partner of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our shares by the partnership.

If you hold our shares and are not a U.S. shareholder or an entity or arrangement that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you are a non-U.S. shareholder.

### ***Taxation of Taxable U.S. Shareholders***

This section summarizes the U.S. federal income taxation of U.S. shareholders that are not tax-exempt organizations.

#### ***Distributions Generally***

The distributions that we make to our taxable U.S. shareholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits that we do not designate as capital gain dividends or as qualified dividend income will be taken into account

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by shareholders as ordinary income when actually or constructively received. As long as we qualify as a REIT, these distributions will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction for U.S. shareholders that are corporations. In determining the extent to which a distribution with respect to our shares constitutes a dividend for federal income tax purposes, our earnings and profits will be allocated first to distributions with respect to our preferred shares, if any, and then to our common shares. Except for dividends that we designate as qualified dividend income, dividends received from REITs are not eligible to be taxed at the preferential qualified dividend income tax rates currently available to individual U.S. shareholders who receive dividends from taxable C corporations.

Distributions from us in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a U.S. shareholder to the extent that they do not exceed the adjusted basis of the U.S. shareholder's shares in respect of which the distributions were made. Rather, the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of these shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a U.S. shareholder's shares, the U.S. shareholder generally must include such distributions in income as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less. In addition, any dividend that we declare in October, November or December of any year and that is payable to a shareholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the shareholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the dividend before the end of January of the following calendar year.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses and capital losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See "Federal Income Taxation of the Company as a REIT—Annual Distribution Requirements." Such losses, however, are not passed through to U.S. shareholders and may not be used to offset income of U.S. shareholders from other sources on their income tax returns. Such losses would not affect the character of any distributions that we make, which generally are subject to tax in the hands of U.S. shareholders to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits.

### *Capital Gain Dividends*

We may elect to designate distributions of our net capital gain as "capital gain dividends." Distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends generally will be taxed to U.S. shareholders as long-term capital gain, without regard to the period during which the U.S. shareholder that receives such distribution has held its shares, to the extent that such gain does not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year. Designations made by us only will be effective to the extent that they comply with Revenue Ruling 89-81, which requires that distributions made to different classes of shares be composed proportionately of dividends of a particular type. If we designate any portion of a dividend as a capital gain dividend, a U.S. shareholder will receive an IRS Form 1099-DIV indicating the amount that will be taxable to the U.S. shareholder as capital gain. Corporate U.S. shareholders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Recipients of capital gain dividends from us that are taxed at corporate income tax rates will be taxed at the normal corporate income tax rates on these dividends.

We may elect to retain and pay taxes on some or all of our net long term capital gain, in which case U.S. shareholders will be treated as having received, solely for U.S. federal income tax purposes, our undistributed capital gain as well as a corresponding credit or refund, as the case may be, for taxes that we paid on such undistributed capital gain. The U.S. shareholder will increase the basis in its shares by the difference between the amount of capital gain included in its income and the amount of tax it is deemed to have paid. Our earnings and profits, and the earnings and profits of U.S. shareholders that are corporations, will be adjusted for the undistributed capital gains in accordance with Treasury regulations to be prescribed by the IRS. See "—Annual Distribution Requirements."

We will classify portions of any designated capital gain dividend or undistributed capital gain as either:

- a long-term capital gain distribution, which would be taxable to non-corporate U.S. shareholders at a maximum rate of up to 23.8% (which rate takes into account the maximum capital gain rate of 20% and the 3.8% Medicare tax on net investment income, described below under "—

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Investment Income"), and taxable to U.S. shareholders that are corporations at a maximum rate of 35%; or

- an "unrecaptured Section 1250 gain" distribution, which would be taxable to non-corporate U.S. shareholders at a maximum rate of 25%, to the extent of previously claimed real property depreciation deductions.

