

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC  
Form 10-K  
March 02, 2012  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

**OR**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM                      TO                      .**

**COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 000-26076**

**SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Maryland**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**52-1494660**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**10706 Beaver Dam Road**

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Hunt Valley, MD 21030

(Address of principal executive offices)

(410) 568-1500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Class A Common Stock, par value \$ 0.01 per share	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

Based on the closing sales price of \$10.98 per share as of June 30, 2011, the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity of the Registrant held by non-affiliates was approximately \$563.4 million.

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

<b>Title of each class</b>	<b>Number of shares outstanding as of February 24, 2012</b>
Class A Common Stock	52,044,092
Class B Common Stock	28,933,859

Documents Incorporated by Reference - Portions of our definitive Proxy Statement relating to our 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K. We anticipate that our Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after the end of our fiscal year ended December 31, 2011.

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**FORM 10-K FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

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**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This report includes or incorporates forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us, including, among other things, the following risks:

*General risks*

- the impact of changes in international, national and regional economies and credit and capital markets;
- consumer confidence;
- the activities of our competitors;
- terrorist acts of violence or war and other geopolitical events;
- natural disasters such as the earthquake and tsunami devastation in Japan;

*Industry risks*

- the business conditions of our advertisers particularly in the automotive and service industries;
- competition with other broadcast television stations, radio stations, multi-channel video programming distributors (MVPDs), internet and broadband content providers and other print and media outlets serving in the same markets;
- availability and cost of programming and the continued volatility of networks and syndicators that provide us with programming content;
- the effects of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) National Broadband Plan and the auctioning and potential reallocation of our broadcasting spectrum;
- the effects of governmental regulation of broadcasting or changes in those regulations and court actions interpreting those regulations, including ownership regulations, indecency regulations, retransmission fee regulations and political or other advertising restrictions;
- labor disputes and legislation and other union activity associated with film, acting, writing and other guilds and professional sports leagues;

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- the broadcasting community's ability to develop a viable mobile digital broadcast television (mobile DTV) strategy and platform and the consumer's appetite for mobile television;
- the operation of low power devices in the broadcast spectrum, which could interfere with our broadcast signals;
- the impact of reverse network compensation payments charged by networks pursuant to their affiliation agreements with broadcasters requiring compensation for network programming;
- the effects of new ratings system technologies including people meters and set-top boxes, and the ability of such technologies to be a reliable standard that can be used by advertisers;
- changes in the makeup of the population in the areas where stations are located;

### *Risks specific to us*

- the effectiveness of our management;
- our ability to attract and maintain local and national advertising;
- our ability to service our debt obligations and operate our business under restrictions contained in our financing agreements;
- our ability to successfully renegotiate retransmission consent agreements;
- our ability to renew our FCC licenses;
- our ability to obtain FCC approval for the purchase of the station assets of Freedom Communications (Freedom) and any future acquisitions, as well as, in certain cases, customary antitrust clearance for any future acquisitions;
- our ability to successfully integrate any acquired businesses;
- our ability to maintain our affiliation and programming service agreements with our networks and program service providers and at renewal, to successfully negotiate these agreements with favorable terms;
- our ability to effectively respond to technology affecting our industry and to increasing competition from other media providers;
- the popularity of syndicated programming we purchase and network programming that we air;
- the strength of ratings for our local news broadcasts including our news sharing arrangements;
- the successful execution of our multi-channel broadcasting initiatives including mobile DTV; and
- the results of prior year tax audits by taxing authorities.

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Other matters set forth in this report and other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the *Risk Factors* set forth in Item 1A of this report may also cause actual results in the future to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. However, additional factors and risks not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also cause actual results in the future to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speaks only as of the date on which it is made. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking statements discussed in this report might not occur.



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**PART I**

**ITEM 1. BUSINESS**

We are a diversified television broadcasting company that owns or provides certain programming, operating or sales services to more television stations than most other commercial broadcasting groups in the United States. We currently own, provide programming and operating services pursuant to local marketing agreements (LMAs) or provide (or are provided) sales services pursuant to outsourcing agreements to 73 television stations in 45 markets. For the purpose of this report, these 73 stations are referred to as our stations.

We have a mid-size market focus and 62 of our 73 stations are located in television designated market areas (DMAs) that rank between the 14th and 85th largest in the United States among the 210 generally recognized DMAs in the United States by the Nielsen Company (Nielsen) as of November 2011. Our broadcast group is a single reportable segment for accounting purposes and includes the following network affiliations: FOX (20 stations); MyNetworkTV (18 stations; as of September 2009, MyNetworkTV is no longer a network affiliation, however is branded as such); ABC (11 stations); The CW (13 stations); CBS (9 stations); NBC (1 station) and Azteca (1 station). In addition, certain stations broadcast programming on second and third digital signals through network affiliation or program service arrangements with: The CW; MyNetworkTV; This TV, independent programming; TheCoolTV and The Country Network, music video providers; LATV, Azteca, Telemundo and Estrella TV, Spanish-language television networks; and CBS, rebroadcasted content from other primary channels within the same market. Refer to our *Markets and Stations* table later in this Item 1 for more information.

We broadcast free over-the-air programming to television viewing audiences in the communities we serve through our local television stations. The programming that we provide on our primary station channels consists of network provided programs, news produced locally, local sporting events, programming from program service arrangements, syndicated entertainment programs and other locally produced programs such as Ring of Honor wrestling, a franchise we acquired in 2011. We produce news at 28 stations in 20 markets, including three stations where we produce news pursuant to a local news sharing arrangement with a competitive station in that market. We have 13 stations which have local news sharing arrangements with a competitive station in that market that produces the news aired on our station. We provide live local sporting events on many of our stations by acquiring the local television broadcast rights for these events. Additionally, we purchase and barter for popular syndicated programming from third party television producers. See *Operating Strategy* later in this Item 1 for more information regarding the programming we provide.

Our primary source of revenue is the sale of commercial inventory on our television stations to our advertising customers. Our objective is to meet the needs of our advertising customers by delivering significant audiences in key demographics. Our strategy is to achieve this objective by providing quality local news programming and popular network and syndicated programs to our viewing audience. We attract most of our national television advertisers through national marketing representation firms which have offices in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta. Our local television advertisers are attracted through the use of a local sales force at each of our television stations, which is comprised of approximately 430 sales account executives and local sales managers company-wide.

We also earn revenue from our retransmission consent agreements through payments from the MVPDs in our markets. The MVPDs are local cable companies, satellite television and local telecommunication video providers. The revenues primarily represent payments from the MVPDs for access to our broadcast signal and is typically based on the number of subscribers they have.

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Our operating results are subject to cyclical fluctuations from political advertising. Political spending has been significantly higher in the even-number years due to the cyclical nature of political advertising. Because of the political election cyclical nature, there has been a significant difference in our operating results when comparing even-numbered years performance to the odd numbered years performance. We believe political advertising will continue to be a strong advertising category in our industry, particularly in light of the recent United States Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* in which the Supreme Court ruled that federal laws limiting issue advocacy by for profit and non-profit corporations was unconstitutional. With increased spending by Political Action Committees (PACs), including so-called Super PACs and as political-activism around social, political, economic and environmental causes continues to draw attention, political advertising levels may increase further.

We continue to believe the prospects for a viable mobile television service can occur because of the significant advantages over the air, point to multipoint delivery has compared to the limitations and expenses the consumer is facing through the transitional cell phone delivery option. Television broadcasters have the potential capability of delivering nearly unlimited video and data at a fraction of the cost of the existing carrier network. We believe a change to the existing mobile broadcast standard to a standard that is comparable to that used in several other parts of the world is essential. We cannot predict at this time how or if any change to the current US mobile standard will take place.

