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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)  
Registration Statement No. 333-209722

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee <sup>(1)(2)</sup>
6.875% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock	3,000,000	\$25.00	\$75,000,000	\$7,552.50

- (1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (2) This "Calculation of Registration Fee" table shall be deemed to update the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-209722) in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT  
(To prospectus dated February 25, 2016)

Issued March 10, 2016

3,000,000 Shares



6.875% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock  
(Liquidation Preference \$25.00 per share)

We are offering 3,000,000 shares of our 6.875% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share ("Series C Preferred Stock").

We will pay cumulative dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock from the date of original issue at a rate of 6.875% per annum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share (equivalent to the fixed annual rate of \$1.71875 per share). Dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock will be payable quarterly in arrears on or about the last day of March, June, September and December of each year, beginning on June 30, 2016. The Series C Preferred Stock will rank on parity with our outstanding preferred stock and senior to our common stock with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Generally, we are not permitted to redeem the Series C Preferred Stock prior to March 17, 2021, except in limited circumstances relating to our ability to qualify as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") and pursuant to the special optional redemption provision below. On or after March 17, 2021, we may, at our option, redeem the Series C Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at any time or from time to time, for cash at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share, plus all accrued and unpaid dividends on such Series C Preferred Stock to, but not including, the redemption date. In addition, upon the occurrence of a change of control, as a result of which neither our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, nor the common securities of the acquiring or surviving entity (or American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") representing such securities) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), the NYSE MKT LLC ("NYSE MKT") or the NASDAQ Stock Market ("NASDAQ"), or listed or quoted on a successor exchange or quotation system, we may, at our option, redeem the Series C Preferred Stock, in whole or in part within 120 days after the first date on which such change of control occurred, by paying \$25.00 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the date of redemption. If we exercise any of our redemption rights relating to the Series C Preferred Stock, the holders of Series C Preferred Stock will not have the conversion right described below. The Series C Preferred Stock has no stated maturity and is not subject to mandatory redemption or any sinking fund. Holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock will generally have no voting rights except for limited voting rights if we fail to pay dividends for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive) and in certain other circumstances.

Upon the occurrence of a change of control, as a result of which neither our common stock nor the common securities of the acquiring or surviving entity (or ADRs representing such securities) is listed on the NYSE, the NYSE MKT or NASDAQ or listed or quoted on a successor exchange or quotation system, each holder of Series C Preferred Stock will have the right (unless, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date (as defined herein), we have provided or provide notice of our election to redeem the Series C Preferred Stock) to convert some or all of the Series C Preferred Stock held by it into a number of shares of our common stock per share of Series C Preferred Stock to be converted equal to the lesser of:

- the quotient obtained by dividing (i) the sum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference plus the amount of any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the

Change of Control Conversion Date (unless the Change of Control Conversion Date is after a record date for a Series C Preferred Stock dividend payment and prior to the corresponding Series C Preferred Stock dividend payment date, in which case no additional amount for such accrued and unpaid dividend will be included in this sum) by (ii) the Common Stock Price (as defined herein); and

- 2.59336 (the "Share Cap"), subject to certain adjustments;

subject, in each case, to provisions for the receipt of alternative consideration as described in this prospectus supplement.

To assist us in qualifying as a REIT, our charter contains certain restrictions relating to the ownership and transfer of our capital stock, including an ownership limit of 9.8%, in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the aggregate outstanding shares of the Series C Preferred Stock.

No market currently exists for the Series C Preferred Stock. We intend to apply to list the Series C Preferred Stock on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "STAG Pr C." If the application is approved, trading of the Series C Preferred Stock is expected to commence within 30 days after the date of initial delivery of the Series C Preferred Stock.

**The Series C Preferred Stock is rated below investment grade. Investing in the Series C Preferred Stock involves risks, including risks associated with below investment grade-related securities. You should read carefully and consider "Risk Factors" included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement and in the other documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus before investing in the Series C Preferred Stock.**

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	<u>Per Share</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public offering price	\$25.0000	\$75,000,000
Underwriting discount	\$0.7875	\$2,362,500
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$24.2125	\$72,637,500

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the Series C Preferred Stock through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company on or about March 17, 2016, which is the fifth business day following the pricing of this offering.

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MORGAN STANLEY

BofA MERRILL LYNCH

RAYMOND JAMES

WELLS FARGO SECURITIES

March 10, 2016

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**Prospectus**

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus prepared by us or information to which we have referred you. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any applicable free writing prospectus prepared by us and the documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates or on the date or dates which are specified in those documents. Our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

## PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

### About this Prospectus Supplement

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and supplements and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. To the extent the information contained in this prospectus supplement differs or varies from the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or documents incorporated by reference therein, the information in this prospectus supplement will supersede such information.

This prospectus supplement does not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read the accompanying prospectus as well as the documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference" in the accompanying prospectus.

*Unless otherwise indicated or the context requires otherwise, in this prospectus supplement references to "our company," "we," "us," and "our" refer to STAG Industrial, Inc., a Maryland corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries, including STAG Industrial Operating Partnership, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, which we refer to in this prospectus supplement as our "operating partnership." As used herein, "annualized base rental revenue" refers to the contractual monthly base rent as of December 31, 2015 multiplied by 12. If a tenant is in a free rent period as of December 31, 2015, the annualized base rental revenue is calculated based on the first contractual monthly base rent amount multiplied by 12.*

### Our Company

STAG Industrial, Inc. is a fully-integrated real estate company focused on the acquisition and operation of single-tenant industrial properties throughout the United States. As of December 31, 2015, we owned 291 buildings in 38 states with approximately 54.7 million rentable square feet, consisting of 223 warehouse/distribution buildings, 47 light manufacturing buildings and 21 flex/office buildings. We also owned four vacant land parcels adjacent to four of our buildings. Subject to receipt of any required governmental permits, these vacant parcels may be developed or sold as developable parcels. As of December 31, 2015, our buildings were approximately 95.6% leased to 266 tenants, with no single tenant accounting for more than approximately 3.3% of our total annualized base rental revenue and no single industry accounting for more than approximately 12.2% of our total annualized base rental revenue.

We were incorporated on July 21, 2010 under the laws of the State of Maryland. We are organized and conduct our operations to maintain our qualification as a REIT under Sections 856 through 859 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). As a REIT, we generally are not subject to federal income tax on our income to the extent we currently distribute our income to our stockholders and maintain our qualification as a REIT. We are structured as an umbrella partnership REIT, commonly called an UPREIT, and own substantially all of our assets and conduct substantially all of our business through our operating partnership, STAG Industrial Operating Partnership, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership. As of December 31, 2015, we owned a 95.1% limited partnership interest in our operating partnership.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Federal Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, and our telephone number is (617) 574-4777. Our website is [www.stagindustrial.com](http://www.stagindustrial.com). However, the information located on, or accessible from, our website is not, and should not be deemed to be, part of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus or incorporated into any other filing that we submit to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

## The Offering

The offering terms are summarized below solely for your convenience. For a more complete description of the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock, see "Description of Series C Preferred Stock" in this prospectus supplement.

Issuer	STAG Industrial, Inc., a Maryland corporation
Series C Preferred Stock Offered	3,000,000 shares of 6.875% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock. We reserve the right to reopen this series and issue additional shares of Series C Preferred Stock either through public or private sales at any time and from time to time.
Ranking	<p>The Series C Preferred Stock will rank, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• senior to all classes or series of our common stock, and to any other class or series of our capital stock expressly designated as ranking junior to the Series C Preferred Stock;</li><li>• on parity with our 9.0% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (the "Series A Preferred Stock"), our 6.625% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (the "Series B Preferred Stock"), and any future class or series of our capital stock expressly designated as ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock; and</li><li>• junior to any other class or series of our capital stock expressly designated as ranking senior to the Series C Preferred Stock, none of which exists on the date hereof.</li></ul> <p>The term "capital stock" does not include convertible or exchangeable debt securities, none of which is outstanding as of the date hereof, which, prior to conversion or exchange, will rank senior in right of payment to the Series C Preferred Stock. The Series C Preferred Stock will also rank junior in right of payment to our other existing and future debt obligations.</p>
Dividends	Holder of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock when, as and if authorized by our board of directors from and including the date of original issue, payable quarterly in arrears on or about the last day of March, June, September and December of each year, beginning on June 30, 2016, at the rate of 6.875% per annum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share (equivalent to the fixed annual rate of \$1.71875 per share). The first dividend payable on the Series C Preferred Stock is scheduled to be paid on June 30, 2016 and will be a pro rata dividend from, and including, the original issue date to and including June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$0.49653 per share. Dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock will accrue whether or not (i) we have earnings, (ii) there are funds legally available for the payment of such dividends and (iii) such dividends are authorized or declared.

Liquidation Preference

If we liquidate, dissolve or wind up, holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock will have the right to receive \$25.00 per share of the Series C Preferred Stock, plus accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) to but excluding the date of payment, before any distribution or payment is made to holders of our common stock and any other class or series of capital stock ranking junior to the Series C Preferred Stock as to rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up. We may only issue equity securities ranking senior to the Series C Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution and winding up if we obtain the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares outstanding at the time of Series C Preferred Stock and each other class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights have been conferred (voting together as a single class). The rights of holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock to receive their liquidation preference will be subject to the proportionate rights of any other class or series of our capital stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock, including the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock, as to rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and junior to the rights of any class or series of our capital stock expressly designated as ranking senior to the Series C Preferred Stock.

Optional Redemption

We may not redeem the Series C Preferred Stock prior to March 17, 2021, except in limited circumstances relating to maintaining our qualification as a REIT, as described in "Description of Series C Preferred Stock—Optional Redemption" in this prospectus supplement and pursuant to the special optional redemption provision below. On and after March 17, 2021, the Series C Preferred Stock will be redeemable at our option, in whole or in part, at any time or from time to time, for cash at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) to, but not including, the redemption date. Any partial redemption will be on a pro rata basis.

Special Optional Redemption

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control (as defined below), we may, at our option, redeem the Series C Preferred Stock, in whole or in part within 120 days after the first date on which such Change of Control occurred, by paying \$25.00 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the date of redemption. If, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we exercise any of our redemption rights relating to the Series C Preferred Stock (whether our optional redemption right or our special optional redemption right), the holders of Series C Preferred Stock will not have the conversion right described below.

A "Change of Control" is when, after the original issuance of the Series C Preferred Stock, the following have occurred and are continuing:

- the acquisition by any person, including any syndicate or group deemed to be a "person" under Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), of beneficial ownership, directly or indirectly, through a purchase, merger or other acquisition transaction or series of purchases, mergers or other acquisition transactions of stock of our company entitling that person to exercise more than 50% of the total voting power of all stock of our company entitled to vote generally in the election of our directors (except that such person will be deemed to have beneficial ownership of all securities that such person has the right to acquire, whether such right is currently exercisable or is exercisable only upon the occurrence of a subsequent condition); and
- following the closing of any transaction referred to in the bullet point above, neither we nor the acquiring or surviving entity has a class of common securities (or ADRs representing such securities) listed on the NYSE, the NYSE MKT or NASDAQ or listed or quoted on an exchange or quotation system that is a successor to the NYSE, the NYSE MKT or NASDAQ.

#### Conversion Rights

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, each holder of Series C Preferred Stock will have the right (unless, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided or provide notice of our election to redeem the Series C Preferred Stock) to convert some or all of the Series C Preferred Stock held by such holder on the Change of Control Conversion Date into a number of shares of our common stock per share of Series C Preferred Stock to be converted equal to the lesser of:

- the quotient obtained by dividing (i) the sum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference plus the amount of any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the Change of Control Conversion Date (unless the Change of Control Conversion Date is after a record date for a Series C Preferred Stock dividend payment and prior to the corresponding Series C Preferred Stock dividend payment date, in which case no additional amount for such accrued and unpaid dividend will be included in this sum) by (ii) the Common Stock Price; and
- 2.59336 (i.e., the Share Cap), subject to certain adjustments;

subject, in each case, to provisions for the receipt of alternative consideration as described in this prospectus supplement.

If, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided or provide a redemption notice, whether pursuant to our special optional redemption right in connection with a Change of Control or our optional redemption right, holders of Series C Preferred Stock will not have any right to convert the Series C Preferred Stock in connection with the Change of Control Conversion Right and any shares of Series C Preferred Stock selected for redemption that have been tendered for conversion will be redeemed on the related date of redemption instead of converted on the Change of Control Conversion Date.

For definitions of "Change of Control Conversion Right," "Change of Control Conversion Date" and "Common Stock Price" and for a description of the adjustments and provisions for the receipt of alternative consideration that may be applicable to the Change of Control Conversion Right, see "Description of Series C Preferred Stock—Conversion Rights" in this prospectus supplement.

Except as provided above in connection with a Change of Control, the Series C Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any other securities or property.

No Maturity, Sinking Fund or Mandatory Redemption	The Series C Preferred Stock has no stated maturity date and is not subject to mandatory redemption or any sinking fund. We are not required to set aside funds to redeem the Series C Preferred Stock. Accordingly, the Series C Preferred Stock will remain outstanding indefinitely unless we decide to redeem the shares at our option or, under circumstances where the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock have a conversion right, such holders decide to convert the Series C Preferred Stock into our common stock.
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Limited Voting Rights

Holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock will generally have no voting rights. However, if we are in arrears on dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock (voting separately as a class together with the holders of all other classes or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, including the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock) will be entitled to vote at a special meeting called upon the written request of holders of at least 10% of such stock or at our next annual meeting and each subsequent annual meeting of stockholders for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors until all unpaid dividends with respect to the Series C Preferred Stock and such other classes or series of preferred stock on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set aside for payment. In addition, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares outstanding at the time of the Series C Preferred Stock and each other class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights have been conferred (voting together as a single class) is required for us to authorize or issue any class or series of capital stock ranking, as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, senior to the Series C Preferred Stock or to amend any provision of our charter so as to materially and adversely affect the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock. If such amendment to our charter does not equally affect the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock and one or more other classes or series of preferred stock ranking, as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of two-thirds of the shares outstanding at the time of Series C Preferred Stock, voting separately as a class, is required. Holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock also will have the exclusive right to vote on any amendment to our charter on which holders of the Series C Preferred Stock are otherwise entitled to vote and that would alter only the contract rights, as expressly set forth in our charter, of the Series C Preferred Stock.

Listing	<p>We intend to apply to list the Series C Preferred Stock on the NYSE under the symbol "STAG Pr C." If the application is approved, trading of the Series C Preferred Stock is expected to commence within 30 days after the date of initial delivery of the Series C Preferred Stock. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Series C Preferred Stock prior to commencement of any trading on the NYSE, but are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the Series C Preferred Stock.</p>
Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer	<p>To assist us in maintaining our qualification as a REIT, our charter, subject to certain exceptions, contains, and the Series C Preferred Stock articles supplementary will contain, restrictions on the number of shares of our common stock, Series C Preferred Stock and our capital stock that a person may own. Our charter provides that generally no person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, either more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our aggregate outstanding shares of capital stock, or more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our aggregate outstanding shares of common stock. In addition, the Series C Preferred Stock articles supplementary will provide that generally no person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, either more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the aggregate outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock. See "Description of Series C Preferred Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer" in this prospectus supplement.</p>
Use of Proceeds	<p>We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the Series C Preferred Stock in this offering will be approximately \$72.5 million, after deducting underwriting discounts of approximately \$2.4 million and estimated offering expenses of \$150,000 payable by us. We will contribute the net proceeds we receive from this offering to our operating partnership in exchange for 6.875% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Units of partnership interest in our operating partnership ("Series C Preferred Units") that will have rights as to distributions and upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up that are substantially similar to those of the Series C Preferred Stock.</p> <p>Our operating partnership intends to use the net proceeds from this offering to fund acquisitions, to repay indebtedness outstanding under our \$450.0 million unsecured credit facility (which indebtedness was used to fund recent acquisitions), for general working capital purposes or a combination of the foregoing. See "Use of Proceeds."</p>

Conflicts of Interest	Affiliates of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are lenders under our unsecured credit facility. To the extent that we use any of the net proceeds of this offering to repay borrowings outstanding under our unsecured credit facility, such affiliates of these underwriters will receive their proportionate share of any amount of our unsecured credit facility that is repaid with the net proceeds of this offering. See "Underwriting."
Transfer Agent and Registrar	The transfer agent and registrar for the Series C Preferred Stock is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company.
Settlement	Delivery of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock will be made against payment therefor on or about March 17, 2016, which is the fifth business day following the pricing of this offering.
Risk Factors	Investing in the Series C Preferred Stock involves various risks. You should read carefully and consider the matters discussed under the caption entitled "Risk Factors" included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, under the caption entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement and in the other documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus before making a decision to invest in the Series C Preferred Stock.

## RISK FACTORS

Investing in the Series C Preferred Stock involves risks. Before purchasing the shares of Series C Preferred Stock offered by this prospectus supplement, in addition to other information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should consider carefully the risk factors incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed with the SEC on February 25, 2016. The risks and uncertainties we discuss in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus are those that we currently believe may materially affect our company. Additional risks not presently known, or currently deemed immaterial, also could materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

In addition to the risks identified in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, we are also subject to the following risks:

***The Series C Preferred Stock will be rated below investment grade by the rating agency that currently covers our securities.***

The Series C Preferred Stock will not be rated investment grade by the rating agency that currently covers our securities and will be subject to a higher risk of price volatility than similar, higher-rated securities. Furthermore, increases in leverage of, or deteriorating outlooks for, an issuer, or volatile markets, could lead to significant deterioration in market prices of below-investment grade rated securities.

Ratings only reflect the views of the issuing rating agency and such ratings could at any time be revised downward or withdrawn entirely at the discretion of the issuing rating agency. Further, a rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold any particular security, including the Series C Preferred Stock. In addition, ratings do not reflect market prices or suitability of a security for a particular investor and any rating of the Series C Preferred Stock may not reflect all risks related to our company and our business, or the structure or market value of the Series C Preferred Stock.