### *Qualified Dividend Income*

We may elect to designate a portion of our distributions paid to such U.S. shareholders as "qualified dividend income." A portion of a distribution that is properly designated as qualified dividend income is taxable to non-corporate U.S. shareholders as capital gain, provided that the U.S. shareholder has held the shares with respect to which the distribution is made for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the date on which such shares became ex-dividend with respect to the relevant distribution. The maximum amount of our distributions eligible to be designated as qualified dividend income for a taxable year is equal to the sum of:

- the qualified dividend income received by us during such taxable year from non-REIT corporations (including any TRS in which we own an interest);
- the excess of any "undistributed" REIT taxable income recognized during the immediately preceding year over the U.S. federal income tax paid by us with respect to such undistributed REIT taxable income; and
- the excess of any income recognized during the immediately preceding year attributable to the sale of a built-in-gain asset that was acquired in a carry-over basis transaction from a non-REIT C corporation over the U.S. federal income tax paid by us with respect to such built-in gain.

Generally, dividends that we receive will be treated as qualified dividend income for purposes of the first bullet above if (1) the dividends are received from (a) a U.S. corporation (other than a REIT or a RIC), (b) any TRS that we may form, or (c) a "qualifying foreign corporation," and (2) specified holding period requirements and other requirements are met. If we designate any portion of a dividend as qualified dividend income, a U.S. shareholder will receive an IRS Form 1099-DIV indicating the amount that will be taxable to the holder as qualified dividend income.

### *Passive Activity Losses and Investment Interest Limitations*

Distributions made by us and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. shareholder of our shares will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. shareholders will not be able to apply any “passive losses” against income or gain relating to our shares. Distributions made by us, to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital, generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation. A U.S. shareholder that elects to treat capital gain dividends, capital gain from the disposition of shares, or qualified dividend income as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitation will be taxed at ordinary income rates on such amounts. We intend to notify U.S. shareholders regarding the portions of distributions for each year that constitute ordinary income, return of capital and capital gain in compliance with the applicable IRS guidance.

#### *Distributions to Holders of Depositary Shares*

Owners of depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were owners of the underlying preferred shares represented by such depositary shares. Accordingly, such owners will be entitled to take into account, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, income and deductions to which they would be entitled if they were direct holders of underlying preferred shares. In addition, (i) no gain or loss will be recognized for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the withdrawal of certificates evidencing the underlying preferred shares in exchange for depositary receipts, (ii) the tax basis of each share of the underlying preferred shares to an exchanging owner of depositary shares will, upon such exchange, be the same as the aggregate tax basis of the

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depositary shares exchanged therefor, and (iii) the holding period for the underlying preferred shares in the hands of an exchanging owner of depositary shares will include the period during which such person owned such depositary shares.

#### *Dispositions of Our Shares*

In general, a U.S. shareholder will realize gain or loss upon the sale, redemption or other taxable disposition of our shares in an amount equal to the difference between the sum of the fair market value of any property and the amount of cash received in such disposition and the U.S. shareholder’s adjusted tax basis in the shares at the time of the disposition. In general, a U.S. shareholder’s adjusted basis will equal the U.S. shareholder’s acquisition cost, increased by the excess for net capital gain deemed distributed to the U.S. shareholder (discussed above) less tax deemed paid on it and reduced by returns of capital.

In general, capital gain recognized by individuals and other non-corporate U.S. shareholders upon the sale or disposition of our shares will be subject to a maximum federal income tax rate of up to 23.8% (which rate takes into account the maximum capital gain rate of 20% and the 3.8% Medicare tax on net investment income, described below), if our shares are held for more than one year, and will be taxed at ordinary income tax rates of up to 43.4% (which rate takes into account the maximum ordinary income tax rate of 39.6% and the 3.8% Medicare tax on net investment income, described below) if the shares are held for one year or less. Gains recognized by U.S. shareholders that are corporations are subject to federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not such gains are classified as long-term capital gain or ordinary income.