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We have two reportable operating segments, broadcast and other operating divisions that are disclosed separately from our corporate activities. Our broadcast segment includes our stations. Our other operating divisions segment primarily earned revenues in 2011 from sign design and fabrication; regional security alarm operating and bulk acquisitions; and real estate ventures. In 2009, our other operating divisions segment also earned revenues from information technology staffing, consulting and software development; and transmitter manufacturing. Corporate and unallocated expenses primarily include our costs to operate as a public company and to operate our corporate headquarters location. Corporate is not a reportable segment. See *Note 12. Segment Data*, in the Notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements for more information regarding our operating segments.

We are a Maryland corporation formed in 1986. Our principal offices are located at 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030. Our telephone number is (410) 568-1500 and our website address is [www.sbg.net](http://www.sbg.net). The information contained on, or accessible through, our website is not part of this annual report on Form 10-K and is not incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents**TELEVISION BROADCASTING***Markets and Stations*

As of December 31, 2011, we owned and operated, provided programming services to, provided sales services to or had agreed to acquire the following television stations:

Market	Market Rank (a)	Stations	Channel	Status (b)	Network/ Program Service Arrangement (c)	Station Rank in Market (d)	Expiration Date of FCC License
Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida	14	WTTA	Primary	LMA(e)	MNT	6 of 9	2/01/13
		WTTA	Second		TheCoolTV		
Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota	15	WUCW	Primary	O&O	CW	7 of 7	4/01/14
		WUCW	Second		TheCoolTV		
		WUCW	Third		The Country Network		
St. Louis, Missouri	21	KDNL	Primary	O&O	ABC	4 of 7	2/01/14
		KDNL	Second		TheCoolTV		
		KDNL	Third		The Country Network		
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	23	WPGH	Primary	O&O	FOX	4 of 7	8/01/15
		WPMY	Primary	O&O	MNT	6 of 7	8/01/15
		WPGH	Second		The Country Network		
		WPMY	Second		TheCoolTV		
Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina	24	WLFL	Primary	O&O	CW	5 of 8	12/01/04
		WRDC	Primary	O&O	MNT	6 of 8	(f)(m)
		WLFL	Second		The Country Network		12/01/04
		WRDC	Second		TheCoolTV		(f)(m)
Baltimore, Maryland	27	WBFF	Primary	O&O	FOX	4 of 6	10/01/04
		WNUV	Primary	LMA(g)	CW	5 of 6	(f)(m)
		WBFF	Second		This TV		10/01/12
		WBFF	Third		The Country Network		
		WNUV	Second		TheCoolTV		
Nashville, Tennessee	29						

(2) have been lost or stolen, or

(3) be **Counterfeit**, or

- b. guaranteed in writing or witnessed any signatures on any transfer, assignment, bill of sale, power of attorney, guarantee, endorsement or

other obligation upon or in connection with any **Securities, documents or other written instruments.**

Actual physical possession, and continued actual physical possession if taken as collateral, of such **Securities, documents or other written instruments** by an **Employee, Custodian**, or a Federal or State chartered deposit institution of the ASSURED is a condition precedent to the ASSURED having relied on such items. Release or return of such collateral is an acknowledgment by the ASSURED that it no longer relies on such collateral.

For the purpose of this INSURING CLAUSE, a mechanically reproduced facsimile signature is treated the same as a handwritten signature.

*Counterfeit Money* 6. Loss resulting directly from the receipt by the ASSURED in good faith of any **Counterfeit** money.

*Threats To Person* 7. Loss resulting directly from surrender of **Property** away from an office of the ASSURED as a result of a threat communicated to the ASSURED to do bodily harm to an **Employee** as defined in Section 1.e. (1), (2) and (5), a **Relative** or invitee of such **Employee**, or a resident of the household of such **Employee**, who is, or allegedly is, being held captive provided, however, that prior to the surrender of such **Property**:

- a. the **Employee** who receives the threat has made a reasonable effort to notify an officer of the ASSURED who is not involved in such threat, and
- b. the ASSURED has made a reasonable effort to notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement authorities concerning such threat.

It is agreed that for purposes of this INSURING CLAUSE, any **Employee** of the ASSURED, as set forth in the preceding paragraph, shall be deemed to be an ASSURED hereunder, but only with respect to the surrender of money, securities and other tangible personal property in which such **Employee** has a legal or equitable interest.

*Computer System* 8. Loss resulting directly from fraudulent:

- a. entries of data into, or
- b. changes of data elements or programs within,

a **Computer System**, provided the fraudulent entry or change causes:

- (1) funds or other property to be transferred, paid or delivered,
- (2) an account of the ASSURED or of its customer to be added, deleted, debited or credited, or
- (3) an unauthorized account or a fictitious account to be debited or credited.

*Voice Initiated  
Funds Transfer  
Instruction*

9. Loss resulting directly from **Voice Initiated Funds Transfer Instruction** directed to the ASSURED authorizing the transfer of dividends or redemption proceeds of **Investment Company** shares from a **Customer**'s account, provided such **Voice Initiated Funds Transfer Instruction** was:
- a. received at the ASSURED'S offices by those **Employees** of the ASSURED specifically authorized to receive the **Voice Initiated Funds Transfer Instruction**,
  - b. made by a person purporting to be a **Customer**, and
  - c. made by said person for the purpose of causing the ASSURED or **Customer** to sustain a loss or making an improper personal financial gain for such person or any other person.

In order for coverage to apply under this INSURING CLAUSE, all **Voice Initiated Funds Transfer Instructions** must be received and processed in accordance with the Designated Procedures outlined in the APPLICATION furnished to the COMPANY.

*Uncollectible Items  
of Deposit*

10. Loss resulting directly from the ASSURED having credited an account of a customer, shareholder or subscriber on the faith of any **Items of Deposit** which prove to be uncollectible, provided that the crediting of such account causes:
- a. redemptions or withdrawals to be permitted,
  - b. shares to be issued, or
  - c. dividends to be paid,

from an account of an **Investment Company**.

In order for coverage to apply under this INSURING CLAUSE, the ASSURED must hold **Items of Deposit** for the minimum number of days stated in the APPLICATION before permitting any redemptions or withdrawals, issuing any shares or paying any dividends with respect to such **Items of Deposit**.

**Items of Deposit** shall not be deemed uncollectible until the ASSURED'S standard collection procedures have failed.

*Audit Expense*

11. Expense incurred by the ASSURED for that part of the cost of audits or examinations required by any governmental regulatory authority or self-regulatory organization to be conducted by such authority, organization or their appointee by reason of the discovery of loss sustained by the ASSURED and covered by this Bond.

**General Agreements**

*Additional  
Companies Included  
As Assured*

- A. If more than one corporation, or **Investment Company**, or any combination of them is included as the ASSURED herein:
- (1) The total liability of the COMPANY under this Bond for loss or losses sustained by any one or more or all of them shall not exceed the limit for which the COMPANY would be liable under this Bond if all such loss were sustained by any one of them.
  - (2) Only the first named ASSURED shall be deemed to be the sole agent of the others for all purposes under this Bond, including but not limited to the giving or receiving of any notice or proof required to be given and for the purpose of effecting or accepting any amendments to or termination of this Bond. The COMPANY shall furnish each **Investment Company** with a copy of the Bond and with any amendment thereto, together with a copy of each formal filing of claim by any other named ASSURED and notification of the terms of the settlement of each such claim prior to the execution of such settlement.
  - (3) The COMPANY shall not be responsible for the proper application of any payment made hereunder to the first named ASSURED.
  - (4) Knowledge possessed or discovery made by any partner, director, trustee, officer or supervisory employee of any ASSURED shall constitute knowledge or discovery by all the ASSUREDS for the purposes of this Bond.
  - (5) If the first named ASSURED ceases for any reason to be covered under this Bond, then the ASSURED next named on the APPLICATION shall thereafter be considered as the first named ASSURED for the purposes of this Bond.

*Representation Made  
By Assured*

- B. The ASSURED represents that all information it has furnished in the APPLICATION for this Bond or otherwise is complete, true and correct. Such APPLICATION and other information constitute part of this Bond.

The ASSURED must promptly notify the COMPANY of any change in any fact or circumstance which materially affects the risk assumed by the COMPANY under this Bond.