***The Series C Preferred Stock is a new issuance with no stated maturity date and does not have an established trading market, which may negatively affect its market value and your ability to transfer or sell your shares.***

The shares of Series C Preferred Stock are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. In addition, since the Series C Preferred Stock has no stated maturity date, investors seeking liquidity will be limited to selling their shares in the secondary market. We intend to apply to list the Series C Preferred Stock on the NYSE under the symbol "STAG PR C", but there can be no assurance that the NYSE will accept the Series C Preferred Stock for listing. Even if the application is approved, however, an active trading market on the NYSE for the shares may not develop or, even if it develops, may not last, in which case the trading price of the shares could be adversely affected and your ability to transfer your shares of Series C Preferred Stock will be limited. If an active trading market does develop on the NYSE, the Series C Preferred Stock may trade at prices lower than the initial offering price. The trading price of the Series C Preferred Stock would depend on many factors, including:

- prevailing interest rates;
- the market for similar securities;
- general economic and financial market conditions;
- our issuance of debt or preferred equity securities; and
- our financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

We have been advised by the underwriters that they intend to make a market in the shares of the Series C Preferred Stock, but they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market-making at any time without notice.

***The Series C Preferred Stock is subordinate to our debt, and your interests could be diluted by the issuance of additional shares of preferred stock, including additional shares of Series C Preferred Stock, and by other transactions.***

As of December 31, 2015, our total indebtedness was approximately \$987.2 million, and we may incur significant additional debt to finance future acquisition activities. The Series C Preferred Stock is subordinate to all of our existing and future debt. Our existing debt restricts, and our future debt may include restrictions on, our ability to pay dividends to preferred stockholders in the event of a default under the debt facilities. Our charter currently authorizes the issuance of up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more classes or series. The issuance of additional preferred stock on parity with or senior to the Series C Preferred Stock would dilute the interests of the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock, and any issuance of preferred stock senior to the Series C Preferred Stock or of additional indebtedness could affect our ability to pay dividends on, redeem or pay the liquidation preference on the Series C Preferred Stock. Other than the conversion right afforded to holders of Series C Preferred Stock upon the occurrence of a Change of Control as described under "Description of Series C Preferred Stock—Conversion Rights" and other than the limited voting rights as described under "Description of the Series C Preferred Stock—Voting Rights" below, none of the provisions relating to the Series C Preferred Stock relate to or limit our indebtedness or afford the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock protection in the event of a highly leveraged or other transaction, including a merger or the sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all our assets or business, that might adversely affect the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock.

***Market interest rates and other factors may have an effect on the value of the Series C Preferred Stock.***

One of the factors that will influence the price of the Series C Preferred Stock will be the dividend yield on the Series C Preferred Stock (as a percentage of the price of the Series C Preferred Stock, as applicable) relative to market interest rates. An increase in market interest rates, which are currently at low levels relative to historical rates, may lead prospective purchasers of the Series C Preferred Stock to expect a higher dividend yield and higher interest rates would likely increase our borrowing costs and potentially decrease funds available for distribution. Thus, higher market interest rates could cause the market price of the Series C Preferred Stock to decrease.

In addition, over the last several years, prices of equity securities in the U.S. trading markets have been experiencing extreme price fluctuations, and the market price of our common stock has also fluctuated significantly during this period. As a result of these and other factors, investors who purchase the Series C Preferred Stock in this offering may experience a decrease, which could be substantial and rapid, in the market price of the Series C Preferred Stock, including decreases unrelated to our operating performance or prospects. Likewise, in the event that the Series C Preferred Stock becomes convertible upon a change of control and is converted into our common stock, holders of our common stock issued on conversion may experience a similar decrease in the market price of our common stock.

***As a holder of Series C Preferred Stock you have extremely limited voting rights.***

Your voting rights as a holder of Series C Preferred Stock will be extremely limited. Our common stock is the only class or series of our stock carrying full voting rights. Voting rights for holders of Series C Preferred Stock exist primarily with respect to the ability to elect additional directors in the event that dividends for six quarterly dividend periods (whether or not consecutive) payable on the Series C Preferred Stock are in arrears, and with respect to voting on amendments to our charter that materially and adversely affect the rights of the Series C Preferred Stock or create additional classes or series of preferred stock that

are senior to the Series C Preferred Stock. See "Description of Series C Preferred Stock—Limited Voting Rights" in this prospectus supplement. Other than the limited circumstances described in this prospectus supplement, holders of Series C Preferred Stock will not have voting rights.

***The Change of Control conversion feature may not adequately compensate you and may make it more difficult for a party to take over our company or discourage a party from taking over our company.***

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, holders of the Series C Preferred Stock will have the right (unless, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided or provide notice of our election to redeem the Series C Preferred Stock) to convert some or all of their Series C Preferred Stock into shares of our common stock (or equivalent value of alternative consideration). See "Description of Series C Preferred Stock—Conversion Rights" in this prospectus supplement. Upon such a conversion, the holders will be limited to a maximum number of shares of our common stock equal to the Share Cap multiplied by the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock converted. If the Common Stock Price is less than \$9.64 (which is 50% of the per-share closing sale price of our common stock reported on the NYSE on March 9, 2016), subject to adjustment, the holders will receive a maximum of 2.59336 shares of our common stock per share of Series C Preferred Stock, which may result in a holder receiving a value that is less than the liquidation preference of the Series C Preferred Stock. In addition, the change of control conversion feature of the Series C Preferred Stock may have the effect of discouraging a third party from making an acquisition proposal for our company or of delaying, deferring or preventing certain change of control transactions of our company under circumstances that stockholders may otherwise believe is in their best interests.

***Our ability to pay dividends is limited by the requirements of Maryland law.***

Our ability to pay dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock is limited by the laws of Maryland. Under applicable Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally may not make a distribution if, after giving effect to the distribution, the corporation would not be able to pay its debts as the debts become due in the usual course of business, or the corporation's total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus, unless the corporation's charter provides otherwise, the amount that would be needed, if the corporation were dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of stockholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the distribution. Accordingly, we generally may not make a distribution on the Series C Preferred Stock if, after giving effect to the distribution, we would not be able to pay our debts as they become due in the usual course of business or our total assets would be less than the sum of our total liabilities plus, unless the terms of such class or series provide otherwise, the amount that would be needed to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of the holders of shares of any class or series of preferred stock then outstanding, if any, with preferences senior to those of the Series C Preferred Stock.

***If our common stock is delisted, your ability to transfer or sell your shares of the Series C Preferred Stock may be limited and the market value of the Series C Preferred Stock will be materially adversely affected.***

Other than in connection with certain change of control transactions, the Series C Preferred Stock does not contain provisions that protect you if our common stock is delisted. Since the Series C Preferred Stock has no stated maturity date, you may be forced to hold your shares of the Series C Preferred Stock and receive stated dividends on the stock when, as and if authorized by our board of directors and declared by us with no assurance as to ever receiving the liquidation preference. In addition, if our common stock is delisted, it is likely that the Series C Preferred Stock will be delisted as well. Accordingly, if our common stock is delisted, your ability to transfer or sell your shares of the Series C Preferred Stock may be limited and the market value of the Series C Preferred Stock will be materially adversely affected.

## CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents that are incorporated by reference, each contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbor from civil liability provided for such statements by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (set forth in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Exchange Act). You can identify forward-looking statements by the use of words such as "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "may," "plans," "projects," "seeks," "should," "will," and variations of such words or similar expressions. Our forward-looking statements reflect our current views about our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies and prospects, which are based on the information currently available to us and on assumptions we have made. Although we believe that our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies and prospects as reflected in or suggested by our forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies or prospects will be attained or achieved and you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Furthermore, actual results may differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements and may be affected by a variety of risks and factors including, without limitation:

- the factors included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, including those set forth under the headings "Business," "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and under the caption entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement;
- our ability to raise equity capital on attractive terms;
- the competitive environment in which we operate;
- real estate risks, including fluctuations in real estate values and the general economic climate in local markets and competition for tenants in such markets;
- decreased rental rates or increasing vacancy rates;
- potential defaults (including bankruptcies or insolvency) on or non-renewal of leases by tenants;
- acquisition risks, including our ability to identify and complete accretive acquisitions and/or failure of such acquisitions to perform in accordance with projections;
- the timing of acquisitions and dispositions;
- potential natural disasters and other potentially catastrophic events such as acts of war and/or terrorism;
- national, international, regional and local economic conditions;
- the general level of interest rates and currencies;
- potential changes in the law or governmental regulations that affect us and interpretations of those laws and regulations, including changes in real estate and zoning or REIT tax laws, and potential increases in real property tax rates;
- financing risks, including the risks that our cash flows from operations may be insufficient to meet required payments of principal and interest and we may be unable to refinance our existing debt upon maturity or obtain new financing on attractive terms or at all;
- credit risk in the event of non-performance by the counterparties to the interest rate swaps and revolving and unfunded debt;
- lack of or insufficient amounts of insurance;
- our ability to maintain our qualification as a REIT;





- our ability to retain key personnel;
- litigation, including costs associated with prosecuting or defending claims and any adverse outcomes; and
- possible environmental liabilities, including costs, fines or penalties that may be incurred due to necessary remediation of contamination of properties presently owned or previously owned by us.

Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made. New risks and uncertainties arise over time, and it is not possible for us to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to, and do not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Accordingly, investors should use caution in relying on past forward-looking statements, which were based on results and trends at the time they were made, to anticipate future results or trends. For a further discussion of these and other factors that could impact our future results, performance or transactions, see the section above entitled "Risk Factors," including the risks incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus from our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds from the sale of the Series C Preferred Stock in this offering will be approximately \$72.5 million, after deducting underwriting discounts of approximately \$2.4 million and estimated offering expenses of \$150,000 payable by us. We will contribute the net proceeds we receive from this offering to our operating partnership in exchange for Series C Preferred Units that will have rights as to distributions and upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up that are substantially similar to those of the Series C Preferred Stock.

Our operating partnership intends to use the net proceeds from this offering to fund acquisitions, to repay indebtedness outstanding under our unsecured credit facility (which indebtedness was used to fund recent acquisitions), for general working capital purposes or a combination of the foregoing.

As of December 31, 2015, borrowings under our unsecured credit facility bore interest at LIBOR plus 1.15% and totaled approximately \$56.0 million. The proceeds from the borrowings under our unsecured credit facility were used for property acquisitions, working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes. Our unsecured credit facility matures on December 18, 2019.

Pending application of cash proceeds, we intend to invest the net proceeds temporarily in interest-bearing, short-term investment-grade securities, money-market accounts or checking accounts, which are consistent with our qualification as a REIT. Such investments may include, for example, government and government agency certificates, certificates of deposit, interest-bearing bank deposits and mortgage loan participations. These initial investments are expected to provide a lower net return than we will seek to achieve from investments in our properties.

Affiliates of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are lenders under our unsecured credit facility. To the extent that we use any of the net proceeds of this offering to repay borrowings outstanding under our unsecured credit facility, such affiliates of these underwriters will receive their proportionate share of any amount of our unsecured credit facility that is repaid with the net proceeds from this offering. See "Underwriting."

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES C PREFERRED STOCK

*The following summary of the material terms and provisions of the Series C Preferred Stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to our charter, including the articles supplementary setting forth the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock, and our bylaws, each of which is available from us and is or will be filed with the SEC. This description of the particular terms of the Series C Preferred Stock supplements, and to the extent inconsistent therewith replaces, the description of the general terms and provisions of our preferred stock set forth in the accompanying prospectus.*

### General

Prior to the closing of this offering, our board of directors will classify 3,000,000 shares of the company's authorized but unissued preferred stock as, and will approve articles supplementary setting forth the terms of, a series of the company's preferred stock, designated as the 6.875% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock. When issued in accordance with this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the Series C Preferred Stock will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. Our board of directors may authorize the issuance and sale of additional shares of Series C Preferred Stock from time to time.

In connection with this offering, we, in accordance with the terms of the partnership agreement of our operating partnership, will contribute or otherwise transfer the net proceeds of the sale of the Series C Preferred Stock to our operating partnership, and our operating partnership will issue to us 6.875% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Units. Our operating partnership will be required to make all required distributions on the Series C Preferred Units after any distribution of cash or assets to the holders of preferred units ranking senior to the Series C Preferred Units as to distributions and liquidations that we may issue and prior to any distribution of cash or assets to the holders of common units of limited partnership interests in our operating partnership or to the holders of any other equity interest of our operating partnership, except for any other series of preferred units ranking on a parity with the Series C Preferred Units as to distributions and liquidation, including our operating partnership's 9.0% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Units and 6.625% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Units, in which case distributions will be made pro rata with the Series C Preferred Units; provided however, that our operating partnership may make such distributions as are necessary to enable us to maintain our qualification as a REIT.

### Listing

We intend to apply to list the Series C Preferred Stock on the NYSE under the symbol "STAG Pr C." We will use our best efforts to have the listing application for the Series C Preferred Stock approved. If the application is approved, trading of the of Series C Preferred Stock is expected to commence within 30 days after the date of initial delivery of the Series C Preferred Stock. See "Underwriting" in this prospectus supplement for a discussion of the expected trading of the Series C Preferred Stock on the NYSE.

### Ranking

The Series C Preferred Stock will rank, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs:

- senior to all classes or series of our common stock, and to any other class or series of our capital stock expressly designated as ranking junior to the Series C Preferred Stock;
- on parity with the Series A Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, and any future class or series of our capital stock expressly designated as ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock; and

- junior to any other class or series of our capital stock expressly designated as ranking senior to the Series C Preferred Stock, none of which exists on the date hereof.

The term "capital stock" does not include convertible or exchangeable debt securities, none of which is outstanding as of the date hereof, which, prior to conversion or exchange, will rank senior in right of payment to the Series C Preferred Stock. The Series C Preferred Stock will also rank junior in right of payment to our other existing and future debt obligations.

## **Dividends**

Subject to the preferential rights of the holders of any class or series of our capital stock ranking senior to the Series C Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights, holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, when, as and if authorized by our board of directors and declared by us out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends, cumulative cash dividends at the rate of 6.875% per annum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share of the Series C Preferred Stock (equivalent to the fixed annual amount of \$1.71875 per share of the Series C Preferred Stock).

Dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock will accrue and be cumulative from and including the date of original issue and will be payable to holders quarterly in arrears on or about the last day of March, June, September and December of each year or, if such day is not a business day, on the next succeeding business day, except that, if such business day is in the next succeeding year, such payment shall be made on the immediately preceding business day, in each case with the same force and effect as if made on such date. The term "business day" means each day, other than a Saturday or a Sunday, which is not a day on which banks in New York are required to close.

The amount of any dividend payable on the Series C Preferred Stock for any dividend period will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of 12 30-day months. A dividend period is the respective period commencing on and including the first day of January, April, July and October of each year and ending on and including the day preceding the first day of the next succeeding dividend period (other than the initial dividend period and the dividend period during which any shares of Series C Preferred Stock shall be redeemed). Dividends will be payable to holders of record as they appear in our stock records at the close of business on the applicable record date, which shall be the date designated by our board of directors as the record date for the payment of dividends that is not more than 35 and not fewer than 10 days prior to the scheduled dividend payment date.

The first dividend on the Series C Preferred Stock is scheduled to be paid on June 30, 2016 and will be a pro rata dividend from and including the original issue date to and including June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$0.49653 per share.

Dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock will accrue whether or not:

- we have earnings;
- there are funds legally available for the payment of those dividends; or
- those dividends are authorized or declared.

Except as described in the next two paragraphs, unless full cumulative dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock for all past dividend periods that have ended shall have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid in cash or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof in cash is set apart for payment, we will not:

- declare and pay or declare and set aside for payment of dividends, and we will not declare and make any distribution of cash or other property, directly or indirectly, on or with respect to any shares of our common stock or shares of any other class or series of our capital stock ranking, as to dividends, on parity with or junior to the Series C Preferred Stock, for any period; or

- redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire for any consideration, or make any other distribution of cash or other property, directly or indirectly, on or with respect to, or pay or make available any monies for a sinking fund for the redemption of, any common stock or shares of any other class or series of our capital stock ranking, as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, on parity with or junior to the Series C Preferred Stock.

The foregoing sentence, however, will not prohibit:

- dividends payable solely in capital stock ranking, as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, junior to the Series C Preferred Stock;
- the conversion into or exchange for other shares of any class or series of capital stock ranking, as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, junior to the Series C Preferred Stock;
- our purchase of shares of Series C Preferred Stock or any other class or series of capital stock ranking, as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, on parity with or junior to the Series C Preferred Stock pursuant to our charter to the extent necessary to preserve our status as a REIT as discussed under "—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer"; and
- our purchase of shares of any other class or series of capital stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock.

When we do not pay dividends in full (and do not set apart a sum sufficient to pay them in full) on the Series C Preferred Stock and the shares of any other class or series of capital stock ranking, as to dividends, on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock, we will declare any dividends upon the Series C Preferred Stock and each such other class or series of capital stock ranking, as to dividends, on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock pro rata, so that the amount of dividends declared per share of Series C Preferred Stock and such other class or series of capital stock will in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on the Series C Preferred Stock and such other class or series of capital stock (which will not include any accrual in respect of unpaid dividends on such other class or series of capital stock for prior dividend periods if such other class or series of capital stock does not have a cumulative dividend) bear to each other. No interest, or sum of money in lieu of interest, will be payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments on the Series C Preferred Stock which may be in arrears.

Holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock are not entitled to any dividend, whether payable in cash, property or shares of capital stock, in excess of full cumulative dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock as described above. Any dividend payment made on the Series C Preferred Stock will first be credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid dividends due with respect to those shares which remain payable. Accrued but unpaid dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock will accumulate as of the dividend payment date on which they first become payable.

We do not intend to declare dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock, or pay or set apart for payment dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock, if the terms of any of our agreements, including any agreements relating to our indebtedness, prohibit such a declaration, payment or setting apart for payment or provide that such declaration, payment or setting apart for payment would constitute a breach of or default under such an agreement. Likewise, no dividends will be authorized by our board of directors and declared by us or paid or set apart for payment if such authorization, declaration or payment is restricted or prohibited by law.

If a default or event of default occurs and is continuing, we may be precluded from paying certain distributions (other than those required to allow us to maintain our status as a REIT) under the terms of

our unsecured credit facility, unsecured term loans and unsecured notes. In addition, other indebtedness that we may incur in the future may contain financial or other covenants more restrictive than those applicable to our unsecured credit facility, unsecured term loans and unsecured notes.