A capital loss recognized by a U.S. shareholder upon the disposition of our shares that were held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered a long-term capital loss, which generally is available only to offset capital gain of the shareholder, but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of our shares by a U.S. shareholder who has held the shares for six months or less, after applying holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions that we make that are required to be treated by the U.S. shareholder as long-term capital gain.

#### *Redemption of Preferred Shares and Depositary Shares*

Whenever we redeem any preferred shares held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing the preferred shares so redeemed. The treatment accorded to any redemption by us for cash (as distinguished from a sale, exchange or other disposition) of our preferred shares to a holder of such preferred shares can only be determined on the basis of the particular facts as to each holder at the time of redemption. In general, a holder of our preferred shares will recognize capital gain or loss measured by the difference between the amount received by the holder of such shares upon the redemption and such holder’s adjusted tax basis in the preferred shares redeemed (provided the preferred shares are held as a capital asset) if such redemption (i) is “not essentially equivalent to a dividend” with respect to the holder of the preferred shares under Section 302(b)(1) of the Code, (ii) is a “substantially disproportionate” redemption with respect to the shareholder under Section 302(b)(2) of the Code, or (iii) results in a “complete termination” of the holder’s interest in all classes of our shares under Section 302(b)(3) of the Code. In applying these tests, there must be taken into account not only any series or class of the preferred shares being redeemed, but also such holder’s ownership of other classes of our shares and any options (including stock purchase rights) to acquire any of the foregoing. The holder of our preferred shares also must take into account any such securities (including options) which are considered to be owned by such holder by reason of the constructive ownership rules set forth in Sections 318 and 302(c) of the Code.

If the holder of preferred shares owns (actually or constructively) none of our voting shares, or owns an insubstantial amount of our voting shares, based upon current law, it is probable that the redemption of preferred shares from such a holder would be considered to be “not essentially equivalent to a dividend.” However, whether a distribution is “not essentially equivalent to a dividend” depends on all of the facts and circumstances, and a holder of our preferred shares intending to rely on any of these tests at the time of redemption should consult its tax advisor to determine their application to its particular situation.

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Satisfaction of the “substantially disproportionate” and “complete termination” exceptions is dependent upon compliance with the respective objective tests set forth in Section 302(b)(2) and Section 302(b)(3) of the Code. A distribution to a holder of preferred shares will be “substantially disproportionate” if the percentage of our outstanding voting shares actually and constructively owned by the shareholder immediately following the redemption of preferred shares (treating preferred shares redeemed as not outstanding) is less than 80% of the percentage of our outstanding voting shares actually and constructively owned by the shareholder immediately before the redemption, and immediately following the redemption the shareholder actually and constructively owns less than 50% of the total combined voting power of the Company. Because the Company’s preferred shares are nonvoting shares, a shareholder would have to reduce such holder’s holdings (if any) in our classes of voting shares to satisfy this test.



If the redemption does not meet any of the tests under Section 302 of the Code, then the redemption proceeds received from our preferred shares will be treated as a distribution on our shares as described under “Federal Income Taxation of Our Shareholders—Taxation of Taxable U.S. Shareholders—Distributions Generally,” and “—Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders—Distributions Generally.” If the redemption of a holder’s preferred shares is taxed as a dividend, the adjusted basis of such holder’s redeemed preferred shares will be transferred to any other shares held by the holder. If the holder owns no other shares, under certain circumstances, such basis may be transferred to a related person, or it may be lost entirely.

With respect to a redemption of our preferred shares that is treated as a distribution with respect to our shares, which is not otherwise taxable as a dividend, the IRS has proposed Treasury regulations that would require any basis reduction associated with such a redemption to be applied on a share-by-share basis which could result in taxable gain with respect to some shares, even though the holder’s aggregate basis for the shares would be sufficient to absorb the entire amount of the redemption distribution (in excess of any amount of such distribution treated as a dividend). Additionally, these proposed Treasury regulations would not permit the transfer of basis in the redeemed shares of the preferred shares to the remaining shares held (directly or indirectly) by the redeemed holder. Instead, the unrecovered basis in our preferred shares would be treated as a deferred loss to be recognized when certain conditions are satisfied. These proposed Treasury regulations would be effective for transactions that occur after the date the regulations are published as final Treasury regulations. There can, however, be no assurance as to whether, when, and in what particular form such proposed Treasury regulations will ultimately be finalized.