Any intentional misrepresentation, omission, concealment or incorrect statement of a material fact, in the APPLICATION or otherwise, shall be grounds for rescission of this Bond.



- Additional Offices Or Employees - Consolidation, Merger Or Purchase Or Acquisition Of Assets Or Liabilities - Notice To Company*
- C. If the ASSURED, other than an **Investment Company**, while this Bond is in force, merges or consolidates with, or purchases or acquires assets or liabilities of another institution, the ASSURED shall not have the coverage afforded under this Bond for loss which has:
- (1) occurred or will occur on premises, or
  - (2) been caused or will be caused by an employee, or
  - (3) arisen or will arise out of the assets or liabilities, of such institution, unless the ASSURED:
    - a. gives the COMPANY written notice of the proposed consolidation, merger or purchase or acquisition of assets or liabilities prior to the proposed effective date of such action, and
    - b. obtains the written consent of the COMPANY to extend some or all of the coverage provided by this Bond to such additional exposure, and
    - c. on obtaining such consent, pays to the COMPANY an additional premium.
- Change Of Control - Notice To Company*
- D. When the ASSURED learns of a change in control (other than in an **Investment Company**), as set forth in Section 2(a) (9) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the ASSURED shall within sixty (60) days give written notice to the COMPANY setting forth:
- (1) the names of the transferors and transferees (or the names of the beneficial owners if the voting securities are registered in another name),
  - (2) the total number of voting securities owned by the transferors and the transferees (or the beneficial owners), both immediately before and after the transfer, and
  - (3) the total number of outstanding voting securities.
- Failure to give the required notice shall result in termination of coverage for any loss involving a transferee, to be effective on the date of such change in control.
- Court Costs And Attorneys Fees*
- E. The COMPANY will indemnify the ASSURED for court costs and reasonable attorneys fees incurred and paid by the ASSURED in defense, whether or not successful, whether or not fully litigated on the merits and whether or not settled, of any claim, suit or legal proceeding with respect to which the ASSURED would be entitled to recovery under this Bond. However, with respect to INSURING CLAUSE 1., this Section shall only apply in the event that:
- (1) an **Employee** admits to being guilty of **Larceny or Embezzlement**,
  - (2) an **Employee** is adjudicated to be guilty of **Larceny or Embezzlement**, or

- (3) in the absence of 1 or 2 above, an arbitration panel agrees, after a review of an agreed statement of facts between the COMPANY and the ASSURED, that an **Employee** would be found guilty of **Larceny or Embezzlement** if such **Employee** were prosecuted.

The ASSURED shall promptly give notice to the COMPANY of any such suit or legal proceeding and at the request of the COMPANY shall furnish copies of all pleadings and pertinent papers to the COMPANY. The COMPANY may, at its sole option, elect to conduct the defense of all or part of such legal proceeding. The defense by the COMPANY shall be in the name of the ASSURED through attorneys selected by the COMPANY. The ASSURED shall provide all reasonable information and assistance as required by the COMPANY for such defense.

If the COMPANY declines to defend the ASSURED, no settlement without the prior written consent of the COMPANY nor judgment against the ASSURED shall determine the existence, extent or amount of coverage under this Bond.

If the amount demanded in any such suit or legal proceeding is within the DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT, if any, the COMPANY shall have no liability for court costs and attorney's fees incurred in defending all or part of such suit or legal proceeding.

If the amount demanded in any such suit or legal proceeding is in excess of the LIMIT OF LIABILITY stated in ITEM 2. of the DECLARATIONS for the applicable INSURING CLAUSE, the COMPANY'S liability for court costs and attorney's fees incurred in defending all or part of such suit or legal proceedings is limited to the proportion of such court costs and attorney's fees incurred that the LIMIT OF LIABILITY stated in ITEM 2. of the DECLARATIONS for the applicable INSURING CLAUSE bears to the total of the amount demanded in such suit or legal proceeding.

If the amount demanded in any such suit or legal proceeding is in excess of the DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT, if any, but within the LIMIT OF LIABILITY stated in ITEM 2. of the DECLARATIONS for the applicable INSURING CLAUSE, the COMPANY'S liability for court costs and attorney's fees incurred in defending all or part of such suit or legal proceedings shall be limited to the proportion of such court costs or attorney's fees that the amount demanded that would be payable under this Bond after application of the DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT, bears to the total amount demanded.

Amounts paid by the COMPANY for court costs and attorney's fees shall be in addition to the LIMIT OF LIABILITY stated in ITEM 2. of the DECLARATIONS.

**Conditions And  
Limitations**

*Definitions*

1. As used in this Bond:
  - a. **Computer System** means a computer and all input, output, processing, storage, off-line media libraries, and communication facilities which are connected to the computer and which are under the control and supervision of the operating system(s) or application(s) software used by the ASSURED.
  - b. **Counterfeit** means an imitation of an actual valid original which is intended to deceive and be taken as the original.
  - c. **Custodian** means the institution designated by an **Investment Company** to maintain possession and control of its assets.
  - d. **Customer** means an individual, corporate, partnership, trust customer, shareholder or subscriber of an **Investment Company** which has a written agreement with the ASSURED for **Voice Initiated Funds Transfer Instruction**.
  - e. **Employee** means:
    - (1) an officer of the ASSURED,
    - (2) a natural person while in the regular service of the ASSURED at any of the ASSURED S premises and compensated directly by the ASSURED through its payroll system and subject to the United States Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 or equivalent income reporting plans of other countries, and whom the ASSURED has the right to control and direct both as to the result to be accomplished and details and means by which such result is accomplished in the performance of such service,
    - (3) a guest student pursuing studies or performing duties in any of the ASSURED S premises,
    - (4) an attorney retained by the ASSURED and an employee of such attorney while either is performing legal services for the ASSURED,
    - (5) a natural person provided by an employment contractor to perform employee duties for the ASSURED under the ASSURED S supervision at any of the ASSURED S premises,
    - (6) an employee of an institution merged or consolidated with the ASSURED prior to the effective date of this Bond,
    - (7) a director or trustee of the ASSURED, but only while performing acts within the scope of the customary and usual duties of any officer or other employee of the ASSURED or while acting as a member of any committee duly elected or appointed to examine or audit or have custody of or access to **Property** of the ASSURED, or

(8) each natural person, partnership or corporation authorized by written agreement with the ASSURED to perform services as electronic data processor of checks or other accounting records related to such checks but only while such person, partnership or corporation is actually performing such services and not:

- a. creating, preparing, modifying or maintaining the ASSURED S computer software or programs, or
- b. acting as transfer agent or in any other agency capacity in issuing checks, drafts or securities for the ASSURED,

(9) any partner, officer or employee of an investment advisor, an underwriter (distributor), a transfer agent or shareholder accounting recordkeeper, or an administrator, for an **Investment Company** while performing acts coming within the scope of the customary and usual duties of an officer or employee of an **Investment Company** or acting as a member of any committee duly elected or appointed to examine, audit or have custody of or access to **Property of an Investment Company**.

The term **Employee** shall not include any partner, officer or employee of a transfer agent, shareholder accounting recordkeeper or administrator:

- a. which is not an affiliated person (as defined in Section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940) of an **Investment Company** or of the investment advisor or underwriter (distributor) of such **Investment Company**, or
- b. which is a bank (as defined in Section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940).

This Bond does not afford coverage in favor of the employers of persons as set forth in e. (4), (5) and (8) above, and upon payment to the ASSURED by the COMPANY resulting directly from **Larceny or Embezzlement** committed by any of the partners, officers or employees of such employers, whether acting alone or in collusion with others, an assignment of such of the ASSURED S rights and causes of action as it may have against such employers by reason of such acts so committed shall, to the extent of such payment, be given by the ASSURED to the COMPANY, and the ASSURED shall execute all papers necessary to secure to the COMPANY the rights provided for herein.

Each employer of persons as set forth in e.(4), (5) and (8) above and the partners, officers and other employees of such employers shall collectively be deemed to be one person for all the purposes of this Bond; excepting, however, the fifth paragraph of Section 13.