### **Liquidation Preference**

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, before any distribution or payment shall be made to holders of shares of our common stock or any other class or series of capital stock ranking, as to rights upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, junior to the Series C Preferred Stock, holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock will be entitled to be paid out of our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders, after payment of or provision for our debts and other liabilities, a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share of Series C Preferred Stock, plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) to but excluding the date of payment. If, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our available assets are insufficient to pay the full amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all shares of each other class or series of capital stock ranking, as to rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock in the distribution of assets, then holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock and each such other class or series of capital stock ranking, as to rights upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock will share ratably in any distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be respectively entitled.

Holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock will be entitled to written notice of any distribution in connection with any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days prior to the distribution payment date. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. Our consolidation or merger with or into any other corporation, trust or other entity, or the voluntary sale, lease, transfer or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business, will not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

In determining whether a distribution (other than upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation), by dividend, redemption or other acquisition of shares of our capital stock or otherwise, is permitted under Maryland law, amounts that would be needed, if we were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock will not be added to our total liabilities.

### **Optional Redemption**

Except with respect to the special optional redemption described below and in certain limited circumstances relating to maintaining our qualification as a REIT as described in "—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer," we cannot redeem the Series C Preferred Stock prior to March 17, 2021. On and after March 17, 2021, we may, at our option, upon not fewer than 30 and not more than 60 days' written notice, redeem the Series C Preferred Stock, in whole or in part, at any time or from time to time, for cash at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share, plus all accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) to, but not including, the date fixed for redemption, without interest, to the extent we have funds legally available for that purpose.

If fewer than all of the outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock are to be redeemed, we will select the shares of Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed pro rata (as nearly as may be practicable without creating fractional shares) by lot, or by any other equitable method that we determine will not violate the 9.8% Series C Preferred Stock ownership limit. If such redemption is to be by lot and, as a

result of such redemption, any holder of shares of Series C Preferred Stock, other than a holder of Series C Preferred Stock that has received an exemption from the ownership limit, would have actual or constructive ownership of more than 9.8% of the issued and outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock by value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, because such holder's shares of Series C Preferred Stock were not redeemed, or were only redeemed in part, then, except as otherwise provided in the charter, we will redeem the requisite number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock of such holder such that no holder will own in excess of the 9.8% Series C Preferred Stock ownership limit subsequent to such redemption. See "—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer" below. In order for their shares of Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed, holders must surrender their shares at the place, or in accordance with the book-entry procedures, designated in the notice of redemption. Holders will then be entitled to the redemption price and any accrued and unpaid dividends payable upon redemption following surrender of the shares as detailed below. If a notice of redemption has been given (in the case of a redemption of the Series C Preferred Stock other than to preserve our status as a REIT), if the funds necessary for the redemption have been set aside by us in trust for the benefit of the holders of any shares of Series C Preferred Stock called for redemption and if irrevocable instructions have been given to pay the redemption price and all accrued and unpaid dividends, then from and after the redemption date, dividends will cease to accrue on such shares of Series C Preferred Stock and such shares of Series C Preferred Stock will no longer be deemed outstanding. At such time, all rights of the holders of such shares will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price plus any accrued and unpaid dividends payable upon redemption, without interest. So long as no dividends are in arrears and subject to the provisions of applicable law, we may from time to time repurchase all or any part of the Series C Preferred Stock, including the repurchase of shares of Series C Preferred Stock in open-market transactions and individual purchases at such prices as we negotiate, in each case as duly authorized by our board of directors.

Unless full cumulative dividends on all shares of Series C Preferred Stock have been or contemporaneously are authorized, declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for all past dividend periods that have ended, no shares of Series C Preferred Stock will be redeemed unless all outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock are simultaneously redeemed and we will not purchase or otherwise acquire directly or indirectly any shares of Series C Preferred Stock or any class or series of our capital stock ranking, as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, on parity with or junior to the Series C Preferred Stock (except by conversion into or exchange for our capital stock ranking junior to the Series C Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up); provided, however, that whether or not the requirements set forth above have been met, we may purchase shares of Series C Preferred Stock or any other class or series of capital stock ranking, as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, on parity with or junior to the Series C Preferred Stock pursuant to our charter to the extent necessary to ensure that we meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, and may purchase or acquire shares of Series C Preferred Stock or preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock as to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock. See "—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer" below.

Notice of redemption will be mailed, postage prepaid, not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the redemption date, addressed to the respective holders of record of the Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed at their respective addresses as they appear on our stock transfer records as maintained by the transfer agent named in "—Transfer Agent and Registrar." No failure to give such notice or any defect therein or in the mailing thereof will affect the validity of the proceedings for the redemption of any shares of Series C Preferred Stock except as to the holder to whom notice was defective or not given. In addition

to any information required by law or by the applicable rules of any exchange upon which the Series C Preferred Stock may be listed or admitted to trading, each notice will state:

- the redemption date;
- the redemption price;
- the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed;
- the place or places where the certificates, if any, representing shares of Series C Preferred Stock are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;
- procedures for surrendering noncertificated shares of Series C Preferred Stock for payment of the redemption price;
- that dividends on the shares of Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed will cease to accumulate on such redemption date; and
- that payment of the redemption price and any accumulated and unpaid dividends will be made upon presentation and surrender of such Series C Preferred Stock.

If fewer than all of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock held by any holder are to be redeemed, the notice mailed to such holder will also specify the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock held by such holder to be redeemed.

We are not required to provide such notice in the event we redeem Series C Preferred Stock in order to qualify or maintain our status as a REIT.

Any such redemption may be made conditional on such factors as may be determined by our board of directors and as set forth in the notice of redemption.

If a redemption date falls after a dividend record date and on or prior to the corresponding dividend payment date, each holder of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock at the close of business of such dividend record date will be entitled to the dividend payable on such shares on the corresponding dividend payment date notwithstanding the redemption of such shares on or prior to such dividend payment date and each holder of shares of Series C Preferred Stock that surrenders such shares on such redemption date will be entitled to the dividends accruing after the end of the applicable dividend period, up to but excluding the redemption date. Except as described above, we will make no payment or allowance for unpaid dividends, whether or not in arrears, on Series C Preferred Stock for which a notice of redemption has been given.

All shares of Series C Preferred Stock that we redeem or repurchase will be retired and restored to the status of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock, without designation as to series or class.

Subject to applicable law and the limitation on purchases when dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock are in arrears, we may, at any time and from time to time, purchase Series C Preferred Stock in the open market, by tender or by private agreement.

Future debt instruments may prohibit us, from redeeming or otherwise repurchasing any shares of our capital stock, including the Series C Preferred Stock, except in limited circumstances.

### **Special Optional Redemption**

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control (as defined below), we may, at our option, redeem the Series C Preferred Stock, in whole or in part within 120 days after the first date on which such Change of Control occurred, by paying \$25.00 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the date of redemption. If, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided or provide notice of redemption with respect to the Series C Preferred Stock (whether pursuant to our optional



redemption right or our special optional redemption right), the holders of Series C Preferred Stock will not have the conversion right described below under "—Conversion Rights."

We will mail to you, if you are a record holder of the Series C Preferred Stock, a notice of redemption no fewer than 30 days nor more than 60 days before the redemption date. We will send the notice to your address shown on our stock transfer books. A failure to give notice of redemption or any defect in the notice or in its mailing will not affect the validity of the redemption of any Series C Preferred Stock except as to the holder to whom notice was defective. Each notice will state the following:

- the redemption date;
- the redemption price;
- the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed;
- the place or places where the certificates, if any, representing shares of Series C Preferred Stock are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;
- procedures for surrendering noncertificated shares of Series C Preferred Stock for payment of the redemption price;
- that dividends on the shares of Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed will cease to accumulate on such redemption date;
- that payment of the redemption price and any accumulated and unpaid dividends will be made upon presentation and surrender of such Series C Preferred Stock;
- that the Series C Preferred Stock is being redeemed pursuant to our special optional redemption right in connection with the occurrence of a Change of Control and a brief description of the transaction or transactions constituting such Change of Control; and
- that the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock to which the notice relates will not be able to tender such Series C Preferred Stock for conversion in connection with the Change of Control and each share of Series C Preferred Stock tendered for conversion that is selected, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, for redemption will be redeemed on the related date of redemption instead of converted on the Change of Control Conversion Date.

If we redeem fewer than all of the outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock, the notice of redemption mailed to each stockholder will also specify the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock that we will redeem from each stockholder. In this case, we will determine the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed as described above in "—Optional Redemption."

If we have given a notice of redemption and have set aside sufficient funds for the redemption in trust for the benefit of the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock called for redemption, then from and after the redemption date, those shares of Series C Preferred Stock will be treated as no longer being outstanding, no further dividends will accrue and all other rights of the holders of those shares of Series C Preferred Stock will terminate. The holders of those shares of Series C Preferred Stock will retain their right to receive the redemption price for their shares and any accrued and unpaid dividends through, but not including, the redemption date, without interest.

The holders of Series C Preferred Stock at the close of business on a dividend record date will be entitled to receive the dividend payable with respect to the Series C Preferred Stock on the corresponding payment date notwithstanding the redemption of the Series C Preferred Stock between such record date and the corresponding payment date or our default in the payment of the dividend due. Except as provided above, we will make no payment or allowance for unpaid dividends, whether or not in arrears, on Series C Preferred Stock to be redeemed.

A "Change of Control" is when, after the original issuance of the Series C Preferred Stock, the following have occurred and are continuing:

- the acquisition by any person, including any syndicate or group deemed to be a "person" under Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, of beneficial ownership, directly or indirectly, through a purchase, merger or other acquisition transaction or series of purchases, mergers or other acquisition transactions of stock of our company entitling that person to exercise more than 50% of the total voting power of all stock of our company entitled to vote generally in the election of our directors (except that such person will be deemed to have beneficial ownership of all securities that such person has the right to acquire, whether such right is currently exercisable or is exercisable only upon the occurrence of a subsequent condition); and
- following the closing of any transaction referred to in the bullet point above, neither we nor the acquiring or surviving entity has a class of common securities (or ADRs representing such securities) listed on the NYSE, the NYSE MKT or NASDAQ or listed or quoted on an exchange or quotation system that is a successor to the NYSE, the NYSE MKT or NASDAQ.

### **Conversion Rights**

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, each holder of Series C Preferred Stock will have the right, unless, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided or provide notice of our election to redeem the Series C Preferred Stock as described under "—Optional Redemption" or "—Special Optional Redemption," to convert some or all of the Series C Preferred Stock held by such holder (the "Change of Control Conversion Right") on the Change of Control Conversion Date into a number of shares of our common stock per share of Series C Preferred Stock (the "Common Stock Conversion Consideration"), which is equal to the lesser of:

- the quotient obtained by dividing (i) the sum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference plus the amount of any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the Change of Control Conversion Date (unless the Change of Control Conversion Date is after a record date for a Series C Preferred Stock dividend payment and prior to the corresponding Series C Preferred Stock dividend payment date, in which case no additional amount for such accrued and unpaid dividend will be included in this sum) by (ii) the Common Stock Price (such quotient, the "Conversion Rate"); and
- 2.59336 (i.e., the Share Cap).

The Share Cap is subject to pro rata adjustments for any share splits (including those effected pursuant to a distribution of our common stock), subdivisions or combinations (in each case, a "Share Split") with respect to our common stock as follows: the adjusted Share Cap as the result of a Share Split will be the number of shares of our common stock that is equivalent to the product obtained by multiplying (i) the Share Cap in effect immediately prior to such Share Split by (ii) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of shares of our common stock outstanding after giving effect to such Share Split and the denominator of which is the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to such Share Split.

For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the immediately succeeding sentence, the aggregate number of shares of our common stock (or equivalent Alternative Conversion Consideration (as defined below), as applicable) issuable in connection with the exercise of the Change of Control Conversion Right will not exceed 7,780,080 shares of common stock (or equivalent Alternative Conversion Consideration, as applicable) (the "Exchange Cap"). The Exchange Cap is subject to pro rata adjustments for any Share Splits on the same basis as the corresponding adjustment to the Share Cap.

In the case of a Change of Control pursuant to which our common stock will be converted into cash, securities or other property or assets (including any combination thereof) (the "Alternative Form Consideration"), a holder of Series C Preferred Stock will receive upon conversion of such Series C Preferred Stock the kind and amount of Alternative Form Consideration which such holder would have

owned or been entitled to receive upon the Change of Control had such holder held a number of shares of our common stock equal to the Common Stock Conversion Consideration immediately prior to the effective time of the Change of Control (the "Alternative Conversion Consideration," and the Common Stock Conversion Consideration or the Alternative Conversion Consideration, as may be applicable to a Change of Control, is referred to as the "Conversion Consideration").

If the holders of our common stock have the opportunity to elect the form of consideration to be received in the Change of Control, the Conversion Consideration will be deemed to be the kind and amount of consideration actually received by holders of a majority of our common stock that voted for such an election (if electing between two types of consideration) or holders of a plurality of our common stock that voted for such an election (if electing between more than two types of consideration), as the case may be, and will be subject to any limitations to which all holders of our common stock are subject, including, without limitation, pro rata reductions applicable to any portion of the consideration payable in the Change of Control.

We will not issue fractional shares of common stock upon the conversion of the Series C Preferred Stock. Instead, we will pay the cash value of such fractional shares.

Within 15 days following the occurrence of a Change of Control, we will provide to holders of Series C Preferred Stock a notice of occurrence of the Change of Control that describes the resulting Change of Control Conversion Right. This notice will state the following:

- the events constituting the Change of Control;
- the date of the Change of Control;
- the last date on which the holders of Series C Preferred Stock may exercise their Change of Control Conversion Right;
- the method and period for calculating the Common Stock Price;
- the Change of Control Conversion Date;
- that if, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided or provide notice of our election to redeem all or any portion of the Series C Preferred Stock, holders will not be able to convert Series C Preferred Stock designated for redemption and such shares will be redeemed on the related redemption date, even if such shares have already been tendered for conversion pursuant to the Change of Control Conversion Right;
- if applicable, the type and amount of Alternative Conversion Consideration entitled to be received per share of Series C Preferred Stock;
- the name and address of the paying agent and the conversion agent; and
- the procedures that the holders of Series C Preferred Stock must follow to exercise the Change of Control Conversion Right.

We will issue a press release for publication on the Dow Jones & Company, Inc., Business Wire, PR Newswire or Bloomberg Business News (or, if these organizations are not in existence at the time of issuance of the press release, such other news or press organization as is reasonably calculated to broadly disseminate the relevant information to the public), or post a notice on our website, in any event prior to the opening of business on the first business day following any date on which we provide the notice described above to the holders of Series C Preferred Stock.

To exercise the Change of Control Conversion Right, the holders of Series C Preferred Stock will be required to deliver, on or before the close of business on the Change of Control Conversion Date, the certificates (if any) representing Series C Preferred Stock to be converted, duly endorsed for transfer, together with a written conversion notice completed, to our transfer agent. The conversion notice must state:

- the relevant Change of Control Conversion Date;

- the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock to be converted; and
- that the Series C Preferred Stock is to be converted pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Series C Preferred Stock.

The "Change of Control Conversion Date" is the date the Series C Preferred Stock is to be converted, which will be a business day that is no fewer than 20 days nor more than 35 days after the date on which we provide the notice described above to the holders of Series C Preferred Stock.

The "Common Stock Price" will be (i) if the consideration to be received in the Change of Control by the holders of our common stock is solely cash, the amount of cash consideration per share of our common stock or (ii) if the consideration to be received in the Change of Control by holders of our common stock is other than solely cash (x) the average of the closing sale prices per share of our common stock (or, if no closing sale price is reported, the average of the closing bid and ask prices or, if more than one in either case, the average of the average closing bid and the average closing ask prices) for the ten consecutive trading days immediately preceding, but not including, the effective date of the Change of Control as reported on the principal U.S. securities exchange on which our common stock is then traded, or (y) the average of the last quoted bid prices for our common stock in the over-the-counter market as reported by OTC Markets Group, Inc. or similar organization for the ten consecutive trading days immediately preceding, but not including, the effective date of the Change of Control, if our common stock is not then listed for trading on a U.S. securities exchange.

Holders of Series C Preferred Stock may withdraw any notice of exercise of a Change of Control Conversion Right (in whole or in part) by a written notice of withdrawal delivered to our transfer agent prior to the close of business on the business day prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date. The notice of withdrawal must state:

- the number of withdrawn shares of Series C Preferred Stock;
- if certificated Series C Preferred Stock has been issued, the certificate numbers of the withdrawn shares of Series C Preferred Stock; and
- the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock, if any, which remain subject to the conversion notice.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Series C Preferred Stock is held in global form, the conversion notice and/or the notice of withdrawal, as applicable, must comply with applicable procedures of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC").

Series C Preferred Stock as to which the Change of Control Conversion Right has been properly exercised and for which the conversion notice has not been properly withdrawn will be converted into the applicable Conversion Consideration in accordance with the Change of Control Conversion Right on the Change of Control Conversion Date, unless prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date we have provided or provide notice of our election to redeem such Series C Preferred Stock, whether pursuant to our optional redemption right or our special optional redemption right. If we elect to redeem Series C Preferred Stock that would otherwise be converted into the applicable Conversion Consideration on a Change of Control Conversion Date, such Series C Preferred Stock will not be so converted and the holders of such shares will be entitled to receive on the applicable redemption date \$25.00 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon to, but not including, the redemption date, in accordance with our optional redemption right or special optional redemption right. See "—Optional Redemption" and "—Special Optional Redemption" above.

We will deliver amounts owing upon conversion no later than the third business day following the Change of Control Conversion Date.

In connection with the exercise of any Change of Control Conversion Right, we will comply with all federal and state securities laws and stock exchange rules in connection with any conversion of Series C Preferred Stock into shares of our common stock. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Series C

Preferred Stock, no holder of Series C Preferred Stock will be entitled to convert such Series C Preferred Stock into shares of our common stock to the extent that receipt of such common stock would cause such holder (or any other person) to exceed the share ownership limits contained in our charter, including the articles supplementary setting forth the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock, unless we provide an exemption from this limitation for such holder. See "—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer" below.