#### *Medicare Tax on Net Investment Income*

High-income U.S. individuals, estates, and trusts are subject to an additional 3.8% tax on net investment income in tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013. Net investment income, for this purpose, includes dividends and gain from the sale of stock. In the case of an individual, the tax will be 3.8% of the lesser of the individual’s net investment income or the excess of the individual’s modified adjusted gross income over an amount equal to (1) \$250,000, in the case of a married individual filing a joint return or a surviving spouse, (2) \$125,000, in the case of a married individual filing a separate return, or (3) \$200,000 in the case of a single individual.

U.S. shareholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this legislation on their ownership and disposition of our shares.

#### *Withholding on Payments in Respect of Certain Foreign Accounts*

Certain future payments made to “foreign financial institutions” and “non-financial foreign entities” may be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%. U.S. shareholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this withholding provision on their ownership and disposition of our shares. See “—Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders—Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act.”

#### *Information Reporting Requirements and Backup Withholding*

We will report to our shareholders and to the IRS the amount of dividends we pay during each calendar year and the amount of tax we withhold, if any. Generally, dividend payments are not subject to withholding;

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however, they may be subject to backup withholding. A shareholder may be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 28% with respect to dividends, unless the holder:

- is a corporation or is considered exempt therefrom pursuant to certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact; or
- provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding, and otherwise complies with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules.

A shareholder who does not provide us with its correct taxpayer identification number also may be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the shareholder’s U.S. federal income tax liability. In addition, we may be required to withhold a portion of any capital gain dividends paid to any shareholders who fail to certify their non-foreign status to us. For a discussion of the backup withholding rules as applied to non-U.S. shareholders, see “—Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders.”

#### ***Taxation of Tax-Exempt U.S. Shareholders***

U.S. tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from federal income taxation. Such entities, however, may be subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income, or UBTI. While some investments in real estate may generate UBTI, the IRS has ruled that dividend distributions from a REIT to a tax-exempt entity generally do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, and provided that (1) a tax-exempt shareholder has not held our shares as “debt financed property” within the meaning of the Code (i.e., where the acquisition or holding of the property is financed through a borrowing by the U.S. tax-exempt shareholder), and (2) our shares are not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, dividend income from us and gain from the sale of our shares generally should not give rise to UBTI to a U.S. tax-exempt shareholder.

Tax-exempt U.S. shareholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) or (c)(20) of the Code, respectively, or single parent title-holding corporations exempt under Section 501(c)(2) of the Code whose income is payable to any of the aforementioned tax-exempt organizations, are subject to different UBTI rules. These rules generally require such shareholders to characterize distributions from us as UBTI unless the organization is able to claim properly a deduction for amounts set aside or placed in reserve for certain purposes so as to offset the income generated by its investment in our shares. These shareholders should consult with their own tax advisors concerning these set aside and reserve requirements.

In certain circumstances, a pension trust (1) that is described in Section 401(a) of the Code, (2) that is tax exempt under Section 501(a) of the Code, and (3) that owns more than 10% of our shares, could be required to treat a percentage of the dividends as UBTI, if we are a “pension-held REIT.” We will not be a pension-held REIT unless:

- either (1) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our shares, or (2) one or more pension trusts, each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our shares, collectively own more than 50% of the value of our shares; and
- we would not have qualified as a REIT but for the fact that Section 856(h)(3) of the Code provides that shares owned by such trusts shall be treated as owned by the beneficiaries of such trusts for purposes of the requirement that not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding shares of a REIT may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer “individuals” (as defined in the Code to include certain entities).