Independent contractors not specified in e.(4), (5) or (8) above, intermediaries, agents, brokers or other representatives of the same general character shall not be considered **Employees**.

f. **Forgery** means the signing of the name of another natural person with the intent to deceive but does not mean a signature which consists in whole or in part of one's own name, with or without authority, in any capacity for any purpose.

g. **Investment Company** means any investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and listed under the NAME OF ASSURED on the DECLARATIONS.

h. **Items of Deposit** means one or more checks or drafts drawn upon a financial institution in the United States of America.

i. **Larceny or Embezzlement** means larceny or embezzlement as defined in Section 37 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

j. **Property** means money, revenue and other stamps; securities; including any note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of deposit, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement, collateral trust certificate, preorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting trust certificate, certificate of deposit for a security, fractional undivided interest in oil, gas, or other mineral rights, any interest or instruments commonly known as a security under the Investment Company Act of 1940, any other certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, guarantee of, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase any of the foregoing; bills of exchange; acceptances; checks; withdrawal orders; money orders; travelers' letters of credit; bills of lading; abstracts of title; insurance policies, deeds, mortgages on real estate and/or upon chattels and interests therein; assignments of such policies, deeds or mortgages; other valuable papers, including books of accounts and other records used by the ASSURED in the conduct of its business (but excluding all electronic data processing records); and, all other instruments similar to or in the nature of the foregoing in which the ASSURED acquired an interest at the time of the ASSURED'S consolidation or merger with, or purchase of the principal assets of, a predecessor or which are held by the ASSURED for any purpose or in any capacity and whether so held gratuitously or not and whether or not the ASSURED is liable therefor.

k. **Relative** means the spouse of an **Employee** or partner of the ASSURED and any unmarried child supported wholly by, or living in the home of, such **Employee** or partner and being related to them by blood, marriage or legal guardianship.

l. **Securities, documents or other written instruments** means original (including original counterparts) negotiable or non-negotiable instruments, or assignments thereof, which in and of themselves represent an equitable interest, ownership, or debt and which are in the ordinary course of business transferable by delivery of such instruments with any necessary endorsements or assignments.

m. **Subsidiary** means any organization that, at the inception date of this Bond, is named in the APPLICATION or is created during the BOND PERIOD and of which more than fifty percent (50%) of the outstanding securities or voting rights representing the present right to vote for election of directors is owned or controlled by the ASSURED either directly or through one or more of its subsidiaries.

n. **Transportation Company** means any organization which provides its own or its leased vehicles for transportation or which provides freight forwarding or air express services.

o. **Voice Initiated Election** means any election concerning dividend options available to **Investment Company** shareholders or subscribers which is requested by voice over the telephone.

p. **Voice Initiated Redemption** means any redemption of shares issued by an **Investment Company** which is requested by voice over the telephone.

q. **Voice Initiated Funds Transfer Instruction** means any **Voice Initiated Redemption** or **Voice Initiated Election**.

For the purposes of these definitions, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular, unless otherwise indicated.

*General Exclusions -  
Applicable to All  
Insuring Clauses*

2. **This bond does not directly or indirectly cover:**

- a. loss not reported to the COMPANY in writing within sixty (60) days after termination of this Bond as an entirety;
- b. loss due to riot or civil commotion outside the United States of America and Canada, or any loss due to military, naval or usurped power, war or insurrection. This Section 2.b., however, shall not apply to loss which occurs in transit in the circumstances recited in INSURING CLAUSE 3., provided that when such transit was initiated there was no knowledge on the part of any person acting for the ASSURED of such riot, civil commotion, military, naval or usurped power, war or insurrection;
- c. loss resulting from the effects of nuclear fission or fusion or radioactivity;
- d. loss of potential income including, but not limited to, interest and dividends not realized by the ASSURED or by any customer of the ASSURED;
- e. damages of any type for which the ASSURED is legally liable, except compensatory damages, but not multiples thereof, arising from a loss covered under this Bond;
- f. costs, fees and expenses incurred by the ASSURED in establishing the existence of or amount of loss under this Bond, except to the extent covered under INSURING CLAUSE 11.;
- g. loss resulting from indirect or consequential loss of any nature;

- h. loss resulting from dishonest acts by any member of the Board of Directors or Board of Trustees of the ASSURED who is not an **Employee**, acting alone or in collusion with others;
- i. loss, or that part of any loss, resulting solely from any violation by the ASSURED or by any **Employee**:
  - (1) of any law regulating:
    - a. the issuance, purchase or sale of securities,
    - b. securities transactions on security or commodity exchanges or the over the counter market,
    - c. investment companies,
    - d. investment advisors, or
  - (2) of any rule or regulation made pursuant to any such law; or
- j. loss of confidential information, material or data;
- k. loss resulting from voice requests or instructions received over the telephone, provided however, this Section 2.k. shall not apply to INSURING CLAUSE 7. or 9.

*Specific Exclusions -  
Applicable To All  
Insuring Clauses Except  
Insuring Clause 1.*

- 3. **This Bond does not directly or indirectly cover:**
  - a. loss caused by an **Employee**, provided, however, this Section 3.a. shall not apply to loss covered under INSURING CLAUSE 2. or 3. which results directly from misplacement, mysterious unexplainable disappearance, or damage or destruction of **Property**;
  - b. loss through the surrender of property away from premises of the ASSURED as a result of a threat:
    - (1) to do bodily harm to any natural person, except loss of **Property** in transit in the custody of any person acting as messenger of the ASSURED, provided that when such transit was initiated there was no knowledge by the ASSURED of any such threat, and provided further that this Section 3.b. shall not apply to INSURING CLAUSE 7., or
    - (2) to do damage to the premises or **Property** of the ASSURED;
  - c. loss resulting from payments made or withdrawals from any account involving erroneous credits to such account;
  - d. loss involving **Items of Deposit** which are not finally paid for any reason provided however, that this Section 3.d. shall not apply to INSURING CLAUSE 10.;
  - e. loss of property while in the mail;

- f. loss resulting from the failure for any reason of a financial or depository institution, its receiver or other liquidator to pay or deliver funds or other **Property** to the ASSURED provided further that this Section 3.f. shall not apply to loss of **Property** resulting directly from robbery, burglary, misplacement, mysterious unexplainable disappearance, damage, destruction or removal from the possession, custody or control of the ASSURED.
- g. loss of **Property** while in the custody of a **Transportation Company**, provided however, that this Section 3.g. shall not apply to INSURING CLAUSE 3.;
- h. loss resulting from entries or changes made by a natural person with authorized access to a **Computer System** who acts in good faith on instructions, unless such instructions are given to that person by a software contractor or its partner, officer, or employee authorized by the ASSURED to design, develop, prepare, supply, service, write or implement programs for the ASSURED s **Computer System**; or
- i. loss resulting directly or indirectly from the input of data into a **Computer System** terminal, either on the premises of the customer of the ASSURED or under the control of such a customer, by a customer or other person who had authorized access to the customer s authentication mechanism.

*Specific Exclusions -  
Applicable To All  
Insuring Clauses Except  
Insuring Clauses 1., 4.,  
And 5.*

4 **This bond does not directly or indirectly cover:**

- a. loss resulting from the complete or partial non-payment of or default on any loan whether such loan was procured in good faith or through trick, artifice, fraud or false pretenses; provided, however, this Section 4.a. shall not apply to INSURING CLAUSE 8.;
- b. loss resulting from forgery or any alteration;
- c. loss involving a counterfeit provided, however, this Section 4.c. shall not apply to INSURING CLAUSE 5. or 6.