The Change of Control conversion feature may make it more difficult for a party to take over our company or discourage a party from taking over our company. See "Risk Factors—The Change of Control conversion feature may not adequately compensate you and may make it more difficult for a party to take over our company or discourage a party from taking over our company" in this prospectus supplement.

Except as provided above in connection with a Change of Control, the Series C Preferred Stock is not convertible into or exchangeable for any other securities or property.

### **No Maturity, Sinking Fund or Mandatory Redemption**

The Series C Preferred Stock has no maturity date and we are not required to redeem the Series C Preferred Stock at any time. Accordingly, the Series C Preferred Stock will remain outstanding indefinitely, unless we decide, at our option, to exercise our redemption right or, under circumstances where the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock have a conversion right, such holders convert the Series C Preferred Stock into our common stock. The Series C Preferred Stock is not subject to any sinking fund.

### **Limited Voting Rights**

Holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock generally do not have any voting rights, except as set forth below.

If dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive (which we refer to as a preferred dividend default), holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock (voting separately as a class together with the holders of all other classes or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock with respect to payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable) will be entitled to vote for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors (which we refer to as preferred stock directors), until all unpaid dividends for past dividend periods that have ended with respect to the Series C Preferred Stock and such other classes or series of preferred stock have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for payment is set aside for such payment. In such a case, the number of directors serving on our board of directors will be increased by two. The preferred stock directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast in the election for a one-year term and each preferred stock director will serve until his successor is duly elected and qualified or until the director's right to hold the office terminates, whichever occurs earlier. The election will take place at:

- a special meeting called upon the written request of holders of at least 10% of the outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock and any other class or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, if this request is received more than 90 days before the date fixed for our next annual or special meeting of stockholders or, if we receive the request for a special meeting within 90 days before the date fixed for our next annual or special meeting of stockholders, at our annual or special meeting of stockholders; and
- each subsequent annual meeting (or special meeting held in its place) until all dividends accumulated on the Series C Preferred Stock and on any other class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable have been paid in full for all past dividend periods that have ended.

If and when all accumulated dividends on the Series C Preferred Stock and all other classes or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable shall have been paid in full or a sum sufficient for such payment in

full is set aside for payment, holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock shall be divested of the voting rights set forth above (subject to re-vesting in the event of each and every preferred dividend default) and the term and office of such preferred stock directors so elected will terminate and the entire board of directors will be reduced accordingly.

Any preferred stock director elected by holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock and other holders of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable may be removed at any time with or without cause by the vote of, and may not be removed otherwise than by the vote of, the holders of record of a majority of the outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock and all other classes or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with the Series C Preferred Stock and entitled to vote thereon when they have the voting rights described above (voting together as a single class). The preferred stock directors will each be entitled to one vote on any matter. So long as a preferred dividend default continues, any vacancy in the office of a preferred stock director may be filled by written consent of the preferred stock director remaining in office, or if none remains in office, by a vote of the holders of record of a majority of the outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock when they have the voting rights described above (voting as a single class with all other classes or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable).

So long as any shares of Series C Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares outstanding at the time of Series C Preferred Stock and each other class or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with Series C Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights have been conferred (voting together as a single class), authorize, create or issue, or increase the number of authorized or issued shares of, any class or series of capital stock ranking senior to the Series C Preferred Stock with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, or reclassify any of our authorized capital stock into such capital stock, or create, authorize or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase such capital stock.

In addition, so long as any shares of Series C Preferred Stock remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock, amend, alter or repeal the provisions of our charter or the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock, whether by merger, consolidation, transfer or conveyance of substantially all of our assets or otherwise, so as to materially and adversely affect any right, preference, privilege or voting power of the Series C Preferred Stock, except that with respect to the occurrence of any of the events set forth above, so long as the Series C Preferred Stock remains outstanding with the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock materially unchanged, taking into account that, upon the occurrence of an event set forth above, we may not be the surviving entity, the occurrence of such event will not be deemed to materially and adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting power of the Series C Preferred Stock, and in such case such holders shall not have any voting rights with respect to the events set forth above; provided, further, that such vote or consent will not be required with respect to any such amendment, alteration or repeal that equally affects the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock and one or more other classes or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with Series C Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights have been conferred, if such amendment, alteration or repeal is approved by the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of two-thirds of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock and such other class or series of preferred stock (voting together as a single class). Furthermore, if holders of shares of the Series C Preferred Stock receive the greater of the full trading price of the Series C Preferred Stock on the date of an event set forth above or the \$25.00 per share liquidation preference pursuant to the occurrence of any of the events set forth above, then such holders shall not have any voting rights with respect to the events set forth above.

So long as any shares of Series C Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock also will have the exclusive right to vote on any amendment, alteration or repeal of the provisions of our charter or the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock on which holders of Series C Preferred Stock are otherwise entitled to vote pursuant to the paragraph set forth immediately above that would alter only the contract rights, as expressly set forth in our charter, of the Series C Preferred Stock, and the holders of any other classes or series of our capital stock will not be entitled to vote on such an amendment, alteration or repeal. With respect to any amendment, alteration or repeal of the provisions of our charter or the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock that equally affects the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock and one or more other classes or series of preferred stock ranking on parity with Series C Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and upon which like voting rights have been conferred, so long as any shares of Series C Preferred Stock remain outstanding, the holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock and such other class or series of preferred stock (voting together as a single class), also will have the exclusive right to vote on any amendment, alteration or repeal of the provisions of our charter or the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock on which holders of Series C Preferred Stock are otherwise entitled to vote pursuant to the paragraph set forth immediately above that would alter only the contract rights, as expressly set forth in our charter, of the Series C Preferred Stock and such other classes or series of preferred stock, and the holders of any other classes or series of our capital stock will not be entitled to vote on such an amendment.

Holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock will not be entitled to vote with respect to any increase in the total number of authorized shares of our common stock or preferred stock, any increase in the number of authorized shares of Series C Preferred Stock or the creation or issuance of any other class or series of capital stock, or any increase in the number of authorized shares of any other class or series of capital stock, in each case ranking on parity with or junior to the Series C Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock will not have any voting rights with respect to, and the consent of the holders of shares of Series C Preferred Stock is not required for, the taking of any corporate action, including any merger or consolidation involving us or a sale of all or substantially all of our assets, regardless of the effect that such merger, consolidation or sale may have upon the powers, preferences, voting power or other rights or privileges of the Series C Preferred Stock, except as set forth above.

In addition, the voting provisions above will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which the vote would otherwise be required would occur, we have redeemed or called for redemption upon proper procedures all outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock.

In any matter in which Series C Preferred Stock may vote (as expressly provided in the articles supplementary setting forth the terms of the Series C Preferred Stock), each share of Series C Preferred Stock shall be entitled to one vote per \$25.00 of liquidation preference. As a result, each share of Series C Preferred Stock will be entitled to one vote.

### **Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer**

In order for us to maintain our qualification as a REIT under the Code, our shares of stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, no more than 50% of the value of our outstanding shares of capital stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined by the Code to include certain entities) during the last half of any taxable year.

To help us to maintain our qualification as a REIT, our charter, subject to certain exceptions, contains, and the Series C Preferred Stock articles supplementary will contain, restrictions on the number of shares of our common stock, Series C Preferred Stock and our capital stock that a person may own. Our charter provides that generally no person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, either more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our

aggregate outstanding shares of capital stock, or more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our aggregate outstanding shares of common stock. In addition, the Series C Preferred Stock articles supplementary will provide that generally no person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, either more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our aggregate outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock. The beneficial ownership and/or constructive ownership rules under the Code are complex and may cause shares of stock owned actually or constructively by a group of related individuals and/or entities to be owned constructively by one individual or entity. See "Description of Capital Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer" in the accompanying prospectus.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for the Series C Preferred Stock is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

### **Book-Entry Procedures**

The Series C Preferred Stock will only be issued in the form of global securities held in book-entry form. DTC or its nominee will be the sole registered holder of the Series C Preferred Stock. Owners of beneficial interests in the Series C Preferred Stock represented by the global securities will hold their interests pursuant to the procedures and practices of DTC. As a result, beneficial interests in any such securities will be shown on, and transfers will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC and its direct and indirect participants and any such interest may not be exchanged for certificated securities, except in limited circumstances. Owners of beneficial interests must exercise any rights in respect of other interests, including any right to convert or require repurchase of their interests in the Series C Preferred Stock, in accordance with the procedures and practices of DTC. Beneficial owners will not be holders and will not be entitled to any rights provided to the holders of the Series C Preferred Stock under the global securities or the articles supplementary. We and any of our agents may treat DTC as the sole holder and registered owner of the global securities.

DTC has advised us as follows: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC facilitates the settlement of transactions amongst participants through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers, including the underwriters, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations, some of whom and/or their representatives own DTC. Access to DTC's book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

The Series C Preferred Stock, represented by one or more global securities, will be exchangeable for certificated securities with the same terms only if:

- DTC is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days; or
- we decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfer through DTC (or any successor depository).



## UNDERWRITING

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an underwriting agreement among us, our operating partnership and Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each of the underwriters has agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase from us, the number of shares of Series C Preferred Stock set forth opposite its name below.

<u>Underwriter</u>	<u>Number of Shares</u>
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	750,000
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	750,000
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.	750,000
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	750,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement, the underwriters have agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase all of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock sold under the underwriting agreement if any of these shares are purchased. If an underwriter defaults, the underwriting agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the nondefaulting underwriters may be increased or the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriters are offering the shares of Series C Preferred Stock, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel, including the validity of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock, and other conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriters of officer's certificates and legal opinions. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

We expect that delivery of the Series C Preferred Stock will be made against payment thereof on or about March 17, 2016, which will be the fifth business day following the pricing of the Series C Preferred Stock (such settlement cycle being herein referred to as "T + 5"). Under Rule 15c6-1 under the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade Series C Preferred Stock on the date of pricing or the next business day will be required, by virtue of the fact that the Series C Preferred Stock initially will settle T + 5, to specify an alternate settlement cycle at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement. Purchasers of the Series C Preferred Stock who wish to trade the Series C Preferred Stock on the date of pricing of the Series C Preferred Stock or the next business day should consult their own advisor.

### Commissions and Discounts

The underwriters have advised us that they propose initially to offer the shares of Series C Preferred Stock to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$0.50 per share. The underwriters may allow, and the dealers may reallow, a concession not in excess of \$0.45 per share to other dealers. After the initial offering, the public offering price, concession or any other term of the offering may be changed.

The following table shows the public offering price, underwriting discount and proceeds before expenses to us.

	<u>Per Share</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public offering price	\$ 25.0000	\$ 75,000,000
Underwriting discount	\$ 0.7875	\$ 2,362,500
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$ 24.2125	\$ 72,637,500

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at \$150,000 and are payable by us.

### No Sales of Similar Securities

Pursuant to the underwriting agreement, we and our operating partnership have agreed not to sell or transfer any shares of Series C Preferred Stock or any securities similar to or ranking on par with or senior to the Series C Preferred Stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for the Series C Preferred Stock or similar, parity or senior securities for a period of 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement without first obtaining the written consent of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC. Specifically, we have agreed, with certain limited exceptions, not to directly or indirectly

- offer, pledge, sell or contract to sell any shares of Series C Preferred Stock or any securities similar to or ranking on par with or senior to the Series C Preferred Stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for the Series C Preferred Stock or similar, parity or senior securities;
- sell any option or contract to purchase any shares of Series C Preferred Stock or any securities similar to or ranking on par with or senior to the Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for the Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or similar, parity or senior securities;
- purchase any option or contract to sell any shares of Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or any securities similar to or ranking on par with or senior to the Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for the Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or similar, parity or senior securities;
- grant any option, right or warrant to purchase any shares of Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or any securities similar to or ranking on par with or senior to the Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for the Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or similar, parity or senior securities;
- otherwise dispose of or transfer any shares of Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or any securities similar to or ranking on par with or senior to the Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for the Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock, the Series A Preferred Stock or similar, parity or senior securities;
- file a registration statement under the Securities Act with respect to any of the foregoing; or
- enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, the economic consequence of ownership of any shares of Series C Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock,

the Series A Preferred Stock or such similar, parity or senior securities, whether any such swap or transaction is to be settled by delivery of shares or other securities, in cash or otherwise.

The restrictions described in the immediately preceding paragraph do not apply to the sale of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock to the underwriters.

### **New York Stock Exchange Listing**

No market currently exists for the Series C Preferred Stock. We intend to apply to list the Series C Preferred Stock on the NYSE under the symbol "STAG Pr C." If the application is approved, trading of the Series C Preferred Stock is expected to commence within 30 days after the date of initial delivery of the Series C Preferred Stock. The underwriters have advised us that they intend to make a market in the Series C Preferred Stock prior to commencement of any trading on the NYSE, but are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the Series C Preferred Stock.

### **Price Stabilization, Short Positions and Penalty Bids**

Until the distribution of the shares of Series C Preferred Stock is completed, SEC rules may limit underwriters and selling group members from bidding for and purchasing our shares of Series C Preferred Stock. However, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize the price of the Series C Preferred Stock, such as bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain that price.

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell the Series C Preferred Stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, purchases on the open market to cover positions created by short sales and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriters of a greater number of shares than they are required to purchase in the offering. The underwriters must close out any short position by purchasing shares in the open market. A short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the Series C Preferred Stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of various bids for or purchases of shares of Series C Preferred Stock made by the underwriters in the open market prior to the completion of the offering.

The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid. This occurs when a particular underwriter repays to the underwriters a portion of the underwriting discount received by it because the representatives have repurchased shares sold by or for the account of such underwriter in stabilizing or short covering transactions.

Similar to other purchase transactions, the underwriters' purchases to cover the syndicate short sales may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the Series C Preferred Stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Series C Preferred Stock. As a result, the price of the Series C Preferred Stock may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. The underwriters may conduct these transactions on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the Series C Preferred Stock. In addition, neither we nor any of the underwriters make any representation that the underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

## **Electronic Distribution**

In connection with the offering, certain of the underwriters or securities dealers may distribute prospectuses by electronic means, such as e-mail.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

Affiliates of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are lenders under our unsecured credit facility. As of December 31, 2015, borrowings of approximately \$56.0 million were outstanding under our unsecured credit facility. In connection with their participation in our unsecured credit facility, such affiliates receive customary fees, and to the extent that we use any of the net proceeds of this offering to repay borrowings outstanding under our unsecured credit facility, such affiliates will receive their proportionate share of any amount of our unsecured credit facility that is repaid with the net proceeds of this offering.

## **Other Relationships**

Some of the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us or our affiliates. They have received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions for these transactions.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. The underwriters and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

An affiliate of Wells Fargo Securities, LLC is a lender under our seven-year \$150.0 million unsecured term loan maturing in March 2021, affiliates of Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are lenders under our seven-year \$150 million unsecured term loan maturity in March 2022, and affiliates of Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are lenders under our five-year \$150.0 million unsecured term loan maturing in September 2020. Affiliates of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC are sales agents under our equity distribution agreements, pursuant to which we can issue and sell shares of our common stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$200 million from time to time through them.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by DLA Piper LLP (US), and for the underwriters by Goodwin Procter LLP. Certain U.S. federal income tax matters have been passed upon for us by Hunton & Williams LLP.

## **EXPERTS**

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting), incorporated in the accompanying prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on

Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.



**Common Stock**  
**Preferred Stock**  
**Debt Securities**  
**Depository Shares**  
**Warrants**  
**Rights**  
**Units**

STAG Industrial, Inc. or any selling stockholder may offer, issue and sell from time to time, together or separately, the securities described in this prospectus.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that apply to the securities. We will provide specific terms of any securities we or any selling stockholder may offer in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. We also may authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you in connection with the offering. The prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus also may add, update or change information contained or incorporated in this prospectus.

We or any selling stockholder may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe the plan of distribution for that offering. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, see "Plan of Distribution" in this prospectus. The prospectus supplement also will set forth the price to the public of the securities and the net proceeds that we expect to receive from the sale of such securities. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of securities by any selling stockholder.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbol "STAG." On February 24, 2016, the last reported sales price of our common stock on the NYSE was \$16.09 per share

We impose certain restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our capital stock. You should read the information under the section entitled "Description of Capital Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Stock" in this prospectus for a description of these restrictions.

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**Investing in our securities involves risks. You should read carefully and consider "Risk Factors" included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and on page 5 of this prospectus and in the applicable prospectus supplement before investing in our securities.**

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**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is February 25, 2016

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You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus, in an accompanying prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference herein or therein. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information or make any representation that is different. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, and this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction where, or to any person to whom, it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement is correct on any date after the respective dates of the prospectus and such prospectus supplement or supplements, as applicable, even though this prospectus and such prospectus supplement or supplements are delivered or shares are sold pursuant to the prospectus and such prospectus supplement or supplements at a later date. Since the respective dates of the prospectus contained in this registration statement and any accompanying prospectus supplement, our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed. We may only use this prospectus to sell the securities if it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

*This summary only highlights the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should carefully read the entire prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus before deciding whether to invest in our securities.*

*Unless otherwise indicated or the context requires otherwise, in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement hereto references to "our company," "we," "us," and "our" refer to STAG Industrial, Inc., a Maryland corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries, including STAG Industrial Operating Partnership, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, which we refer to in this prospectus as our "operating partnership." As used herein, "annualized base rental revenue" refers to the contractual monthly base rent as of December 31, 2015 multiplied by 12. If a tenant is in a free rent period as of December 31, 2015, the annualized base rental revenue is calculated based on the first contractual monthly base rent amount multiplied by 12.*

### **About This Prospectus**

This prospectus is part of a "shelf" registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). By using a shelf registration statement, we or any selling stockholder to be named in a prospectus supplement may sell, at any time and from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we or any selling stockholder to be named in a prospectus supplement may offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the sections entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference."

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we or any selling stockholder may offer. Each time we or any selling stockholder sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those securities. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is an inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read carefully both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under the sections entitled "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference."

We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document.

### **Our Company**

STAG Industrial, Inc. is an industrial real estate operating company focused on the acquisition and operation of single-tenant, industrial properties throughout the United States. As of December 31, 2015, we owned 291 buildings in 38 states with approximately 54.7 million square feet, consisting of 223 warehouse/distribution buildings, 47 light manufacturing buildings and 21 flex/office buildings. As of December 31, 2015, our buildings were approximately 95.6% leased to 266 tenants, with no single tenant accounting for more than 3.3% of our annualized base rental revenue and no single industry accounting for more than 12.2% of our annualized base rental revenue.