As a result of restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our shares contained in our declaration of trust, we do not expect to be classified as a “pension-held REIT,” and, as a result, the tax treatment described above should be inapplicable to our shareholders. However, because our shares are publicly traded, we cannot guarantee that this always will be the case.

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Tax-exempt U.S. shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign income and other tax consequences of owning our shares.

### ***Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders***

The following is a discussion of rules governing the federal income tax taxation of the ownership and disposition of our shares by our non-U.S. shareholders. For purposes of this summary, a “non-U.S. shareholder” is a beneficial owner of our shares that is not a U.S. shareholder (as defined above under “Federal Income Taxation of Our Shareholders”) or an entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. These rules are complex, and no attempt is made herein to provide more than a brief summary of such rules. Accordingly, the discussion does not address all aspects of federal income taxation, and we urge non-U.S. shareholders to consult with their tax advisors regarding the effect of federal, state, local and non-U.S. income tax laws on the ownership and disposition of our shares.

#### *Distributions Generally*

As described in the discussion below, distributions made by us with respect to our common shares, preferred shares and depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as:

- ordinary income dividends;
- return of capital distributions; or
- long-term capital gain.

This discussion assumes that our shares will continue to be considered regularly traded on an established securities market for purposes of the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980, or FIRPTA, provisions described below. If our shares no longer are regularly traded on an established securities market, the tax consequences described below would materially differ.

#### *Ordinary Income Dividends*

A distribution made by us to a non-U.S. shareholder will be treated as an ordinary income dividend if the distribution is payable out of our earnings and profits and:

- is not attributable to our net capital gain, or
- the distribution is attributable to our net capital gain from the sale of “U.S. real property interests,” or USRPIs, and the non-U.S. shareholder owns 5% or less of the value of a class of our shares at all times during the one year period ending on the date of the distribution.

In general, non-U.S. shareholders will not be considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of their ownership of our shares. In cases where the dividend income from a non-U.S. shareholder’s investment in our shares is, or is treated as, effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder’s conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. shareholder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at graduated rates in the same manner as U.S. shareholders are taxed with respect to such dividends. Such income generally must be reported on a U.S. income tax return filed by or on behalf of the non-U.S. shareholder. The income also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a non-U.S. shareholder that is a corporation.

Generally, we will withhold and remit to the IRS 30% of dividend distributions (including distributions that later may be determined to have been made in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits) that could not be treated as FIRPTA gain distributions with respect to the non-U.S. shareholder (and that are not deemed to be capital gain dividends for purposes of FIRPTA withholding rules described below) unless:

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- a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. shareholder files with us an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E evidencing eligibility for that reduced treaty rate;
  - the non-U.S. shareholder files an IRS Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is income effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder’s trade or business; or
  - the non-U.S. shareholder is a foreign sovereign or controlled entity of a foreign sovereign and also provides an IRS Form W-8EXP claiming an exemption from withholding under section 892 of the Code.

Tax treaties may reduce the withholding obligations on our distributions. Under most tax treaties, however, taxation rates below 30% that are applicable to ordinary income dividends from U.S. corporations may not apply to ordinary income dividends from a REIT or may apply only if the REIT

meets certain additional requirements. If the amount of tax withheld with respect to a distribution to a non-U.S. shareholder exceeds the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability with respect to the distribution, the non-U.S. shareholder may file for a refund of the excess from the IRS.