*Limit Of Liability/Non-  
Reduction And Non-  
Accumulation Of  
Liability*

5. At all times prior to termination of this Bond, this Bond shall continue in force for the limit stated in the applicable sections of ITEM 2. of the DECLARATIONS, notwithstanding any previous loss for which the COMPANY may have paid or be liable to pay under this Bond provided, however, that the liability of the COMPANY under this Bond with respect to all loss resulting from:

- a. any one act of burglary, robbery or hold-up, or attempt thereat, in which no **Employee** is concerned or implicated, or
- b. any one unintentional or negligent act on the part of any one person resulting in damage to or destruction or misplacement of **Property**, or
- c. all acts, other than those specified in a. above, of any one person, or



d. any one casualty or event other than those specified in a., b., or c. above, shall be deemed to be one loss and shall be limited to the applicable LIMIT OF LIABILITY stated in ITEM 2. of the DECLARATIONS of this Bond irrespective of the total amount of such loss or losses and shall not be cumulative in amounts from year to year or from period to period.

All acts, as specified in c. above, of any one person which

- i. directly or indirectly aid in any way wrongful acts of any other person or persons, or
- ii. permit the continuation of wrongful acts of any other person or persons

whether such acts are committed with or without the knowledge of the wrongful acts of the person so aided, and whether such acts are committed with or without the intent to aid such other person, shall be deemed to be one loss with the wrongful acts of all persons so aided.

*Discovery*

6. This Bond applies only to loss first discovered by an officer of the ASSURED during the BOND PERIOD. Discovery occurs at the earlier of an officer of the ASSURED being aware of:

- a. facts which may subsequently result in a loss of a type covered by this Bond, or
- b. an actual or potential claim in which it is alleged that the ASSURED is liable to a third party,

regardless of when the act or acts causing or contributing to such loss occurred, even though the amount of loss does not exceed the applicable DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT, or the exact amount or details of loss may not then be known.

*Notice To Company -  
Proof - Legal  
Proceedings Against  
Company*

7. a. The ASSURED shall give the COMPANY notice thereof at the earliest practicable moment, not to exceed sixty (60) days after discovery of loss, in an amount that is in excess of 50% of the applicable DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT, as stated in ITEM 2. of the DECLARATIONS.

b. The ASSURED shall furnish to the COMPANY proof of loss, duly sworn to, with full particulars within six (6) months after such discovery.

c. Securities listed in a proof of loss shall be identified by certificate or bond numbers, if issued with them.

d. Legal proceedings for the recovery of any loss under this Bond shall not be brought prior to the expiration of sixty (60) days after the proof of loss is filed with the COMPANY or after the expiration of twenty-four (24) months from the discovery of such loss.

e. This Bond affords coverage only in favor of the ASSURED. No claim, suit, action or legal proceedings shall be brought under this Bond by anyone other than the ASSURED.

f. Proof of loss involving **Voice Initiated Funds Transfer Instruction** shall include electronic recordings of such instructions.

*Deductible Amount*

8. The COMPANY shall not be liable under any INSURING CLAUSES of this Bond on account of loss unless the amount of such loss, after deducting the net amount of all reimbursement and/or recovery obtained or made by the ASSURED, other than from any Bond or policy of insurance issued by an insurance company and covering such loss, or by the COMPANY on account thereof prior to payment by the COMPANY of such loss, shall exceed the DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT set forth in ITEM 3. of the DECLARATIONS, and then for such excess only, but in no event for more than the applicable LIMITS OF LIABILITY stated in ITEM 2. of the DECLARATIONS.

There shall be no deductible applicable to any loss under INSURING CLAUSE 1. sustained by any **Investment Company**.

*Valuation*

9. **BOOKS OF ACCOUNT OR OTHER RECORDS**

The value of any loss of **Property** consisting of books of account or other records used by the ASSURED in the conduct of its business shall be the amount paid by the ASSURED for blank books, blank pages, or other materials which replace the lost books of account or other records, plus the cost of labor paid by the ASSURED for the actual transcription or copying of data to reproduce such books of account or other records.

The value of any loss of **Property** other than books of account or other records used by the ASSURED in the conduct of its business, for which a claim is made shall be determined by the average market value of such **Property** on the business day immediately preceding discovery of such loss provided, however, that the value of any **Property** replaced by the ASSURED with the consent of the COMPANY and prior to the settlement of any claim for such **Property** shall be the actual market value at the time of replacement.

In the case of a loss of interim certificates, warrants, rights or other securities, the production of which is necessary to the exercise of subscription, conversion, redemption or deposit privileges, the value of them shall be the market value of such privileges immediately preceding their expiration if said loss is not discovered until after their expiration. If no market price is quoted for such **Property** or for such privileges, the value shall be fixed by agreement between the parties.

**OTHER PROPERTY**

The value of any loss of **Property**, other than as stated above, shall be the actual cash value or the cost of repairing or replacing such **Property** with **Property** of like quality and value, whichever is less.

*Securities Settlement*

10. In the event of a loss of securities covered under this Bond, the COMPANY may, at its sole discretion, purchase replacement securities, tender the value of the securities in money, or issue its indemnity to effect replacement securities.

The indemnity required from the ASSURED under the terms of this Section against all loss, cost or expense arising from the replacement of securities by the COMPANY S indemnity shall be:

- a. for securities having a value less than or equal to the applicable DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT - one hundred (100%) percent;
- b. for securities having a value in excess of the DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT but within the applicable LIMIT OF LIABILITY - the percentage that the DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT bears to the value of the securities;
- c. for securities having a value greater than the applicable LIMIT OF LIABILITY - the percentage that the DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT and portion in excess of the applicable LIMIT OF LIABILITY bears to the value of the securities.

The value referred to in Section 10.a., b., and c. is the value in accordance with Section 9, VALUATION, regardless of the value of such securities at the time the loss under the COMPANY S indemnity is sustained.

The COMPANY is not required to issue its indemnity for any portion of a loss of securities which is not covered by this Bond; however, the COMPANY may do so as a courtesy to the ASSURED and at its sole discretion.

The ASSURED shall pay the proportion of the Company s premium charge for the Company s indemnity as set forth in Section 10.a., b., and c. No portion of the LIMIT OF LIABILITY shall be used as payment of premium for any indemnity purchased by the ASSURED to obtain replacement securities.

*Subrogation -  
Assignment - Recovery*

11. In the event of a payment under this Bond, the COMPANY shall be subrogated to all of the ASSURED S rights of recovery against any person or entity to the extent of such payment. On request, the ASSURED shall deliver to the COMPANY an assignment of the ASSURED S rights, title and interest and causes of action against any person or entity to the extent of such payment.

Recoveries, whether effected by the COMPANY or by the ASSURED, shall be applied net of the expense of such recovery in the following order:

- a. first, to the satisfaction of the ASSURED S loss which would otherwise have been paid but for the fact that it is in excess of the applicable LIMIT OF LIABILITY,
- b. second, to the COMPANY in satisfaction of amounts paid in settlement of the ASSURED S claim,
- c. third, to the ASSURED in satisfaction of the applicable DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT, and

d. fourth, to the ASSURED in satisfaction of any loss suffered by the ASSURED which was not covered under this Bond.

Recovery from reinsurance or indemnity of the COMPANY shall not be deemed a recovery under this section.

*Cooperation Of Assured*

12. At the COMPANY S request and at reasonable times and places designated by the COMPANY, the ASSURED shall:

- a. submit to examination by the COMPANY and subscribe to the same under oath,
- b. produce for the COMPANY S examination all pertinent records, and
- c. cooperate with the COMPANY in all matters pertaining to the loss.

The ASSURED shall execute all papers and render assistance to secure to the COMPANY the rights and causes of action provided for under this Bond. The ASSURED shall do nothing after loss to prejudice such rights or causes of action.

*Termination*

13. If the Bond is for a sole ASSURED, it shall not be terminated unless written notice shall have been given by the acting party to the affected party and to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C., not less than sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of such termination.

If the Bond is for a joint ASSURED, it shall not be terminated unless written notice shall have been given by the acting party to the affected party, and by the COMPANY to all ASSURED **Investment Companies** and to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C., not less than sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of such termination.

This Bond will terminate as to any one ASSURED, other than an **Investment Company**:

- a. immediately on the taking over of such ASSURED by a receiver or other liquidator or by State or Federal officials, or
- b. immediately on the filing of a petition under any State or Federal statute relative to bankruptcy or reorganization of the ASSURED, or assignment for the benefit of creditors of the ASSURED, or
- c. immediately upon such ASSURED ceasing to exist, whether through merger into another entity, disposition of all of its assets or otherwise.