We were incorporated on July 21, 2010 under the laws of the State of Maryland. We are organized and conduct our operations to qualify as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") under Sections 856 through 859 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). As a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal income tax on our income to the extent we currently distribute our income to our stockholders and maintain our qualification as a REIT. We are structured as an umbrella partnership REIT, commonly called an UPREIT, and own substantially all of our assets and conduct substantially all of our business through our operating partnership. As of December 31, 2015, we owned a 95.1% limited partnership interest in our operating partnership.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Federal Street, 23rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, and our telephone number is (617) 574-4777. Our website is [www.stagindustrial.com](http://www.stagindustrial.com). However, the information located on, or accessible from, our website is not, and should not be deemed to be, part of this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus or incorporated into any other filing that we submit to the SEC.

**Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends**

*Ratios of Adjusted Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends.* The following table sets forth our ratios of adjusted earnings to fixed charges and adjusted earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the following periods (unaudited):

	STAG Industrial, Inc.					STAG Predecessor Group(1)
	Year Ended December 31, 2015	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Period April 20, 2011 to December 31, 2011	Period January 1, 2011 to April 19, 2011
Ratio of adjusted earnings to fixed charges	4.38x	4.79x	4.58x	3.38x	1.88x	1.32x
Ratio of adjusted earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	3.38x	3.35x	3.13x	2.45x	1.74x	1.32x

(1) Information presented for the period prior to April 20, 2011, the date of our initial public offering, relates solely to STAG Predecessor Group, a collection of property-owning entities and our "predecessor" for accounting purposes that owned a substantially smaller number of properties than we own. Because we did not exist before April 20, 2011, and because, as a result of our formation transactions, we are substantially different from STAG Predecessor Group, we believe that the information presented for the period prior to April 20, 2011 is not meaningful to an analysis of our operations.

**Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends.** The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges and earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the following periods:

	STAG Industrial, Inc.					STAG Predecessor Group(1)
	Year Ended December 31, 2015	Year Ended December 31, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Period April 20, 2011 to December 31, 2011	Period January 1, 2011 to April 19, 2011(1)
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	0.14x	0.80x	1.01x	0.52x	0.15x	0.94x
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	0.11x	0.56x	0.69x	0.38x	0.14x	0.94x

- (1) Information presented for the period prior to April 20, 2011, the date of our initial public offering, relates solely to STAG Predecessor Group, a collection of property-owning entities and our "predecessor" for accounting purposes that owned a substantially smaller number of properties than we own. Because we did not exist before April 20, 2011, and because, as a result of our formation transactions, we are substantially different from STAG Predecessor Group, we believe that the information presented for the period prior to April 20, 2011 is not meaningful to an analysis of our operations.

We believe that the ratios of adjusted earnings to fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends are more representative indicators of our ability to cover our fixed charges and preferred stock dividends than the metrics detailed in the second table above since depreciation is such a large non-cash expense in our business. Our ratios of adjusted earnings and earnings to fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends are computed by dividing adjusted earnings and earnings, respectively, by fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, respectively. For these purposes, "earnings" consist of net loss plus fixed charges. Net loss is computed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and includes such non-cash items as real estate depreciation and amortization, amortization of above (below) market rents, net, and amortization of deferred financing costs and loan premium. Net loss in 2011 also includes one-time transactional costs relating to our initial public offering and related formation transactions. "Adjusted earnings" consist of earnings excluding depreciation and amortization, straight-line rental adjustments, net, intangible amortization in rental income, net, amortization of non-cash compensation expense, loss on impairments, and gain (loss) on interest rate swaps. "Fixed charges" consist of interest expense, an approximation of the interest component of our operating leases, capitalized interest and amortization of deferred financing fees and loan premiums, whether expensed or capitalized and interest within rental expense. Interest income is not included in this computation. "Preferred dividends" consist of the amount of pre-tax earnings required to pay dividends on our 9.0% Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (the "Series A Preferred Stock") and 6.625% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock (the "Series B Preferred Stock") outstanding during the period.

The computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges indicates that earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges on the basis of our historical financial statements by approximately \$31.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2015, \$5.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, \$7.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, \$10.5 million for the period April 20, 2011 to December 31, 2011, and \$251,000 for the period January 1, 2011 to April 19, 2011. The computation of ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends indicates that earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges and preferred stock dividends on the basis of our historical financial statements by approximately \$42.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2015, \$15.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2014, \$9.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, \$14.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, \$11.5 million for the period April 20, 2011 to December 31, 2011, and \$251,000 for the period January 1, 2011 to April 19, 2011. Because depreciation is such a significant noncash component of expense, we also present the first table above that reflects our ratios of adjusted earnings to fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends.

## RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risks. Before purchasing the securities offered by this prospectus you should consider carefully the risk factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed with the SEC on February 25, 2016, as well as the risks, uncertainties and additional information (i) set forth in our SEC reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and which are deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and (ii) the information contained in any applicable prospectus supplement. For a description of these reports and documents, and information about where you can find them, see "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference." The risks and uncertainties we discuss in this prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are those that we currently believe may materially affect our company. Additional risks not presently known, or currently deemed immaterial, also could materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

### CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference each contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbor from civil liability provided for such statements by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (set forth in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")). Also, documents we subsequently file with the SEC and incorporate by reference will contain forward-looking statements. You can identify forward-looking statements by the use of words such as "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "may," "plans," "projects," "seeks," "should," "will," and variations of such words or similar expressions. Forward-looking statements may include, among others, statements about our future financial condition, results of operations, our business strategy and objectives, including our acquisition strategy, occupancy and leasing rates and trends, capitalization rates, and expected liquidity needs and sources (including capital expenditures and the ability to obtain financing or raise capital). Our forward-looking statements reflect our current views about our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies and prospects, which are based on the information currently available to us and on assumptions we have made. Although we believe that our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies and prospects as reflected in or suggested by our forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies or prospects will be attained or achieved and you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Furthermore, actual results may differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements and may be affected by a variety of risks and factors including, without limitation:

- the factors included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, including those set forth under the headings "Business," "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations;"
- our ability to raise equity capital on attractive terms;
- the competitive environment in which we operate;
- real estate risks, including fluctuations in real estate values and the general economic climate in local markets and competition for tenants in such markets;
- decreased rental rates or increased vacancy rates;
- potential defaults (including bankruptcies or insolvency) on or non-renewal of leases by tenants;

- acquisition risks, including our ability to identify and complete accretive acquisitions and/or the failure of such acquisitions to perform in accordance with projections;
- the timing of acquisitions and dispositions;
- potential natural disasters and other catastrophic events such as acts of war and/or terrorism;
- international, national, regional and local economic conditions;
- the general level of interest rates and currencies;
- potential changes in the law or governmental regulations that affect us and interpretations of those laws and regulations, including changes in real estate and zoning or REIT tax laws, and potential increases in real property tax rates;
- financing risks, including the risks that our cash flows from operations may be insufficient to meet required payments of principal and interest and we may be unable to refinance our existing debt upon maturity or obtain new financing on attractive terms or at all;
- credit risk in the event of non-performance by the counterparties to the interest rate swaps and revolving and unfunded debt;
- lack of or insufficient amounts of insurance;
- our ability to maintain our qualification as a REIT;
- our ability to retain key personnel;
- litigation, including costs associated with prosecuting or defending claims and any adverse outcomes; and
- possible environmental liabilities, including costs, fines or penalties that may be incurred due to necessary remediation of contamination of properties presently owned or previously owned by us.

Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made. New risks and uncertainties arise over time, and it is not possible for us to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to, and do not intend to, update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Accordingly, investors should use caution in relying on past forward-looking statements, which were based on results and trends at the time they were made, to anticipate future results or trends. For a further discussion of these and other factors that could impact our future results, performance or transactions, see the section below entitled "Risk Factors," including the risks incorporated therein from our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as updated by our future filings.

#### **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless we specify otherwise in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities by us to provide additional funds for general corporate purposes, including funding our investment activity, the repayment or refinancing of outstanding indebtedness, working capital and other general purposes. Any specific allocation of the net proceeds of an offering of securities will be determined at the time of such offering and will be described in the accompanying supplement to this prospectus.

We will not receive any of the proceeds of the sale by any selling stockholder of the securities covered by this prospectus.

## DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

*The following summary of the material terms of our capital stock does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to Maryland law and to our charter and bylaws, copies of which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. See "Where You Can Find More Information."*

### General

Our charter provides that we may issue 100,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share. Our board of directors, without any action by our stockholders, may amend our charter to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of our common stock or the number of shares of our stock of any class or series. As of December 31, 2015, there were 68,077,333 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding, 2,760,000 shares of the Series A Preferred Stock issued and outstanding, 2,800,000 shares of the Series B Preferred Stock issued and outstanding, 1,915,872 common units in our operating partnership issued and outstanding, and 1,610,105 LTIP units in our operating partnership issued and outstanding.

### Common Stock

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends or other distributions if and when authorized by our board of directors and declared by us out of assets legally available for the payment of dividends or other distributions. They also are entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, after payment of or adequate provision for all of our known debts and liabilities. These rights are subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of our stock (including the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock) and to the provisions of our charter regarding restrictions on transfer and ownership of our stock.

Subject to the provisions of our charter restricting the transfer and ownership of shares of our stock and except as may otherwise be specified in the terms of any class or series of stock, each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors, and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of shares of our stock (including the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock), the holders of our common stock possess exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock, voting as a single class, may elect all of the directors then standing for election other than any preferred stock directors.

Holders of our common stock generally have no appraisal, preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund or redemption rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Subject to the restrictions on transfer of capital stock contained in our charter, all shares of common stock have equal dividend, liquidation and other rights.

Pursuant to our charter, we cannot dissolve, amend our charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of our assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business unless declared advisable by our board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, except for amendments to our charter that would alter only the contract rights, as expressly set forth in the charter, of a specified class or series of stock with respect to which the holders of such class or series of stock has exclusive voting rights as provided in our charter.

Maryland law permits the merger of a 90% or more owned subsidiary with or into its parent without stockholder approval provided the charter of the successor is not amended other than in

certain minor respects and the contract rights of any stock of the successor issued in the merger in exchange for stock of the other corporation are identical to the contract rights of the stock for which it is exchanged. Also, because Maryland law may not require the stockholders of a parent corporation to approve a merger or sale of all or substantially all of the assets of a subsidiary entity, our subsidiaries may be able to merge or sell all or substantially all of their assets without a vote of our stockholders.

## **Preferred Stock**

Our board of directors may authorize the issuance of preferred stock in one or more series and may determine, with respect to any such series, the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred stock of that series, including:

- distribution rights;
- conversion rights;
- voting rights;
- redemption rights and terms of redemptions; and
- liquidation preferences.

The preferred stock we may offer from time to time under this prospectus, when issued, will be duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable, and holders of preferred stock will not have any preemptive rights.

The issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control or other transaction that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interests of our stockholders. In addition, any preferred stock that we issue could rank senior to our common stock with respect to the payment of distributions, in which case we could not pay any distributions on our common stock until full distributions have been paid with respect to such preferred stock.

The rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of each series of preferred stock will be fixed by articles supplementary relating to the series. We will describe the specific terms of the particular series of preferred stock in the prospectus supplement relating to that series, which terms will include:

- the designation and par value of the preferred stock;
- the voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;
- the number of preferred stock offered, the liquidation preference per preferred stock and the offering price of the preferred stock;
- the distribution rate(s), period(s) and payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation applicable to the preferred stock;
- whether distributions will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date(s) from which distributions on the preferred stock will cumulate;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing for the preferred stock, if applicable;
- the provision for a sinking fund, if any, for the preferred stock;
- the provision for, and any restriction on, redemption, if applicable, of the preferred stock;
- the provision for, and any restriction on, repurchase, if applicable, of the preferred stock;
- the terms and provisions, if any, upon which the preferred stock will be convertible into common stock, including the conversion price (or manner or calculation) and conversion period;





- the terms under which the rights of the preferred stock may be modified, if applicable;
- the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to distribution rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- any limitation on issuance of any other series of preferred stock, including any series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on parity with the series of preferred stock as to distribution rights and rights upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;
- if appropriate, a discussion of any additional material federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if applicable;
- in addition to those restrictions described below, any other restrictions on the ownership and transfer of the preferred stock; and
- any additional rights, preferences, privileges or restrictions of the preferred stock.

As of December 31, 2015, there were 2,760,000 shares of the Series A Preferred Stock, with a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share, issued and outstanding. We pay cumulative dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock, when and as authorized by our board of directors, at a rate of 9.0% per annum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share (equivalent to the fixed annual rate of \$2.25 per share). Dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock are payable quarterly in arrears on or about the last day of March, June, September and December of each year. The Series A Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and on parity with the Series B Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Generally, we are not permitted to redeem the Series A Preferred Stock prior to November 2, 2016, except in limited circumstances relating to our ability to qualify as a REIT and in certain other circumstances related to a change of control (as defined in the articles supplementary). If we do not exercise our right to redeem the Series A Preferred Stock upon such a change of control, the holders of Series A Preferred Stock have the right to convert some or all of their shares into a number of shares of our common stock based on a defined formula subject to a cap. The Series A Preferred Stock has no stated maturity and is not subject to mandatory redemption or any sinking fund. Holders of shares of the Series A Preferred Stock will generally have no voting rights except for limited voting rights if we fail to pay dividends for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive) and in certain other circumstances.

As of December 31, 2015, there were 2,800,000 shares of the Series B Preferred Stock, with a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share, issued and outstanding. We pay cumulative dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock, when and as authorized by our board of directors, at a rate of 6.625% per annum of the \$25.00 liquidation preference per share (equivalent to the fixed annual rate of \$1.65625 per share). Dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock are payable quarterly in arrears on or about the last day of March, June, September and December of each year. The Series B Preferred Stock ranks senior to our common stock and on parity with the Series A Preferred Stock with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Generally, we are not permitted to redeem the Series B Preferred Stock prior to April 16, 2018, except in limited circumstances relating to our ability to qualify as a REIT and in certain other circumstances related to a change of control (as defined in the articles supplementary). If we do not exercise our right to redeem the Series B Preferred Stock upon such a change of control, the holders of Series B Preferred Stock have the right to convert some or all of their shares into a number of shares of our common stock based on a defined formula subject to a cap. The Series B Preferred Stock has no stated maturity and is not subject to mandatory redemption or any sinking fund. Holders of shares of the Series B Preferred Stock will generally have

no voting rights except for limited voting rights if we fail to pay dividends for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive) and in certain other circumstances.

### **Power to Reclassify Shares of Our Stock**

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to reclassify any unissued shares of stock into any class or series of stock, including preferred stock, to classify any unissued shares of common stock or preferred stock or to reclassify any previously classified but unissued shares of any series of preferred stock previously authorized by our board of directors. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series of preferred stock, our board of directors is required by Maryland law and our charter to fix, subject to our charter restrictions on transfer and ownership, the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each class or series of preferred stock. Thus, our board of directors could authorize the issuance of shares of common stock with terms and conditions, or preferred stock with priority over our existing common stock with respect to distributions and rights upon liquidation or with other terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change of control of our company that might involve a premium price for you or otherwise be in your best interest.

### **Power to Increase and Issue Additional Shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock**

We believe that the power of our board of directors to amend our charter to increase the aggregate number of shares of our authorized stock or the number of shares of stock of any class or series, to issue additional shares of common stock or preferred stock and to classify or reclassify unissued shares of our common stock or preferred stock and thereafter to issue the classified or reclassified shares of stock provides us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs which might arise. Subject to the right of holders of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock to approve the classification or issuance of shares of a class or series of our stock ranking senior to the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock, the additional classes or series, as well as our common stock, are available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless stockholder action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange on which our securities may be listed.

### **Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Stock**

Our charter provides that our board of directors may decide whether it is in the best interests of our company to maintain our status as a REIT under the Code. To qualify as a REIT under the Code, our shares of stock must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, no more than 50% of the value of our outstanding shares of capital stock may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined by the Code to include certain entities) during the last half of any taxable year.

To help us to qualify as a REIT, our charter, subject to certain exceptions, contains restrictions on the number and proportionate value of shares of our capital stock that a person may own. Our charter provides that generally no person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, either more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the aggregate of our outstanding shares of capital stock, or more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the aggregate of our outstanding common stock. In addition, the articles supplementary for the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock provide that generally no person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 9.8% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding Series A Preferred Stock or Series B Preferred Stock, respectively. The beneficial

ownership and/or constructive ownership rules under the Code are complex and may cause shares of our capital stock owned actually or constructively by a group of related individuals and/or entities to be owned constructively by one individual or entity.

Our charter also prohibits any person from:

- beneficially or constructively owning shares of our capital stock that would result in our being "closely held" under Section 856(h) of the Code;
- beneficially or constructively owning shares of our capital stock if such ownership would result in our being treated as a "pension-held REIT" under Section 856(h)(3)(D) of the Code;
- transferring shares of our capital stock if such transfer would result in our capital stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons;
- beneficially or constructively owning shares of our capital stock if such ownership would cause us to constructively own 10% or more of the ownership interests in a tenant of our company or would cause any independent contractor to not be treated as such under Section 856(d)(3) of the Code, or
- beneficially or constructively owning shares of our capital stock to the extent such beneficial or constructive ownership would otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT.

Any person who acquires, attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of our capital stock that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership, and any person who would have owned shares of our capital stock that resulted in a transfer of shares to a charitable trust (as described below), will be required to give written notice immediately to us, or in the case of a proposed or attempted transaction, to give at least 15 days' prior written notice to us, and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our status as a REIT. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if our board of directors determines that it is no longer in our best interests to continue to qualify as a REIT.

Our board of directors, in its sole discretion, may exempt a person from the above ownership limits and certain of the restrictions described above. However, the board of directors may not grant an exemption to any person unless the board of directors obtains such representations, covenants and undertakings as the board of directors may deem appropriate in order to determine that granting the exemption would not result in our losing our status as a REIT. As a condition of granting the exemption, our board of directors may require a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") or an opinion of counsel, in either case in form and substance satisfactory to the board of directors in its sole discretion, in order to determine or ensure our status as a REIT.