### *Return of Capital Distributions*

Unless (A) our shares constitute a USRPI, as described in “—Dispositions of Our Shares” below, or (B) either (1) the non-U.S. shareholder's investment in our shares is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. shareholder (in which case the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. shareholders with respect to such gain), or (2) the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a “tax home” in the U.S. (in which case the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's net capital gain for the year), distributions that we make which are not dividends out of our earnings and profits and are not FIRPTA gain distributions will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. If we cannot determine at the time a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. The non-U.S. shareholder may seek a refund from the IRS of any amounts withheld if it subsequently is determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. If our shares constitute a USRPI, as described below, distributions that we make in excess of the sum of (1) the non-U.S. shareholder's proportionate share of our earnings and profits, and (2) the non-U.S. shareholder's basis in its shares, will be taxed under FIRPTA at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gain rates, that would apply to a U.S. shareholder of the same type (e.g., an individual or a corporation, as the case may be), and the collection of the tax will be enforced by a refundable withholding tax at a rate of 10% of the amount by which the distribution exceeds the non-U.S. shareholder's share of our earnings and profits.

### *Capital Gain Dividends*

Subject to the discussion below under the section titled “—FIRPTA Distributions,” a distribution made by us to a non-U.S. shareholder will be treated as long-term capital gain if the distribution is made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution is attributable to our net capital gain (other than from the sale of a USRPI) and we timely designate the distribution as a capital gain dividend.

Long-term capital gain that a non-U.S. shareholder is deemed to receive from a capital gain dividend that is not attributable to the sale of a USRPI generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the hands of the non-U.S. shareholder unless:

- the non-U.S. shareholder's investment in our shares is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. shareholder, in which case the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. shareholders with respect to any such gain, except that a non-U.S. shareholder that is a corporation also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax; or
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- the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a “tax home” in the United States, in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on any such capital gains.

### *FIRPTA Distributions*

From time to time, some of our distributions may be of amounts attributable to gain from the sale or exchange of USRPIs. Such distributions to a non-U.S. shareholder generally will be subject to the taxation and withholding regime applicable to ordinary income dividends only if (1) dividends are received with respect to a class of shares that is “regularly traded” on a domestic “established securities market,” both as defined by applicable Treasury regulations, and (2) the non-U.S. shareholder does not own more than 5% of that class of shares at any time during the one year period ending on the date of distribution. If both of these conditions are satisfied, qualifying non-U.S. shareholders will not be subject to FIRPTA withholding or reporting with respect to such dividends, and will not be required to pay branch profits tax. Instead, these dividends will be subject to U.S. federal income tax and withholding as ordinary dividends, currently at a 30% tax rate, unless reduced by applicable treaty. Although there can be no assurance in this regard, we believe that our common shares are “regularly traded” on a domestic “established securities market” within the meaning of applicable Treasury regulations; however, we can provide no assurance that our common shares are or will continue to be “regularly traded” on a domestic “established securities market” in future taxable years.

Except as discussed above, for any year in which we qualify as a REIT, distributions that are attributable to gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI are taxed to a non-U.S. shareholder as if these distributions were gains effectively connected with a trade or business in the U.S. conducted by the non-U.S. shareholder. A non-U.S. shareholder that does not qualify for the special rule discussed above will be taxed on these amounts at the normal rates applicable to a U.S. shareholder and will be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return reporting these amounts. If such a non-U.S. shareholder is a corporation, it also may owe the 30% branch profits tax under Section 884 of the Code in respect of these amounts. We or other applicable withholding agents will be required to withhold from distributions to such non-U.S. shareholders, and to remit to the IRS 35% of the amount treated as gain from the sale or exchange of USRPIs. The amount of any tax so withheld is creditable against the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, and the non-U.S. shareholder may file for a refund from the IRS of any amount of withheld tax in excess of that tax liability.

### *Undistributed Capital Gain*

Although the law is not entirely clear on the matter, it appears that amounts designated by us as undistributed capital gains in respect of our shares held by non-U.S. shareholders generally should be treated in the same manner as actual distributions by us of capital gain dividends. Under this approach, the non-U.S. shareholder would be able to offset as a credit against its U.S. federal income tax liability resulting therefrom its proportionate share of the tax paid by us on the undistributed capital gains treated as long-term capital gains to the non-U.S. shareholder, and receive from the IRS a refund to the extent its proportionate share of the tax paid by us were to exceed the non-U.S. shareholder's actual U.S. federal income tax liability on such long-term capital gain. If we were to designate any portion of our net capital gain as undistributed capital gain, a non-U.S. shareholder should consult its tax advisors regarding taxation of such undistributed capital gain.