The COMPANY shall refund the unearned premium computed at short rates in accordance with the standard short rate cancellation tables if terminated by the ASSURED or pro rata if terminated for any other reason.

If any partner, director, trustee, or officer or supervisory employee of an ASSURED not acting in collusion with an **Employee** learns of any dishonest act committed by such **Employee** at any time, whether in the employment of the ASSURED or otherwise, whether or not such act is of the type covered under this Bond, and whether against the ASSURED or any other person or entity, the ASSURED:

- a. shall immediately remove such **Employee** from a position that would enable such **Employee** to cause the ASSURED to suffer a loss covered by this Bond; and
- b. within forty-eight (48) hours of learning that an **Employee** has committed any dishonest act, shall notify the COMPANY, of such action and provide full particulars of such dishonest act.

The COMPANY may terminate coverage as respects any **Employee** sixty (60) days after written notice is received by each ASSURED **Investment Company** and the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. of its desire to terminate this Bond as to such **Employee**.

*Other Insurance*

14. Coverage under this Bond shall apply only as excess over any valid and collectible insurance, indemnity or suretyship obtained by or on behalf of:
  - a. the ASSURED,
  - b. a **Transportation Company**, or
  - c. another entity on whose premises the loss occurred or which employed the person causing the loss or engaged the messenger conveying the **Property** involved.

*Conformity*

15. If any limitation within this Bond is prohibited by any law controlling this Bond's construction, such limitation shall be deemed to be amended so as to equal the minimum period of limitation provided by such law.

*Change or Modification*

16. This Bond or any instrument amending or affecting this Bond may not be changed or modified orally. No change in or modification of this Bond shall be effective except when made by written endorsement to this Bond signed by an authorized representative of the COMPANY.

If this Bond is for a sole ASSURED, no change or modification which would adversely affect the rights of the ASSURED shall be effective prior to sixty (60) days after written notice has been furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C., by the acting party.

If this Bond is for a joint ASSURED, no charge or modification which would adversely affect the rights of the ASSURED shall be effective prior to sixty (60) days after written notice has been furnished to all insured **Investment Companies** and to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C., by the COMPANY.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO POLICYHOLDERS**

All of the members of the Chubb Group of Insurance companies doing business in the United States (hereinafter "Chubb") distribute their products through licensed insurance brokers and agents ("producers"). Detailed information regarding the types of compensation paid by Chubb to producers on US insurance transactions is available under the Producer Compensation link located at the bottom of the page at [www.chubb.com](http://www.chubb.com), or by calling 1-866-588-9478. Additional information may be available from your producer.

Thank you for choosing Chubb.

10-02-1295 (ed. 6/2007)

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*Important Notice:*

**The SEC Requires Proof of Your Fidelity Insurance Policy**

Your company is now required to file an electronic copy of your fidelity insurance coverage (Chubb's ICAP Bond policy) to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), according to rules adopted by the SEC on June 12, 2006.

Chubb is in the process of providing your agent/broker with an electronic copy of your insurance policy as well as instructions on how to submit this proof of fidelity insurance coverage to the SEC. You can expect to receive this information from your agent/broker shortly.

The electronic copy of your policy is provided by Chubb solely as a convenience and does not affect the terms and conditions of coverage as set forth in the paper policy you receive by mail. The terms and conditions of the policy mailed to you, which are the same as those set forth in the electronic copy, constitute the entire agreement between your company and Chubb.

If you have any questions, please contact your agent or broker.

Form 14-02-12160 (ed. 7/2006)

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**POLICYHOLDER  
DISCLOSURE NOTICE OF  
TERRORISM INSURANCE COVERAGE  
(for policies with no terrorism exclusion or sublimit)**

You are hereby notified that, under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (the Act ), effective December 26, 2007, this policy makes available to you insurance for losses arising out of certain acts of terrorism. Terrorism is defined as any act certified by the Secretary of the Treasury, in concurrence with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General of the United States, to be an act of terrorism; to be a violent act or an act that is dangerous to human life, property or infrastructure; to have resulted in damage within the United States, or outside the United States in the case of an air carrier or vessel or the premises of a United States Mission; and to have been committed by an individual or individuals as part of an effort to coerce the civilian population of the United States or to influence the policy or affect the conduct of the United States Government by coercion.

You should know that the insurance provided by your policy for losses caused by acts of terrorism is partially reimbursed by the United States under the formula set forth in the Act. Under this formula, the United States pays 85% of covered terrorism losses that exceed the statutorily established deductible to be paid by the insurance company providing the coverage.

However, if aggregate insured losses attributable to terrorist acts certified under the Act exceed \$100 billion in a Program Year (January 1 through December 31), the Treasury shall not make any payment for any portion of the amount of such losses that exceeds \$100 billion.

10-02-1281 (Ed. 1/2003)

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If aggregate insured losses attributable to terrorist acts certified under the Act exceed \$100 billion in a Program Year (January 1 through December 31) and we have met our insurer deductible under the Act, we shall not be liable for the payment of any portion of the amount of such losses that exceeds \$100 billion, and in such case insured losses up to that amount are subject to pro rata allocation in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary of the Treasury.

The portion of your policy's annual premium that is attributable to insurance for such acts of terrorism is: \$ **-0-**.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact your agent or broker.

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**FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

Endorsement No: 1

Bond Number: 82307679

NAME OF ASSURED: AVENUE INCOME CREDIT STRATEGIES FUND

**NAME OF ASSURED ENDORSEMENT**

It is agreed that the NAME OF ASSURED in the DECLARATIONS is amended to read as follows:

Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund

Avenue Mutual Funds Trust

This Endorsement applies to loss discovered after 12:01 a.m. on January 27, 2014.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS BOND REMAIN UNCHANGED.

Date: January 6, 2014

By

Authorized Representative

ICAP Bond

Form 17-02-0949 (Rev. 1-97)

**ENDORSEMENT/RIDER**

Effective date of  
this endorsement/rider: January 27, 2014

FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Endorsement/Rider No. 2

To be attached to and  
form a part of Policy No. 82307679

Issued to: AVENUE INCOME CREDIT STRATEGIES FUND

**COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE TRADE SANCTION LAWS**

It is agreed that this insurance does not apply to the extent that trade or economic sanctions or other similar laws or regulations prohibit the coverage provided by this insurance.

The title and any headings in this endorsement/rider are solely for convenience and form no part of the terms and conditions of coverage.

All other terms, conditions and limitations of this Policy shall remain unchanged.

Authorized Representative

14-02-9228 (2/2010)

**FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

Endorsement No: 3

Bond Number: 82307679

NAME OF ASSURED: AVENUE INCOME CREDIT STRATEGIES FUND

**TERMINATION-NONRENEWAL-NOTICE ENDORSEMENT**

It is agreed that this Bond is amended as follows:

1. By adding to Section 13., Termination, the following:

Termination By The Company

Bonds In Effect For More Than Sixty (60) Days

If this Bond has been in effect for more than sixty (60) days, or, if this Bond is a renewal, the COMPANY may terminate by providing written notice of cancellation at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of termination for at least one of the following reasons:

1. Nonpayment of premium;
2. Discovery of fraud or material misrepresentation in obtaining this Bond or in the presentation of a claim thereunder;
3. Discovery of willful or reckless acts or omissions or violation of any provision of this Bond on the part of the ASSURED which substantially and materially increases any hazard insured against, and which occurred subsequent to the inception of the current BOND PERIOD;
4. Conviction of the ASSURED of a crime arising out of acts increasing the hazard insured against;

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5. Material change in the risk which increases the risk of loss after insurance coverage has been issued or renewed, except to the extent that the COMPANY should reasonably have foreseen the change, or contemplated the risk when the contract was written;
6. Determination by the Commissioner that the continuation of the Bond would jeopardize a COMPANY'S solvency or would place the COMPANY in violation of the insurance laws of any state;
7. Determination by the Commissioner that continuation of the present premium volume of the COMPANY would jeopardize the COMPANY'S policyholders, creditors or the public;
8. Such other reasons that are approved by the Commissioner;
9. Determination by the Commissioner that the COMPANY no longer has adequate reinsurance to meet the ASSURED'S needs;
10. Substantial breaches of contractual duties, conditions or warranties; or
11. Unfavorable underwriting facts, specific to the ASSURED, existing that were not present at the inception of the Bond.