Our board of directors may increase or decrease the ownership limits so long as the change would not result in five or fewer persons beneficially owning more than 49.9% in value of our outstanding capital stock. Any decrease in the ownership limits shall not apply to any person whose percentage ownership of capital stock is in excess of the decreased ownership limits until such time as such person's percentage ownership of capital stock equals or falls below the decreased ownership limits.

However, if any transfer of our shares of stock or other event occurs that, if effective, would result in any person beneficially or constructively owning shares of our capital stock in excess, or in violation, of the above ownership or transfer limitations, referred to as a prohibited owner, then that number of shares of our capital stock, the beneficial or constructive ownership of which otherwise would cause such person to violate the transfer or ownership limitations (rounded up to the nearest whole share), will be automatically transferred to a charitable trust for the exclusive benefit of a charitable beneficiary, and the prohibited owner will not acquire any rights in such shares. This automatic transfer will be considered effective as of the close of business on the business day before the violative transfer.

If the transfer to the charitable trust would not be effective for any reason to prevent the violation of the above transfer or ownership limitations, then the transfer of that number of shares of our capital stock that otherwise would cause any person to violate the above limitations will be void ab initio and the intended transferee will acquire no rights in our capital stock. Shares of our capital stock held in the charitable trust will continue to constitute issued and outstanding shares of our capital stock. The prohibited owner will not benefit economically from ownership of any shares of capital stock held in the charitable trust, will have no rights to dividends or other distributions and will not possess any rights to vote or other rights attributable to the shares of capital stock held in the charitable trust. The trustee of the charitable trust will be designated by us and must be unaffiliated with us or any prohibited owner and will have all voting rights and rights to dividends or other distributions with respect to shares of capital stock held in the charitable trust, and these rights will be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the trust's charitable beneficiary. Any dividend or other distribution paid before our discovery that shares of capital stock have been transferred to the trustee will be paid by the recipient of such dividend or distribution to the trustee upon demand, and any dividend or other distribution authorized but unpaid will be paid when due to the trustee. Any dividend or distribution so paid to the trustee will be held in trust for the trust's charitable beneficiary. The prohibited owner will have no voting rights with respect to shares of capital stock held in the charitable trust, and, subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that such shares of capital stock have been transferred to the trustee, the trustee, in its sole discretion, will have the authority to:

- rescind as void any vote cast by a prohibited owner prior to our discovery that such shares have been transferred to the trustee; and
- recast such vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the trust's beneficiary.

However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action, then the trustee will not have the authority to rescind and recast such vote.

Within 20 days of receiving notice from us that shares of capital stock have been transferred to the charitable trust, and unless we buy the shares first as described below, the trustee will sell the shares of capital stock held in the charitable trust to a person, designated by the trustee, whose ownership of the shares will not violate the ownership limitations in our charter. Upon the sale, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the prohibited owner and to the charitable beneficiary. The prohibited owner will receive the lesser of:

- the price paid by the prohibited owner for the shares or, if the prohibited owner did not give value for the shares in connection with the event causing the shares to be held in the charitable trust (for example, in the case of a gift or devise), the market price of the shares on the day of the event causing the shares to be held in the charitable trust; and
- the price per share received by the trustee from the sale or other disposition of the shares held in the charitable trust (less any commission and other expenses of a sale).

The trustee may reduce the amount payable to the prohibited owner by the amount of dividends and distributions paid to the prohibited owner and owed by the prohibited owner to the trustee. Any net sale proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the prohibited owner will be paid immediately to the charitable beneficiary. If, before our discovery that shares of capital stock have been transferred to the charitable trust, such shares are sold by a prohibited owner, then:

- such shares will be deemed to have been sold on behalf of the charitable trust; and

- to the extent that the prohibited owner received an amount for such shares that exceeds the amount that the prohibited owner was entitled to receive as described above, the excess must be paid to the trustee upon demand.

In addition, shares of capital stock held in the charitable trust will be deemed to have been offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of:

- the price per share in the transaction that resulted in such transfer to the charitable trust (or, in the case of a gift or devise, the market price at the time of the gift or devise); and
- the market price on the date we, or our designee, accept such offer.

We may reduce the amount payable to the prohibited owner by the amount of dividends and distributions paid to the prohibited owner and owed by the prohibited owner to the trustee. We will pay the amount of such reduction to the trustee for the benefit of the charitable beneficiary. We will have the right to accept the offer until the trustee has sold the shares of capital stock held in the charitable trust. Upon such a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the prohibited owner and any dividends or other distributions held by the trustee will be paid to the charitable beneficiary.

All certificates representing shares of our capital stock will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

Every owner of more than 5% (or such lower percentage as required by the Code or the regulations promulgated thereunder) in value of the outstanding shares of our capital stock, within 30 days after the end of each taxable year, must give written notice to us stating the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of shares of our capital stock that the owner beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which the shares are held. Each such owner must also provide to us such additional information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of the owner's beneficial ownership on our status as a REIT and to ensure compliance with our ownership limitations. In addition, each of our stockholders, whether or not an owner of 5% or more of our capital stock, must upon demand provide to us such information as we may request, in good faith, in order to determine our status as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance and to ensure our compliance with the ownership restrictions in our charter.

The ownership and transfer limitations in our charter could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of us that might involve a premium price for holders of our capital stock or might otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders.

### **Stock Exchange Listings**

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol "STAG." The Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock are listed on the NYSE under the symbols "STAG Pr A" and "STAG Pr B," respectively.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock, the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the senior debt securities that may be offered by means of this prospectus. The particular terms of the debt securities being offered and the extent to which the general provisions described below apply will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities.

Any senior debt securities offered by means of this prospectus will be issued under a senior indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time (the "Indenture"), between us and such trustee as we may appoint. A form of the Indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and will be available for inspection at the corporate trust office of the trustee (as defined below) or as described above under "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference."

The Indenture is and will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. The description of the Indenture set forth below assumes that we have entered into the Indenture. We will execute and deliver the Indenture when and if we issue debt securities. The statements made in this prospectus relating to the Indenture and the debt securities to be issued under the Indenture are summaries of some provisions of the Indenture and such debt securities. The summaries do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all provisions of the Indenture and such debt securities.

### General

The debt securities offered by means of this prospectus will be our direct obligations. Senior debt securities will rank equally in right of payment with our other senior unsecured and unsubordinated debt that may be outstanding from time to time, and will rank senior in right of payment to all of any subordinated debt securities that may be outstanding from time to time.

The Indenture provides that debt securities may be issued without limit as to aggregate principal amount, in one or more series, in each case as may be authorized from time to time by us or as established in one or more indentures supplemental to the Indenture. All debt securities of one series need not be issued at the same time and, unless otherwise provided, a series may be reopened, without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series, for issuances of additional debt securities of such series.

The Indenture provides that there may be more than one trustee thereunder, each with respect to one or more series of debt securities (each, a "trustee"). Any trustee under the Indenture may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities, and a successor trustee will be appointed by us to act with respect to such series. If two or more persons are acting as trustee with respect to different series of debt securities, each such trustee will be a trustee of a trust under the Indenture separate and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee thereunder, and, except as otherwise indicated herein or therein, any action described to be taken by the trustee may be taken by each such trustee with respect to, and only with respect to, the one or more series of debt securities for which it is trustee under the Indenture.

The prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities being offered will contain information on the specific terms of those debt securities, including, without limitation:

- the principal amount offered;
- the title of the securities of the series;
- any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the securities of the series which may be authenticated and delivered under the Indenture;

- the date or dates on which the principal of the securities is payable;
- the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) at which the securities of the series shall bear interest, if any, the date or dates from which such interest shall accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest shall be payable and the regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date;
- the person to whom any interest shall be payable;
- the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on securities of the series shall be payable, any securities of that series may be surrendered for conversion or exchange and notices and demands to or upon us in respect of the securities of that series and the Indenture may be served;
- the basis upon which any interest shall be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months;
- the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, the currency or currency unit in which, and the terms and conditions upon which securities of the series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option, if we have such an option;
- the terms, if any, upon which the securities of the series may be convertible into or exchanged for any of our capital stock or other securities or property (including cash or any combination thereof) and the terms and conditions upon which such conversion or exchange may be effected, including, without limitation, the initial conversion or exchange price or rate (or manner of calculation thereof), the portion that is convertible or exchangeable or the method by which any such portion shall be determined, the conversion or exchange period, provisions as to whether conversion or exchange will be at the option of the holders or at our option, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion or exchange price, and provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of the redemption of such securities;
- if such debt securities are convertible, any limitation on the ownership or transferability of our common stock or other equity securities into which such debt securities are convertible in connection with the preservation of our status as a REIT;
- our obligation, if any, to redeem or purchase securities of the series pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder thereof and the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, the currency or currency unit in which, and the terms and conditions upon which securities of the series shall be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation;
- whether securities of the series are to be issued in registered form or bearer form or both, and if in bearer form, whether coupons will be attached to them and whether securities of the series in bearer form may be exchanged for securities of the series issued in registered form, and the circumstances under which and the places at which any such exchanges, if permitted, may be made;
- if the securities of the series are to be issued in bearer form or as one or more global notes representing securities of the series in bearer form, whether certain provisions for the payment of additional interest or tax redemptions shall apply; whether interest with respect to any portion of temporary securities of the series in bearer form payable with respect to any interest payment date prior to the exchange of such temporary securities in bearer form for definitive securities of a series in bearer form shall be paid to any clearing organization with respect to the portion of such temporary securities in bearer form held for its account and, in such event, the terms and conditions (including any certification requirements) upon which any such interest payment received by a clearing organization will be credited to the persons entitled to interest payable on

such interest payment date; and the terms upon which temporary securities in bearer form may be exchanged for one or more definitive securities of the series in bearer form;

- if other than denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof, the denominations in which securities of the series shall be issuable;
- if other than the trustee, the identity of each security registrar and/or paying agent;
- the percentage of the principal amount at which such debt securities will be issued and, if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of securities of the series which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof pursuant to the Indenture;
- any events of default and covenants of ours with respect to the securities of that series, whether or not such events of default or covenants are consistent with the events of default or covenants set forth in the Indenture;
- if other than the currency of the United States, the currency or currency unit in which payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the securities of that series shall be made or in which securities of that series shall be denominated and the particular provisions applicable thereto;
- if the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on the securities of that series are to be payable, at the election of us or a holder thereof, in a currency or currency unit other than that in which such securities are denominated or stated to be payable, the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, such election may be made, and the time and manner of determining the exchange rate between the currency or currency unit in which such securities are denominated or stated to be payable and the currency or currency unit in which such securities are to be so payable;
- if the amount of payments or principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index based on a currency or currency unit other than that in which securities are denominated or stated to be payable or any other index, the manner in which such amounts shall be determined;
- whether such securities will be secured or unsecured and if secured, the nature of the collateral securing the debt securities;
- whether and to what extent the securities of each series will be guaranteed and the identity of the guarantors;
- the terms and conditions, if any, upon which such securities may be subordinated to our other debt;
- whether such securities will be issued in certificated or book-entry form;
- the applicability, if any, of the defeasance and covenant defeasance provisions of the Indenture;
- whether and under what circumstances we will pay any additional amounts on such debt securities in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem such debt securities in lieu of making such payment;
- if securities are to be issued upon the exercise of warrants, the time, manner and place for authentication and delivery;
- any other terms of the series (which terms shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Indenture); and
- the material federal income tax consequences applicable to the debt securities.



The debt securities may be issued in one or more series with the same or various maturities.

The terms of the debt securities do not afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us that may adversely affect holders of the debt securities.

### **Conversion and Exchange Rights**

The prospectus supplement will describe, if applicable, the terms on which you may convert the debt securities into or exchange them for other debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities or property (including cash or any combination thereof). The conversion or exchange may be mandatory or may be at your option. The prospectus supplement will describe how the amount of debt securities, number of shares of preferred stock or common stock, or the amount of other securities or property to be received upon conversion or exchange would be calculated.

### **Transfer and Exchange**

The debt securities of a series may be issued in either registered form ("registered securities") or global form. Registered securities may be separated into smaller denominations or combined into larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. This is called an "exchange."

In accordance with the Indenture, you may transfer or exchange debt securities of a series at the office of the trustee. The trustee will act as our agent for registering registered securities in the names of holders and transferring debt securities. We may designate someone else to perform these functions. Whoever maintains the list of registered holders is called the "security registrar." The security registrar also will perform transfers.

You will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange debt securities, but you may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange or transfer. The transfer or exchange will be made only if the security registrar is satisfied with your proof of ownership.

If we designate additional transfer agents, we will name them in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may cancel the designation of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts.

If we redeem less than all of the debt securities of a redeemable series, we may block the transfer or exchange of registered securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day of the selection for redemption of such registered securities and ending on the day of the mailing of the relevant notice of redemption in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also decline to register transfers or exchanges of debt securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security being partially redeemed.

If the offered debt securities are redeemable, we will describe the procedures for redemption in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In this "—Transfer and Exchange" section of this prospectus, "you" means direct holders and not indirect holders of debt securities.

### **Merger and Consolidation**

Subject to any terms or conditions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, so long as any debt securities of any series remain outstanding, we may not merge, consolidate or convey, transfer or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety and we will not permit any person to

consolidate with or merge into us or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to us unless:

- the successor person is us or another corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia that assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the Indenture;
- immediately after giving effect to such transaction, we or the successor person would not be in default under the Indenture; and
- we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that such consolidation, merger or transfer and such supplemental indenture (if any) comply with the Indenture.

#### **Certain of our Covenants**

In addition to any covenants with respect to a particular series of debt securities as may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will be subject to the following covenants:

*Corporate Existence.* Except as described above under "—Merger and Consolidation," we will be required to do or cause to be done all things necessary to preserve and keep in full force and effect our legal existence, rights (by charter or statutory) and franchises. However, we will not be required to preserve any right or franchise if we determine that its preservation is no longer desirable in the conduct of our business.

*Maintenance of Properties.* We will be required to cause all our properties used or useful in the conduct of our business or the business of any of our subsidiaries to be maintained and kept in good condition, repair and working order, normal wear and tear excepted, and supplied with all necessary equipment and will be required to cause to be made all necessary repairs, renewals, replacements, betterments and improvements thereof, as in our judgment may be necessary so that the business carried on in connection with these properties may be conducted at all times. However, we will not be prevented from (i) removing permanently any property that has been condemned or suffered a casualty loss, if, in our reasonable judgment, such removal is in our best interest and is not disadvantageous in any material respect to the holders of the debt securities, (ii) discontinuing the maintenance of any properties if such discontinuance is, in our judgment, desirable in the conduct of our business or the business of any of our subsidiaries and is not disadvantageous in any material respect to holders of the debt securities, or (iii) selling or otherwise disposing for value our properties in the ordinary course of business consistent with the terms of the Indenture .

*Payment of Taxes and Other Claims.* We will be required to pay or discharge, or cause to be paid or discharged, before they become delinquent:

- all material taxes, assessments and governmental charges levied or imposed upon us or any of our subsidiaries or upon our income, profits or property or the income, profits or property of any of our subsidiaries; and
- all material lawful claims for labor, materials and supplies which, if unpaid, might by law become a lien upon our property or the property of any of our subsidiaries.

However, we will not be required to pay or discharge or cause to be paid or discharged any tax, assessment, charge or claim the amount, applicability or validity of which is being contested in good faith.

Except as described above, or as otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the Indenture does not contain any provisions that would afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of:

- a highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us;
- a change in control or a change in our management; or
- a reorganization, restructuring, merger or similar transaction involving us that may adversely affect the holders of the debt securities.

In addition, subject to the limitations set forth above and in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may, in the future, enter into certain transactions such as the sale of our properties and assets substantially as an entirety or a merger or consolidation with another entity that could increase the amount of our indebtedness or otherwise adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations, which may have an adverse effect on our ability to service our indebtedness, including the debt securities. We have no present intention of engaging in a highly leveraged or similar transaction involving us.

### **Events of Default**

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, an event of default with respect to the debt securities is defined in the Indenture as being:

- (1) default for 30 days in the payment of any installment of interest on the debt securities;
- (2) default in the payment of any principal of the debt securities;
- (3) default by us in the performance of any other covenants or agreements in the Indenture contained therein for the benefit of the debt securities which shall not have been remedied for a period of 90 days after written notice of such default to us by the trustee or to us and the trustee by the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;
- (4) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of us; or
- (5) any other event of default specified for a series in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the Indenture provides that if an event of default under clause (1), (2), (3) or (5) above shall have occurred and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities may declare the principal of all the debt securities, together with any accrued interest, to be due and payable immediately.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, if an event of default under clause (4) above shall have occurred and be continuing, then the principal of all the debt securities, together with any accrued interest, will be due and payable immediately without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee or any holder of a debt security. Upon certain conditions such declaration (including a declaration caused by a default in the payment of principal or interest, the payment for which has subsequently been provided) may be annulled by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities.

In addition, subject to any terms or conditions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, prior to the declaration of the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities, past defaults may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities, except a default in the payment of principal of or interest on any debt security or in respect of a covenant or provision of the Indenture which cannot be modified or amended without the approval of the holder of each debt security.

The Indenture contains a provision entitling the trustee, subject to the duty of the trustee during default to act with the required standard of care, to be indemnified by the holders of debt securities issued thereunder before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the Indenture at the request of the holders of such debt securities.

The Indenture also provides that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding securities of a particular series issued thereunder and affected (each series voting as a separate class) may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of such series.

The Indenture contains a covenant that we will file annually with the trustee a certificate as to the absence of any default or specifying any default that exists.

### **Satisfaction and Discharge**

The Indenture provides that, if the provisions of the relevant article of the Indenture are made applicable to the debt securities of (or within) any series pursuant to such Indenture, the Indenture will cease to be of further effect (except as to surviving rights of registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities, as expressly provided for in the Indenture) as to all debt securities of such series when:

- either:
  - all such debt securities theretofore authenticated and delivered (except lost, stolen or destroyed debt securities that have been replaced or paid) have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation, or
  - with respect to all such debt securities not theretofore delivered to the trustee for cancellation, we have deposited or caused to be deposited with the trustee funds or government obligations (as described below), or any combination thereof, in an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on such debt securities not theretofore delivered to the trustee for cancellation, for unpaid principal and interest to maturity;
- we have paid all other sums payable by us under the Indenture with respect to such series;
- we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel each stating that all conditions precedent under the Indenture to the satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture with respect to such series have been complied with; and
- if such debt securities are not due and payable within one year of the date of such deposit, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times, as would have been the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred.