### *Dispositions of Our Shares*

Unless our shares constitute a USRPI, a sale of our shares by a non-U.S. shareholder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation under FIRPTA.

Generally, with respect to any particular shareholder, our shares will constitute a USRPI only if each of the following three statements is true.

- Fifty percent or more of our assets throughout a prescribed testing period consists of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding for this purpose, interests in real property solely in a capacity as creditor. We believe that 50% or more of our assets will consist of interests in U.S. real property.
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- We are not a “domestically-controlled qualified investment entity.” A domestically-controlled qualified investment entity includes a REIT less than 50% of the value of which is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. shareholders at all times during a specified testing period. Although we expect that we likely will be domestically-controlled, we cannot make any assurance that we are or will remain a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity.
- Either (a) our shares are not “regularly traded,” as defined by applicable Treasury regulations, on an established securities market; or (b) our shares are “regularly traded” on an established securities market but the selling non-U.S. shareholder has held over 5% of that outstanding class of shares any time during the five-year period ending on the date of the sale. We expect that our common shares will continue to be regularly traded on an established securities market.

Specific wash sale rules applicable to sales of shares in a domestically-controlled REIT could result in gain recognition, taxable under FIRPTA, upon the sale of our shares even if we are a domestically-controlled qualified investment entity. These rules would apply if a non-U.S. shareholder (1) disposes of our shares within a 30-day period preceding the ex-dividend date of a distribution, any portion of which, but for the disposition, would have been taxable to such non-U.S. shareholder as gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI, (2) acquires, or enters into a contract or option to acquire, other shares during the 61-day period that begins 30 days prior to such ex-dividend date, and (3) if our shares are “regularly traded” on an established securities market in the United States, such non-U.S. shareholder has owned more than 5% of such class of outstanding shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of such distribution.

If gain on the sale of our shares were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. shareholder would be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return and would be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. shareholder with respect to such gain, subject to the applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals, and the purchaser of the shares could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

Gain from the sale of our shares that otherwise would not be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. shareholder as follows: (1) if the non-U.S. shareholder’s investment in our shares is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. shareholder, the non-U.S. shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. shareholder with respect to such gain, or (2) if the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a “tax home” in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual’s capital gain.

#### *Backup Withholding and Information Reporting*

The sale of our shares by a non-U.S. shareholder through a non-U.S. office of a broker generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. The sale generally is subject to the same information reporting applicable to sales through a U.S. office of a U.S. or foreign broker if the sale of shares is effected at a non-U.S. office of a broker that is:

- a U.S. person;
  - a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. tax purposes;
  - a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business for a specified three-year period; or
  - a foreign partnership, if at any time during its tax year: (1) one or more of its partners are “U.S. persons,” as defined in U.S. Treasury regulations, who, in the aggregate, hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the foreign partnership; or (2) such foreign partnership is engaged in the conduct of a U.S. trade or business.
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Backup withholding generally does not apply if the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the applicable documentation requirements are satisfied. Generally, a non-U.S. shareholder satisfies the information reporting requirements by providing the IRS with Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts that we withhold under the backup withholding rules will be refunded or credited against the non-U.S. shareholder’s federal income tax liability if certain required information is furnished to the IRS. The application of information reporting and backup withholding varies depending on the shareholder’s particular circumstances and, therefore, a non-U.S. shareholder is advised to consult its tax advisor regarding applicable information reporting and backup withholding requirements.