ICAP Bond

Form 17-02-1360 (Rev. 10-99)

#### Bonds In Effect Sixty (60) Days Or Less

If this Bond has been in effect for sixty (60) days or less, and it is not a renewal Bond, the COMPANY may terminate for any reason by providing written notice of termination at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of termination.

#### Notice Of Termination

Notice of termination under this Section shall be mailed or delivered, by certified mail, return receipt provided by the United States Postal Service, to the ASSURED and to the authorized agent or broker, if any, at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of cancellation at the address shown on the DECLARATIONS of this Bond.

If this Bond is cancelled for nonpayment of premium, the COMPANY will mail or deliver, by certified mail, return receipt provided by the United States Postal Service, a written notice at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of cancellation. The cancellation notice shall contain information regarding the amount of premium due and the due date, and shall state the effect of nonpayment by the due date. Cancellation shall not be effective if payment of the amount due is made prior to the effective date of cancellation.

All notice of cancellation shall state the reason(s) for cancellation.

There is no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, the COMPANY, its authorized representatives, its employees, or any firm, person or corporation furnishing to the COMPANY, information relating to the reasons for cancellation or nonrenewal, for any statement made by them in complying or enabling the COMPANY to comply with this Section, for the provision of information pertaining thereto, or for statements made or evidence submitted at any hearings conducted in connection therewith, if such information was provided in good faith and without malice.

#### Notice Of Nonrenewal

If the COMPANY elects not to renew this Bond, the COMPANY shall mail or deliver written notice, by certified mail, return receipt, provided by the United States Postal Service, to the ASSURED, at his last known address, at least sixty (60) days before the expiration date or before the anniversary date, if this Bond has been written for a term of more than one (1) year. Such notice shall also be mailed to the ASSURED'S agent or broker, if any.

Such notice shall contain all of the following:

- a. Bond Number:

- b. Date of Notice;
- c. Reason for Cancellation;
- d. Expiration Date of the Bond;
- e. Effective Date and Hour of Cancellation.

Notice of nonrenewal shall not be required if the COMPANY or a COMPANY within the same insurance group has offered to issue a renewal Bond, the ASSURED has obtained replacement coverage or has agreed in writing to obtain replacement coverage, the ASSURED has requested or agreed to nonrenewal, or the Bond is expressly designated as nonrenewable.



Return Premium Calculations

Any unearned premiums which have been paid by the ASSURED shall be refunded to the ASSURED on a pro rata basis if terminated by the COMPANY or the ASSURED. The unearned premiums shall be refunded to the ASSURED within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the request for cancellation or the effective date of cancellation, whichever is later.

Conditional Renewal

If the COMPANY offers or purports to renew the Bond, but on less favorable terms or at higher rates, the new terms or higher premiums may take effect on the renewal date, if the COMPANY mails or delivers by certified mail, return receipt provided by the United States Postal Service, to the ASSURED, notice of the new terms or premiums at least sixty (60) days prior to the renewal date. If the COMPANY notifies the ASSURED within sixty (60) days prior to the renewal date, the new terms or premiums do not take effect until sixty (60) days after the notice is mailed or delivered, in which case, the ASSURED may elect to cancel the renewal Bond within the sixty (60) day period. If the COMPANY does not notify the ASSURED of the new terms or premiums, the COMPANY shall continue the Bond at the expiring terms and premiums until notice is given or until the effective date of replacement coverage is obtained by the ASSURED, whichever occurs first.

2. It is further understood and agreed that for the purposes of Section 13., Termination, any occurrence listed in this Section shall be considered to be a request by the ASSURED to immediately terminate this Bond.

This Endorsement applies to loss discovered after 12:01 a.m. on January 27, 2014.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS BOND REMAIN UNCHANGED.

Date: January 6, 2014

By

Authorized Representative

**FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

Endorsement No.: 4

Bond Number: 82307679

NAME OF ASSURED: AVENUE INCOME CREDIT STRATEGIES FUND

**NEW YORK AMENDATORY ENDORSEMENT**

It is agreed that this Bond is amended as follows:

1. By adding to Section 13, Termination, the following:

**Bonds In Effect Sixty (60) Days Or Less**

If this Bond has been in effect for less than sixty (60) days and if it is not a renewal Bond, the COMPANY may terminate it for any reason by mailing or delivering to the ASSURED and to the authorized agent or broker, if any, written notice of termination at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of termination.

**Bonds In Effect More Than Sixty (60) Days**

If this Bond has been in effect for sixty (60) days or more, or if it is a renewal of a Bond issued by the COMPANY, it may be terminated by the COMPANY by mailing or delivering to the ASSURED and to the authorized agent or broker, if any, written notice of termination at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of termination. Furthermore, when the Bond is a renewal or has been in effect for sixty (60) days or more, the COMPANY may terminate only for one or more of the reasons stated in 1-7 below.

1. Nonpayment of premium;
2. Conviction of a crime arising out of acts increasing the hazard insured against ;

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3. Discovery of fraud or material misrepresentation in the obtaining of this Bond or in the presentation of a claim thereunder;
  
4. Violation of any provision of this Bond that substantially and materially increases the hazard insured against, and which occurred subsequent to inception of the current BOND PERIOD;
  
5. If applicable, material physical change in the property insured, occurring after issuance or last annual renewal anniversary date of this Bond, which results in the property becoming uninsurable in accordance with the COMPANY's objective, uniformly applied underwriting standards in effect at the time this Bond was issued or last renewed; or material change in the nature or extent of this Bond occurring after issuance or last annual renewal anniversary date of this Bond, which causes the risk of loss to be substantially and materially increased beyond that contemplated at the time this Bond was issued or last renewed;

ICAP Bond - New York

Form 17-02-2863 (Rev. 7-03)

6. A determination by the Superintendent of Insurance that continuation of the present premium volume of the COMPANY would jeopardize the COMPANY's policyholders, creditors or the public, or continuing the Bond itself would place the COMPANY in violation of any provision of the New York Insurance Code; or

7. Where the COMPANY has reason to believe, in good faith and with sufficient cause, that there is a probable risk or danger that the **Property** will be destroyed by the ASSURED for the purpose of collecting the insurance proceeds.

#### Notice Of Termination

Notice of termination under this SECTION shall be mailed to the ASSURED and to the authorized agent or broker, if any, at the address shown on the DECLARATIONS of this Bond. The COMPANY, however, may deliver any notice instead of mailing it.

#### Return Premium Calculations

The COMPANY shall refund the unearned premium computed pro rata if this Bond is terminated by the COMPANY.

2. By adding a new Section reading as follows:

#### Section 17. Election To Conditionally Renew / Nonrenew This Bond

#### Conditional Renewal

If the COMPANY conditionally renews this Bond subject to:

1. Change of limits of liability ;

2. Change in type of coverage;

3. Reduction of coverage;
4. Increased deductible;
5. Addition of exclusion; or
6. Increased premiums in excess of 10%, exclusive of any premium increase due to and commensurate with insured value added; or as a result of experience rating, retrospective rating or audit; the COMPANY shall send notice as provided in Notices Of Nonrenewal And Conditional Renewal immediately below.

Notices Of Nonrenewal And Conditional Renewal

1. If the COMPANY elects not to renew this Bond, or to conditionally renew this Bond as provided herein, the COMPANY shall mail or deliver written notice to the ASSURED at least sixty (60) but not more than one hundred twenty (120) days before:
  - a. The expiration date; or
  - b. The anniversary date if this Bond has been written for a term of more than one year.