### **Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

The Indenture provides that, if the provisions of the relevant article of the Indenture are made applicable to the debt securities of (or within) any series pursuant to the Indenture, we may elect either (1) to effect a "defeasance," in which case we will be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to such debt securities (except for the obligations to register the transfer or exchange of such debt securities, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency in respect of such debt securities and to hold moneys for payment in trust), or (2) to effect a "covenant defeasance," in which case we will be released from our obligations with

respect to the covenants described under "—Certain of our Covenants" or, if provided pursuant to the Indenture, our obligations with respect to any other covenant, and any omission to comply with such obligations will not constitute a default or an Event of Default with respect to such debt securities. Such defeasance or covenant defeasance shall be effected upon the irrevocable deposit by us with the applicable trustee, in trust, of an amount, in such currency or currencies in which such debt securities are payable at their stated maturity, or government obligations (as described below), or both, applicable to such debt securities which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on such debt securities, and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments thereon, on the scheduled due dates therefor.

Such a trust may be established only if, among other things, we have delivered to the applicable trustee an opinion of counsel (as specified in the Indenture) to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred.

The Indenture defines "government obligations" to mean securities that are (i) direct obligations of the government which issued the currency in which the securities of a particular series are payable or (ii) obligations of a person controlled or supervised by and acting as an agency or instrumentality of the government that issued the currency in which the securities of such series are payable, the payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed by such government, which, in either case, are full faith and credit obligations of such government payable in such currency and are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable supplemental indenture relating to any series of debt securities, if after we have deposited funds or government obligations to effect defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to debt securities of any series the holder of a debt security of such series is entitled to, and does, elect pursuant to the Indenture or the terms of such debt security to receive payment in a currency other than that in which such deposit has been made in respect of such debt security, the indebtedness represented by such debt security and any coupons appertaining thereto shall be deemed to have been, and will be, fully discharged and satisfied through the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on such debt security as they become due out of the proceeds yielded by converting the amount or other property so deposited in respect of such debt security into the currency in which such debt security becomes payable as a result of such election based on the applicable market exchange rate. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, all payments of principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on any debt security that is payable in a foreign currency that ceases to be used by its government of issuance shall be made in U.S. dollars. If we effect a covenant defeasance with respect to any debt securities and such debt securities are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of an event of default, the amount in such currency in which such debt securities are payable, and government obligations on deposit with the applicable trustee, will be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of their stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of the acceleration resulting from such event of default. We, however, would remain liable to make payment of such amounts due at the time of acceleration.

The applicable prospectus supplement may further describe the provisions, if any, permitting such defeasance or covenant defeasance, including any modifications to the provisions described above, with respect to the debt securities of or within a particular series.

## Modification and Waiver

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, modifications and amendments of the Indenture will be permitted only with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities issued under the Indenture which are affected by such modification or amendment. However, no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each such debt security affected by the modification or amendment:

- change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest on, any debt security or reduce the principal amount thereof or the rate of interest thereon, or change the coin or currency in which any debt security or the interest thereon is payable, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment after the stated maturity thereof;
- reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities necessary to waive compliance with certain provisions of the Indenture or to waive certain defaults; or
- modify any of the provisions relating to supplemental indentures requiring the consent of holders or relating to the waiver of past defaults or relating to the waiver of certain covenants, except to increase the percentage of outstanding debt securities required for such actions or to provide that certain other provisions of the Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each debt security.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, modifications and amendments of the Indenture may be made by us and the respective trustee without the consent of any holder of debt securities for any of the following purposes:

- to evidence the succession of another person as obligor under the Indenture;
- to add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders of all or any series of debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us in the Indenture;
- to add events of default with respect to any or all series of debt securities;
- to add or change any of the provisions of the Indenture to such extent as necessary to permit or facilitate the issuance of debt securities in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, and with or without interest coupons;
- to change or eliminate any of the provisions of the Indenture, provided that any such change or elimination shall become effective only when there are no debt securities outstanding of any series created prior to the execution of such supplemental indenture which is entitled to the benefit of such provision;
- to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series;
- to add guarantees with respect to the debt securities;
- to secure the debt securities;
- to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment of a successor trustee with respect to the debt securities of one or more series and to add to or change any of the provisions of the Indenture as necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under the Indenture by more than one trustee;
- to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision in the Indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision in the Indenture, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under the Indenture which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Indenture;

- to add to the conditions, limitations and restrictions on the authorized amount, form, terms or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities;
- to supplement any of the provisions of the Indenture to the extent necessary to permit or facilitate the defeasance and discharge of any series of debt securities if such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities of such series and any related coupons or any other series of debt securities in any material respect;
- to comply with the requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended; or
- to add or modify any other provision in the Indenture with respect to matters or questions arising under the Indenture which we and the trustee may deem necessary or desirable and which does not materially and adversely affect the legal rights under the Indenture of any holder of debt securities of any series.

### **Global Securities**

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such series. Global securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a series of debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such series.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

### General

We may issue depositary shares, each of which would represent a fractional interest of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. We will deposit shares of preferred stock represented by depositary shares under a separate deposit agreement among us, a preferred stock depositary and the holders of the depositary shares. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will possess, in proportion to the fractional interest of a share of preferred stock represented by the depositary share, all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares.

Depositary receipts will evidence the depositary shares issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Immediately after we issue and deliver preferred stock to a preferred stock depositary, the preferred stock depositary will issue the depositary receipts.

### Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends on the preferred stock to the record holders of the depositary shares. Holders of depositary shares generally must file proofs, certificates and other information and pay charges and expenses of the depositary in connection with distributions.

If a distribution on the preferred stock is other than in cash and it is feasible for the depositary to distribute the property it receives, the depositary will distribute the property to the record holders of the depositary shares. If such a distribution is not feasible and we approve, the depositary may sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the holders of the depositary shares.

### Withdrawal of Stock

Unless we have previously called the underlying preferred stock for redemption or the holder of the depositary shares has converted such shares, a holder of depositary shares may surrender them at the corporate trust office of the depositary in exchange for whole or fractional shares of the underlying preferred stock together with any money or other property represented by the depositary shares. Once a holder has exchanged the depositary shares, the holder may not redeposit the preferred stock and receive depositary shares again. If a depositary receipt presented for exchange into preferred stock represents more shares of preferred stock than the number to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver a new depositary receipt for the excess number of depositary shares.

### Redemption of Depositary Shares

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by a depositary, the depositary will redeem the corresponding amount of depositary shares. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price and any other amounts payable with respect to the preferred stock. If we intend to redeem less than all of the underlying preferred stock, our company and the depositary will select the depositary shares to be redeemed as nearly pro rata as practicable without creating fractional depositary shares or by any other equitable method determined by us that preserves our REIT status.

On the redemption date:

- all dividends relating to the shares of preferred stock called for redemption will cease to accrue;
- our company and the depositary will no longer deem the depositary shares called for redemption to be outstanding; and



- all rights of the holders of the depositary shares called for redemption will cease, except the right to receive any money payable upon the redemption and any money or other property to which the holders of the depositary shares are entitled upon redemption.

### **Voting of the Preferred Stock**

When a depositary receives notice regarding a meeting at which the holders of the underlying preferred stock have the right to vote, it will mail that information to the holders of the depositary shares. Each record holder of depositary shares on the record date then may instruct the depositary to exercise its voting rights for the amount of preferred stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The depositary will vote in accordance with these instructions. The depositary will abstain from voting to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares. A depositary will not be responsible for any failure to carry out any instruction to vote, or for the manner or effect of any vote, as long as any action or non-action is in good faith and does not result from negligence or willful misconduct of the depositary.

### **Liquidation Preference**

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, a holder of depositary shares will receive the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each share of underlying preferred stock represented by the depositary share.

### **Conversion of Preferred Stock**

Depositary shares will not themselves be convertible into our common stock or any other securities or property of our company. However, if the underlying preferred stock is convertible, holders of depositary shares may surrender them to the depositary with written instructions to convert the preferred stock represented by their depositary shares into whole shares of common stock, other shares of our preferred stock or other shares of stock, as applicable. Upon receipt of these instructions and any amounts payable in connection with a conversion, we will convert the preferred stock using the same procedures as those provided for delivery of preferred stock. If a holder of depositary shares converts only part of its depositary shares, the depositary will issue a new depositary receipt for any depositary shares not converted. We will not issue fractional shares of common stock upon conversion. If a conversion will result in the issuance of a fractional share, we will pay an amount in cash equal to the value of the fractional interest based upon the closing price of the common stock on the last business day prior to the conversion.

### **Amendment and Termination of a Deposit Agreement**

Our company and the depositary may amend any form of depositary receipt evidencing depositary shares and any provision of a deposit agreement. However, unless the existing holders of at least two-thirds of the applicable depositary shares then outstanding have approved the amendment, we may not make any amendment that:

- materially and adversely would alter the rights of the holders of depositary shares; or
- materially and adversely would be inconsistent with the rights granted to the holders of the underlying preferred stock.

Subject to exceptions in the deposit agreement and except in order to comply with the law, no amendment may impair the right of any holders of depositary shares to surrender their depositary shares with instructions to deliver the underlying preferred stock and all money and other property represented by the depositary shares. Every holder of outstanding depositary shares at the time any

amendment becomes effective who continues to hold the depositary shares will be deemed to consent and agree to the amendment and to be bound by the amended deposit agreement.

We may terminate a deposit agreement upon not less than 30 days' prior written notice to the depositary if:

- the termination is necessary to preserve our REIT status; or
- a majority of each series of preferred stock affected by the termination consents to the termination.

Upon a termination of a deposit agreement, holders of the depositary shares may surrender their depositary shares and receive in exchange the number of whole or fractional shares of preferred stock and any other property represented by the depositary shares. If we terminate a deposit agreement to preserve our status as a REIT, then we will use our best efforts to list the preferred stock issued upon surrender of the related depositary shares on a national securities exchange.

In addition, a deposit agreement will automatically terminate if:

- we have redeemed all underlying preferred stock subject to the agreement;
- a final distribution of the underlying preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up has occurred, and the depositary has distributed the distribution to the holders of the depositary shares; or
- each share of the underlying preferred stock has been converted into other capital stock of our company not represented by depositary shares.

### **Charges of a Preferred Stock Depositary**

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising in connection with a deposit agreement. In addition, we generally will pay the fees and expenses of a depositary in connection with the performance of its duties. However, holders of depositary shares will pay the fees and expenses of a depositary for any duties requested by the holders that the deposit agreement does not expressly require the depositary to perform.

### **Resignation and Removal of Depositary**

A depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to resign. We also may remove a depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary. We will appoint a successor depositary within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal. The successor must be a bank or trust company with its principal office in the United States and have a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50 million.

### **Miscellaneous**

The depositary will forward to the holders of depositary shares any reports and communications from us with respect to the underlying preferred stock.

Neither the depositary nor our company will be liable if any law or any circumstances beyond its control prevent or delay it from performing its obligations under a deposit agreement. The obligations of our company and a depositary under a deposit agreement will be limited to performance of duties in good faith and without negligence (in the case of any action or inaction in the voting of preferred stock represented by depositary shares), gross negligence or willful misconduct. Neither the company nor a depositary must prosecute or defend any legal proceeding with respect to any depositary shares or the underlying preferred stock unless it is furnished with satisfactory indemnity.

Our company and any depositary may rely on the written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting shares of preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary shares or other persons they believe in good faith to be competent, and on documents they believe in good faith to be genuine and signed by a proper party.

In the event a depositary receives conflicting claims, requests or instructions from our company and any holders of depositary shares, the depositary will be entitled to act on the claims, requests or instructions received from us.

### **Depositary**

The prospectus supplement will identify the depositary for the depositary shares.

### **Listing of the Depositary Shares**

The prospectus supplement will specify whether or not the depositary shares will be listed on any securities exchange.

## DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our common stock or preferred stock. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any of the other securities offered by this prospectus that are offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from the securities offered by this prospectus. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants. The statements made in this section relating to the warrants are summaries only. These summaries are not complete. When we issue warrants, we will provide the specific terms of the warrants in a prospectus supplement. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, where applicable, the following:

- (1) the title of the warrants;
- (2) the aggregate number of the warrants;
- (3) the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;
- (4) the designation, number and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;
- (5) the designation and terms of the other securities offered by this prospectus with which the warrants are issued and the number of the warrants issued with each security offered by this prospectus;
- (6) the date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;
- (7) the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;
- (8) the date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which that right shall expire;
- (9) the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants which may be exercised at any one time;
- (10) information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- (11) a discussion of federal income tax considerations; and
- (12) any other material terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

## DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

We may issue rights to our stockholders to purchase shares of our common stock or other securities. Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as rights agent. The rights agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the certificates relating to the rights of the series of certificates and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights. The statements made in this section relating to the rights are summaries only. These summaries are not complete. When we issue rights, we will provide the specific terms of the rights and the applicable rights agreement in a prospectus supplement. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. For more detail, we refer you to the applicable rights agreement itself, which we will file as an exhibit to, or incorporate by reference in, the registration statement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the rights in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, where applicable, the following:

- the date of determining the stockholders entitled to the rights distribution;
- the aggregate number of shares of our common stock or other securities purchasable upon exercise of the rights;
- the exercise price;
- the aggregate number of rights issued;
- the date, if any, on and after which the rights will be separately transferable;
- the date on which the right to exercise the rights will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;
- a discussion of federal income tax considerations; and
- any other material terms of the rights, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the distribution, exchange and exercise of the rights.

### Exercise of Rights

Each right will entitle the holder of rights to purchase for cash the principal amount of shares of our common stock or other securities at the exercise price provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. Rights may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date for the rights provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, all unexercised rights will be void.

Holders may exercise rights as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Upon receipt of payment and the rights certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the rights agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the shares of common stock or other securities purchasable upon exercise of the rights. If less than all of the rights issued in any rights offering are exercised, we may offer any unsubscribed securities directly to persons other than stockholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, including pursuant to standby underwriting arrangements, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue units consisting of two or more other constituent securities. These units may be issuable, and for a specified period of time may be transferable, as a single security only, rather than as the separate constituent securities comprising such units. The statements made in this section relating to the units are summaries only. These summaries are not complete. When we issue units, we will provide the specific terms of the units in a prospectus supplement. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the units in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, including, where applicable, the following:

- the title of any series of units;
- identification and description of the separate constituent securities comprising the units;
- the price or prices at which the units will be issued;
- the date, if any, on and after which the constituent securities comprising the units will be separately transferable;
- information with respect to any book-entry procedures;
- the date on which the right to exercise the rights will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;
- a discussion of federal income tax considerations; and
- any other terms of the units and their constituent securities.

## CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS

*The following summary of certain provisions of Maryland law and of our charter and bylaws does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to Maryland law and our charter and bylaws, copies of which are available from us upon request. See "Where You Can Find More Information."*

### **Our Board of Directors**

Our charter and bylaws provide that the number of directors constituting our full board of directors will be not less than the minimum number required by Maryland law, and our bylaws provide that the number of directors constituting our full board of directors will not exceed 15 and may only be increased or decreased by a vote of a majority of our directors. Pursuant to our charter, each member of our board of directors, other than a preferred director, is elected by our stockholders to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies. Holders of shares of our common stock will have no right to cumulative voting in the election of these directors. Consequently, at each annual meeting of stockholders, the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock will be able to elect all of these directors. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast.

Pursuant to Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the Maryland General Corporation Law ("MGCL"), our charter provides that, except as may be provided by the board of directors in setting the terms of any class or series of stock, any and all vacancies on the board of directors will be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors even if the remaining directors constitute less than a quorum. Any director elected to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred and until a successor is elected and qualifies. Our charter provides that, subject to the rights of holders of one or more classes or series of preferred stock to elect or remove one or more directors, a director may be removed only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors. However, because of the board's exclusive power to fill vacant directorships, stockholders will be precluded from filling the vacancies created by any removal with their own nominees, subject to the rights of holders of one or more classes or series of preferred stock to elect or remove one or more directors.

The articles supplementary for the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock provide that if dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock and/or the Series B Preferred Stock are in arrears for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, holders of shares of the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock (voting together as a class with the holders of all other classes or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable) will be entitled to vote for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors (which we refer to as preferred stock directors). The articles supplementary for the Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock separately provide for the election, term, removal and filling of any vacancy in the office of the preferred stock directors.

### **Amendment to the Charter and Bylaws**

Generally, our charter may be amended only if the amendment is declared advisable by our board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. As permitted by the MGCL, our charter contains a provision permitting our directors, without any action by our stockholders, to amend the charter to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of stock of any class or series that we have authority to issue. In addition, our charter provides that the board of directors, in setting the terms of any class or series of stock, may grant exclusive voting rights to the holders of the class or series of stock with respect to a charter amendment that would alter the contract rights, as expressly set forth in the charter, only of that specified class or series

of stock. Our board of directors has the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of our bylaws and make new bylaws, except the following bylaw provisions, each of which may be amended only with the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on such an amendment by holders of outstanding shares of common stock:

- provisions opting out of the control share acquisition statute; and
- provisions prohibiting our board of directors without the approval of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of our common stock, from revoking, altering or amending any resolution, or adopting any resolution inconsistent with any previously adopted resolution of our board of directors, that exempts any business combination between us and any other person or entity from the business combination provisions of the MGCL.

In addition, any amendment to the provisions governing amendments of the bylaw provisions above requires the approval of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of our common stock.

Additionally, the articles supplementary for the Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock provide the holders of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock with voting rights with respect to certain amendments to our charter.

### **No Stockholder Rights Plan**

We have no stockholder rights plan. We do not intend to adopt a stockholder rights plan unless our stockholders approve in advance the adoption of a plan or, if our board of directors adopts a plan for our company, we submit the stockholder rights plan to our stockholders for a ratification vote within 12 months of adoption, without which the plan will terminate.