#### *Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act*

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (“FATCA”) imposes a 30% withholding tax on dividends on, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our shares if paid to a foreign entity, unless either (i) the foreign entity is a “foreign financial institution” that undertakes certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations, or in the case of a foreign financial institution that is a resident in a jurisdiction that has entered into an intergovernmental agreement to implement FATCA, the entity complies with the diligence and reporting requirements of such agreement, (ii) the foreign entity is not a “foreign financial institution” and identifies certain of its U.S. investors, or (iii) the foreign entity otherwise is excepted under FATCA. The required withholding will begin July 1, 2014 with respect to dividends on our shares, and January 1, 2017 with respect to gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of our shares.

If withholding is required under FATCA on a payment related to our shares, investors that otherwise would not be subject to withholding (or that otherwise would be entitled to a reduced rate of withholding) generally will be required to seek a refund or credit from the IRS to obtain the benefit of such

exemption or reduction (provided that such benefit is available). Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect of FATCA in their particular circumstances.

## **Taxation of Holders of Our Warrants and Rights**

You will not generally recognize gain or loss upon the exercise of a warrant. Your basis in the preferred shares, depositary shares representing preferred shares or common shares, as the case may be, received upon the exercise of the warrant will be equal to the sum of your adjusted tax basis in the warrant and the exercise price paid. Your holding period in the preferred shares, depositary shares representing preferred shares or common shares, as the case may be, received upon the exercise of the warrant will not include the period during which the warrant was held by you. Upon the expiration of a warrant, you will recognize a capital loss in an amount equal to your adjusted tax basis in the warrant. Upon the sale or exchange of a warrant to a person other than us, you will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale or exchange and your adjusted tax basis in the warrant. Such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the warrant was held for more than one year. Upon the sale of the warrant to us, the IRS may argue that you should recognize ordinary income on the sale. You should consult your own tax advisors as to the consequences of a sale of a warrant to us.

In the event of a rights offering, the tax consequences of the receipt, expiration, and exercise of the rights we issue will be addressed in detail in a prospectus supplement. You should review the applicable prospectus supplement in connection with the ownership of any rights, and consult your own tax advisors as to the consequences of investing in the rights.

## **Other Tax Considerations**

### ***Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs***

The rules dealing with federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department. We cannot give you any assurances as to whether, or in what form, any proposals affecting REITs or their shareholders will be enacted. Changes to the federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our shares.

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### ***State, Local and Foreign Taxes***

We, our subsidiaries, and/or our shareholders may be subject to state, local or foreign taxation in various jurisdictions, including those in which we or they transact business, own property or reside. We own properties located in numerous U.S. jurisdictions and may be required to file tax returns in some or all of those jurisdictions. Our state and local tax treatment and the state, local and foreign tax treatment of our shareholders may not conform to the federal income tax treatment discussed above. Prospective shareholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the application and effect of state, local and foreign income and other tax laws on an investment in our shares and depositary shares.

A portion of our income is earned through our TRSs. The TRSs are subject to federal, state and local income tax at the full applicable corporate rates. In addition, a TRS will be limited in its ability to deduct interest payments in excess of a certain amount made directly or indirectly to us. To the extent that our TRSs and we are required to pay federal, state or local taxes, we will have less cash available for distribution to shareholders.

### ***Tax Shelter Reporting***

If a holder of our shares recognizes a loss as a result of a transaction with respect to our shares of at least (1) \$2 million or more in a single taxable year or \$4 million or more in a combination of taxable years, for a shareholder that is an individual, S corporation, trust, or a partnership with at least one non-corporate partner, or (2) \$10 million or more in a single taxable year or \$20 million or more in a combination of taxable years, for a shareholder that is either a corporation or a partnership with only corporate partners, such shareholder may be required to file a disclosure statement with the IRS on Form 8886. Direct holders of portfolio securities are in many cases exempt from this reporting requirement, but holders of REIT securities currently are not exempt. The fact that a loss is reportable under these Treasury regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. The Code imposes significant penalties for failure to comply with these requirements. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors concerning any possible disclosure obligation with respect to the receipt or disposition of our shares, or transactions that we might undertake directly or indirectly. Moreover, shareholders should be aware that we and other participants in the transactions in which we are involved (including their advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

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