2. Notice shall be mailed or delivered to the ASSURED at the address shown on the DECLARATIONS of this Bond and the authorized agent or broker, if any. If notice is mailed, proof of mailing shall be sufficient proof of notice.

3. Paragraphs 1. and 2. immediately above shall not apply when the ASSURED, authorized agent or broker, or another insurer has mailed or delivered written notice to the COMPANY that the Bond has been replaced or is no longer desired.

3. By adding to General Agreement B., Representations Made By Assured, the following:

No misrepresentation shall be deemed material unless knowledge by the COMPANY would have lead to the COMPANY S refusal to write this Bond.

This Endorsement applies to loss discovered after 12:01 a.m. on January 27, 2014.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS BOND REMAIN UNCHANGED.

Date: January 6, 2014

By

Authorized Representative

**ENDORSEMENT/RIDER**

Effective date of  
this endorsement/rider: January 27, 2014

**FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

Endorsement/Rider No. 5

To be attached to and  
form a part of Bond No. 82307679

Issued to: AVENUE INCOME CREDIT STRATEGIES FUND

**AUTOMATIC INCREASE IN LIMITS ENDORSEMENT**

In consideration of the premium charged, it is agreed that GENERAL AGREEMENTS, Section C. Additional Offices Or Employees-Consolidation, Merger Or Purchase Or Acquisition Of Assets Or Liabilities-Notice To Company, is amended by adding the following subsection:

**Automatic Increase in Limits for Investment Companies**

If an increase in bonding limits is required pursuant to rule 17g-1 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ( the Act ), due to:

(i) the creation of a new **Investment Company**, other than by consolidation or merger with, or purchase or acquisition of assets or liabilities of, another institution; or

(ii) an increase in asset size of current **Investment Companies** covered under this Bond,

then the minimum required increase in limits shall take place automatically without payment of additional remium for the remainder of the BOND PERIOD.

The title and any headings in this endorsement/rider are solely for convenience and form no part of the terms and conditions of coverage.

All other terms, conditions and limitations of this Bond shall remain unchanged.

Authorized Representative

14-02-14098 (04/2008)



**SECRETARY S CERTIFICATE**

I, Ty Oyer, Secretary of the Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund (the Fund ) hereby certify that the following resolutions were adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Fund, including a majority of the disinterested Trustees, of the Fund at a meeting duly called and held on December 12, 2013, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout:

**Approval of Fidelity Bond Coverage (Rule 17g-1) and Trustees and Officers Policy**

**RESOLVED**, that the appropriate officers of the Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund and the Avenue Mutual Funds Trust (each, a Fund together, the Funds ) be, and each hereby is, authorized and directed to take and/or ratify all necessary action for their respective Funds to purchase fidelity bond coverage ( Fidelity Bond ) and a Trustee and Officers ( T&O ) liability insurance policy, substantially in the form presented at this meeting and containing such modifications as the officers of each Fund, with the advice of counsel, may deem necessary or appropriate; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that it is the finding of the Board of Trustees of each Fund (each, a Board ) that the Fidelity Bond covering, among others, officers and employees of each Fund in accordance with the requirements of Rule 17g-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act ), is reasonable in form and amount, after having given due consideration to, among other things, the value of the aggregate assets of the Fund to which any person covered under the Fidelity Bond may have access, the type and terms of the arrangements made for the custody and safekeeping of each Fund s assets and the nature of the securities in each Fund s portfolio; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the portion of the Fidelity Bond premium to be paid by each Fund, be, and hereby is, approved by a vote of each Board and separately by the Trustees who are not interested persons (within the meaning of the 1940 Act) (the Independent Trustees ) of the each Fund, taking all relevant factors into consideration including, but not limited to, the number of the other parties named as insured, the nature of the business activities of such other parties, the amount of the Fidelity Bond, and the amount of the premium for the Fidelity Bond, the ratable allocation of the premium among the Funds, and the extent to which the share of the premium allocated to each Fund is less than the premium each Fund would have had to pay if it had provided and maintained a single insured bond; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Fidelity Bond be, and hereby is, approved by a vote of each Board (all Trustees voting) and separately by the Trustees who are not interested persons (within the meaning of the 1940 Act) (the Independent Trustees ) of each Fund; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of the each Fund shall file, or arrange for the filing of the Fidelity Bond with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and give, or arrange for the giving of, the notices required under paragraph (g) of Rule 17g-1 under the 1940 Act; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the purchase by each Fund of the T&O policy which provides coverage to each Fund, its Trustees and officers against liabilities and expenses (with certain exceptions) arising out of claims, actions or proceedings asserted or threatened against them in their respective capacities for the Fund is determined by each Board to be in the best interest of its respective Fund; and it is further

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**RESOLVED**, that each Board (all Trustees voting) finds, and, separately, all of the Independent Trustees of each Fund find that each Fund's participation in the T&O policy is in the best interest of each Funds and its shareholders; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Trustees and the appropriate officers of each Fund, or any of them, are authorized by their respective Board to make any and all payments, including the payment of a premium of \$164,500 for the T&O policy and a premium of \$3,500 for the Fidelity Bond, and to do any and all other acts, in the name of such Fund and on its behalf, as they, or any of them, may determine to be necessary or desirable and proper in connection with or in furtherance of the foregoing resolutions.

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**Approval of Joint Fidelity Bond Agreement**

**RESOLVED**, that the Boards (all Trustees Voting) and, by separate vote, the Independent Trustees, also hereby approve the Joint Fidelity Bond Agreement, substantially in the form presented at this meeting and containing such modifications as the officers of the Funds, with the advice of counsel, may deem necessary or appropriate, as a result of its prior findings that it is in the best interest of each Fund to participate in a joint fidelity bond with the other Fund with respect to liability coverage provided by that bond.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Certificate of Secretary this 16th day of January, 2014.

/s/ Ty Oyer  
Ty Oyer  
Secretary  
Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund  
Avenue Mutual Funds Trust

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Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund

Rule 17g-1 Fidelity Bond Filing

Amount of Single Insured Bond for Joint Insureds

Period of Coverage: January 27, 2014 through January 27, 2015

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Single Insured Bond Coverage</b>
Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund	\$ 600,000
Avenue Mutual Funds Trust	\$ 1,000,000

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**JOINT FIDELITY BOND AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is made this 16th day of January, 2014 by and among Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund and Avenue Mutual Funds Trust (the Funds ).

WITNESSETH:

**WHEREAS**, the Funds are management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ( 1940 Act ); and

**WHEREAS**, each Fund (with respect to Avenue Mutual Funds Trust, on behalf of its series as listed on Exhibit A hereto), must purchase a bond as required by the 1940 Act and Rule 17g-1 promulgated thereunder under which the Fund or its series (as applicable) is a named insured; and

**WHEREAS**, Rule 17g-1 requires that the named insureds under such a bond enter into an agreement with respect to certain matters;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises and the terms and provisions hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Description of Bond.** Federal Insurance Company, a member company of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies and a reputable fidelity insurance company authorized to do business in such jurisdictions as may be required for it to issue a bond as described herein, has issued a joint fidelity bond in the amount of \$1,600,000 (which may be increased from time to time as required by Rule 17g-1) which designates each of the Funds (and the series of Avenue Mutual Funds Trust) as named insureds ( Bond ).

2. **Minimum Recovery.** In the event recovery is received under the Bond as a result of loss sustained by the Funds, each Fund shall receive an equitable and proportionate share of the recovery which shall be at least equal to the amount which each Fund would have received had it provided and maintained a single insured bond with the minimum coverage required by Rule 17g-1(d)(1).

3. **Term.** The term of this Agreement shall commence on the date hereof and shall terminate upon the termination or cancellation of the Bond.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed on the date first written above.

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Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund

Avenue Mutual Funds Trust

By: /s/ Randolph Takian  
Randy Takian  
President and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Randolph Takian  
Randy Takian  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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**Series of Avenue Mutual Funds Trust**

Avenue Credit Strategies Fund

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