### **Dissolution**

Our dissolution must be approved by a majority of our entire board of directors and by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

### **Business Combinations**

Maryland law prohibits "business combinations" between us and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or transfer of equity securities, liquidation plan or reclassification of equity securities. Maryland law defines an interested stockholder as:

- any person or entity who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our stock; or
- an affiliate or associate of ours who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of our then outstanding voting stock.

A person is not an interested stockholder if our board of directors approves in advance the transaction by which the person otherwise would have become an interested stockholder. However, in approving a transaction, our board of directors may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by our board of directors.



After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between us and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder generally must be recommended by our board of directors and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

- 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of our then-outstanding shares of voting stock; and
- two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of our voting stock other than stock held by the interested stockholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or stock held by an affiliate or associate of the interested stockholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if our common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its stock.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of directors before the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder.

Our board of directors has adopted a resolution opting out of the business combination provisions. Our bylaws provide that this resolution or any other resolution of our board of directors exempting any business combination from the business combination provisions of the MGCL may only be revoked, altered or amended, and our board of directors may only adopt any resolution inconsistent with any such resolution, with the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on the matter by holders of outstanding shares of our common stock. If this resolution is repealed, the statute may discourage others from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

### **Control Share Acquisitions**

Maryland law provides that "control shares" of a Maryland corporation acquired in a "control share acquisition" have no voting rights, except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquiror or by officers or by directors who are our employees are excluded from the shares entitled to vote on the matter. "Control shares" are voting shares of stock that, if aggregated with all other shares of stock currently owned by the acquiring person, or in respect of which the acquiring person is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiring person to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

- one-tenth or more but less than one-third;
- one-third or more but less than a majority; or
- a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A "control share acquisition" means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions. A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition may compel our board of directors to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. The right to compel the calling of a special meeting is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay the expenses of the meeting. If no request for a meeting is made, we may present the question at any stockholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the stockholders meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver the statement required by Maryland law, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, we may redeem any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been

approved, for fair value. Fair value is determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquiror or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of the shares were considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares for purposes of these appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition. The control share acquisition statute does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if we are a party to the transaction, nor does it apply to acquisitions approved by or exempted by our charter or bylaws.

Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of our stock, and this provision of our bylaws may not be amended without the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on the matter by holders of outstanding shares of our common stock.

### **Maryland Unsolicited Takeovers Act**

Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the MGCL permits a Maryland corporation with a class of equity securities registered under the Exchange Act, and at least three independent directors to elect to be subject, by provision in its charter or bylaws or a resolution of its board of directors and notwithstanding any contrary provision in the charter or bylaws, to any or all of five provisions:

- a classified board;
- a two-thirds vote requirement for removing a director;
- a requirement that the number of directors be fixed only by vote of directors;
- a requirement that a vacancy on the board be filled only by the remaining directors and for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred; and
- a majority requirement for the calling of a special meeting of stockholders.

In our charter, we have elected that, except as may be provided by the board of directors in setting the terms of any class or series of stock, vacancies on the board be filled only by the remaining directors, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum, and for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which the vacancy occurred. Through provisions in our charter and bylaws unrelated to Subtitle 8, we:

- vest in the board the exclusive power to fix the number of directorships; and
- provide that unless called by our chairman of our board of directors, our president, our chief executive officer or our board of directors or holders of one or more classes or series of preferred stock pursuant to rights specifically set forth in our charter with respect to such classes or series of preferred stock, a special meeting of stockholders may only be called by our secretary upon the written request of the stockholders entitled to cast not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting.

### **Limitation of Liability and Indemnification**

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages, except for liability resulting from:

- actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services; or

- active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment and which is material to the cause of action.

Our charter contains such a provision that eliminates directors' and officers' liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law. These limitations of liability do not apply to liabilities arising under the federal securities laws and do not generally affect the availability of equitable remedies such as injunctive relief or rescission.

Our charter also authorizes our company, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to obligate our company to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer of our company and at the request of our company, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee, from and against any claim or liability to which that individual may become subject or which that individual may incur by reason of his or her service in any such capacity and to pay or reimburse his or her reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding.

Our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law, to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer of our company and at the request of our company, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee and who is made, or threatened to be made, a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity, from and against any claim or liability to which that individual may become subject or which that individual may incur by reason of his or her service in any such capacity and to pay or reimburse his or her reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding. Our charter and bylaws also permit our company to indemnify and advance expenses to any individual who served a predecessor of our company in any of the capacities described above and any employee or agent of our company or a predecessor of our company.

Maryland law requires a corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. Maryland law permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that:

- the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (1) was committed in bad faith or (2) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;
- the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or
- in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

However, under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification and then only for expenses. In addition, Maryland law permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of:

- a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation; and

- a written undertaking by him or her on his or her behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

We entered into indemnification agreements with our directors and executive officers that obligate us to indemnify them to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The indemnification agreements provide that if a director or executive officer is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of such director's or executive officer's status as a director, officer or employee of our company, we must indemnify such director or executive officer for all expenses and liabilities actually and reasonably incurred by him or her, or on his or her behalf, unless it has been established that:

- the act or omission of the director or executive officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;
- the director or executive officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or other services; or
- with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, the director or executive officer had reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

The indemnification agreements also provide that upon application of a director or executive officer of our company to a court of appropriate jurisdiction, the court may order indemnification of such director or executive officer if:

- the court determines the director or executive officer is entitled to indemnification under the applicable section of the MGCL, in which case the director or executive officer shall be entitled to recover from us the expenses of securing such indemnification; or
- the court determines that such director or executive officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification in view of all the relevant circumstances, whether or not the director or executive officer has met the standards of conduct set forth in the applicable section of the MGCL or has been adjudged liable for receipt of an improper benefit under the applicable section of the MGCL; provided, however, that our indemnification obligations to such director or executive officer will be limited to the expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him or her, or on his or her behalf, in connection with any proceeding by or in the right of our company or in which the executive officer or director shall have been adjudged liable for receipt of an improper personal benefit under the applicable section of the MGCL.

Notwithstanding, and without limiting, any other provisions of the indemnification agreements, if a director or executive officer is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of such director's or executive officer's status as a director, executive officer or employee of our company, and such director or executive officer is successful, on the merits or otherwise, as to one or more but less than all claims, issues or matters in such proceeding, we must indemnify such director or executive officer for all expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him or her, or on his or her behalf, in connection with each successfully resolved claim, issue or matter, including any claim, issue or matter in such a proceeding that is terminated by dismissal, with or without prejudice.

In addition, the indemnification agreements require us to advance reasonable expenses incurred by the indemnitee within 20 days of the receipt by us of a statement from the indemnitee requesting the advance, provided the statement evidences the expenses and is accompanied by:

- a written affirmation of the indemnitee's good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification; and

- a written undertaking by or on behalf of the indemnitee to repay the portion of any expenses advanced to the indemnitee relating to claims, issues or matters in a proceeding if it is ultimately established that the standard of conduct was not met.

The indemnification agreements also provide for procedures for the determination of entitlement to indemnification, including requiring such determination be made by independent counsel after a change of control of us.

In addition, to the maximum extent permitted by law, our 2011 Equity Incentive Plan provides the members of our board of directors with limited liability with respect to actions taken or decisions made in good faith relating to the plan and indemnification in connection with their activities under the plan.

Insofar as the foregoing provisions permit indemnification of directors, executive officers or persons controlling us for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that, in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

### **Meetings of Stockholders**

Subject to the rights of holders of one or more classes or series of preferred stock specifically set forth in our charter, special meetings of stockholders may be called only by our board of directors, the chairman of our board of directors, our chief executive officer, our president or, in the case of a stockholder requested special meeting, by our secretary upon the written request of the holders of common stock entitled to cast not less than a majority of all votes entitled to be cast at such meeting. Only matters set forth in the notice of the special meeting may be considered and acted upon at such a meeting. Additionally, the articles supplementary for the Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock provide the holders of Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock certain rights to have a special meeting called upon their request in connection with the election of the preferred stock directors.

### **Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business**

Our bylaws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of individuals for election to the board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders may be made only:

- pursuant to our notice of the meeting;
- by the board of directors; or
- by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of the bylaws.

With respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of the meeting may be brought before the meeting. Nominations of individuals for election to our board of directors at a special meeting may be made only:

- pursuant to our notice of the meeting; and
- by the board of directors; or
- provided that the board of directors has determined that directors will be elected at the meeting, by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice provisions of the bylaws.

Generally, in accordance with our bylaws, a stockholder seeking to nominate a director or bring other business before our annual meeting of stockholders must deliver a notice to our secretary not

later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the 120th day, nor earlier than the 150th day, prior to the first anniversary of the date of mailing of the notice for the prior year's annual meeting of stockholders. For a stockholder seeking to nominate a candidate for our board of directors, the notice must describe various matters regarding the nominee, including name, address, occupation and number of shares held, and other specified matters. For a stockholder seeking to propose other business, the notice must include a description of the proposed business, the reasons for the proposal and other specified matters.

## MATERIAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

This section summarizes the material federal income tax considerations that you, as a securityholder, may consider relevant. Hunton & Williams LLP has acted as our counsel, has reviewed this summary, and is of the opinion that the discussion contained herein is accurate in all material respects. Because this section is a summary, it does not address all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to particular securityholders in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to certain types of securityholders that are subject to special treatment under the federal income tax laws, such as:

- insurance companies;
- tax-exempt organizations (except to the limited extent discussed in "—Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders" below);
- financial institutions or broker-dealers;
- non-U.S. individuals and foreign corporations (except to the limited extent discussed in "—Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders" below);
- U.S. expatriates;
- persons who mark-to-market our securities;
- subchapter S corporations;
- U.S. stockholders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;
- regulated investment companies and REITs;
- trusts and estates;
- holders who receive our securities through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;
- persons holding our securities as part of a "straddle," "hedge," "conversion transaction," "synthetic security" or other integrated investment;
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code; and
- persons holding our securities through a partnership or similar pass-through entity.

This summary assumes that securityholders hold our securities as capital assets for federal income tax purposes, which generally means property held for investment.

The statements in this section are not intended to be, and should not be construed as, tax advice. The statements in this section are based on the Code, current, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, the legislative history of the Code, current administrative interpretations and practices of the IRS, and court decisions. The reference to IRS interpretations and practices includes the IRS practices and policies endorsed in private letter rulings, which are not binding on the IRS except with respect to the taxpayer that receives the ruling. In each case, these sources are relied upon as they exist on the date of this discussion. Future legislation, Treasury regulations, administrative interpretations and court decisions could change current law or adversely affect exiting interpretations of current law on which the information in this section is based. Any such change could apply retroactively. We have not received any rulings from the IRS concerning our qualification as a REIT. Accordingly, even if there is no change in the applicable law, no assurance can be provided that the statements made in the following discussion, which do not bind the IRS or the courts, will not be challenged by the IRS or will be sustained by a court if so challenged.

**WE URGE YOU TO CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE SPECIFIC TAX CONSEQUENCES TO YOU OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND SALE OF OUR SECURITIES AND OF OUR ELECTION TO BE TAXED AS A REIT. SPECIFICALLY, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN, AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP, SALE AND ELECTION, AND REGARDING POTENTIAL CHANGES IN APPLICABLE TAX LAWS.**

### **Taxation of our Company**

We elected to be taxed as a REIT for federal income tax purposes commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011. We believe that, commencing with such taxable year, we have been organized and have operated in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Code, and we intend to continue to operate in such a manner, but no assurances can be given that we will operate in a manner so as to qualify or remain qualified as a REIT. This section discusses the laws governing the federal income tax treatment of a REIT and its stockholders. These laws are highly technical and complex.

In the opinion of Hunton & Williams LLP, we qualified to be taxed as a REIT for our taxable years ended December 31, 2012 through December 31, 2015, and our current and proposed method of operations will enable us to continue to satisfy the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the federal income tax laws for our taxable year ending December 31, 2016 and subsequent taxable years. Investors should be aware that Hunton & Williams LLP's opinion is based upon customary assumptions, will be conditioned upon certain representations made by us as to factual matters, including representations regarding the nature of our assets and the conduct of our business, is not binding upon the IRS or any court, and speaks as of the date issued. In addition, Hunton & Williams LLP's opinion will be based on existing federal income tax law governing qualification as a REIT, which is subject to change either prospectively or retroactively. Moreover, our qualification and taxation as a REIT will depend upon our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual annual operating results, certain qualification tests set forth in the federal income tax laws. Those qualification tests involve the percentage of income that we earn from specified sources, the percentage of our assets that falls within specified categories, the diversity of our capital stock ownership, and the percentage of our earnings that we distribute. Hunton & Williams LLP will not review our compliance with those tests on a continuing basis. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that our actual results of operations for any particular taxable year will satisfy such requirements. Hunton & Williams LLP's opinion does not foreclose the possibility that we may have to use one or more of the REIT savings provisions described below, which would require us to pay an excise or penalty tax (which could be material), in order for us to maintain our REIT qualification. For a discussion of the tax consequences of our failure to qualify as a REIT, see "—Failure to Qualify."

If we qualify as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal income tax on the taxable income that we distribute to our stockholders. The benefit of that tax treatment is that it avoids the "double taxation," or taxation at both the corporate and stockholder levels, that generally results from owning stock in a corporation. However, we will be subject to federal tax in the following circumstances:

- We will pay federal income tax on any taxable income, including undistributed net capital gain, that we do not distribute to stockholders during, or within a specified time period after, the calendar year in which the income is earned.
- We may be subject to the "alternative minimum tax" on any items of tax preference including any deductions of net operating losses.



- We will pay income tax at the highest corporate rate on:
  - net income from the sale or other disposition of property acquired through foreclosure ("foreclosure property") that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, and
  - other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property.
- We will pay a 100% tax on net income from sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.
- If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as described below under "—Gross Income Tests," and nonetheless continue to qualify as a REIT because we meet other requirements, we will pay a 100% tax on:
  - the gross income attributable to the greater of the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, in either case, multiplied by
  - a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.
- If we fail to distribute during a calendar year at least the sum of (i) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year, (ii) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for the year, and (iii) any undistributed taxable income required to be distributed from earlier periods, we will pay a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the amount we actually distribute.
- We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net long-term capital gain. In that case, a stockholder would be taxed on its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain (to the extent that we made a timely designation of such gain to the stockholders) and would receive a credit or refund for its proportionate share of the tax we paid.
- We will be subject to a 100% excise tax on transactions with STAG Industrial TRS, LLC ("STAG TRS") or any other taxable REIT subsidiary ("TRS") that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis.
- If we fail any of the asset tests, other than a *de minimis* failure of the 5% asset test, the 10% vote test or 10% value test, as described below under "—Asset Tests," as long as the failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we file a description of each asset that caused such failure with the IRS, and we dispose of the assets causing the failure or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identify such failure, we will pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest federal income tax rate then applicable to U.S. corporations (currently 35.0%) on the net income from the non-qualifying assets during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset tests.
- If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification, other than the gross income tests and the asset tests, and such failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.
- If we acquire any asset from a C corporation, or a corporation that generally is subject to full corporate-level tax, in a merger or other transaction in which we acquire a basis in the asset that is determined by reference either to the C corporation's basis in the asset or to another asset, we will pay tax at the highest regular corporate rate applicable if we recognize gain on the sale or disposition of the asset during the 5-year period after we acquire the asset provided no

election is made for the transaction to be taxable on a current basis. The amount of gain on which we will pay tax is the lesser of:

- the amount of gain that we recognize at the time of the sale or disposition, and
- the amount of gain that we would have recognized if we had sold the asset at the time we acquired it.
  
- 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 a REIT's stockholders, as described below in "—Recordkeeping Requirements."
- The earnings of our lower-tier entities that are subchapter C corporations, including STAG TRS and any other TRS we form in the future, will be subject to federal corporate income tax.

In addition, notwithstanding our qualification as a REIT, we also may have to pay certain state and local income taxes because not all states and localities treat REITs in the same manner that they are treated for federal income tax purposes. Moreover, as further described below, STAG TRS and any other TRS we form the future will be subject to federal, state and local corporate income tax on their taxable income.

### **Requirements for Qualification**

A REIT is a corporation, trust, or association that meets each of the following requirements:

1. It is managed by one or more trustees or directors.
2. Its beneficial ownership is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest.
3. It would be taxable as a domestic corporation, but for the REIT provisions of the federal income tax laws.
4. It is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to special provisions of the federal income tax laws.
5. At least 100 persons are beneficial owners of its shares or ownership certificates.
6. Not more than 50% in value of its outstanding shares or ownership certificates is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals, which the Code defines to include certain entities, during the last half of any taxable year.
7. It elects to be a REIT, or has made such election for a previous taxable year, and satisfies all relevant filing and other administrative requirements established by the IRS that must be met to elect and maintain REIT status.
8. It meets certain other qualification tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions to stockholders.
9. It uses a calendar year for federal income tax purposes and complies with the recordkeeping requirements of the federal income tax laws.

We must meet requirements 1 through 4, 7, 8 and 9 during our entire taxable year and must meet requirement 5 during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months. Requirements 5 and 6 applied to us beginning with our 2012 taxable year. If we comply with all the requirements for ascertaining the ownership of our outstanding stock in a taxable year and have no reason to know that we violated requirement 6, we will be deemed to have satisfied requirement 6 for that taxable year. For purposes of determining stock ownership

under requirement 6, an "individual" generally includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefits plan, a private foundation, or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes. An "individual," however, generally does not include a trust that is a qualified employee pension or profit sharing trust under the federal income tax laws, and beneficiaries of such a trust will be treated as holding our stock in proportion to their actuarial interests in the trust for purposes of requirement 6.

Our charter provides restrictions regarding the transfer and ownership of shares of our capital stock. See "Description of Capital Stock—Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Stock." We believe that we have issued sufficient stock with sufficient diversity of ownership to allow us to satisfy requirements 5 and 6 above. The restrictions in our charter are intended (among other things) to assist us in continuing to satisfy requirements 5 and 6 above. These restrictions, however, may not ensure that we will, in all cases, be able to satisfy such share ownership requirements. If we fail to satisfy these share ownership requirements, our qualification as a REIT may terminate.

*Qualified REIT Subsidiaries.* A corporation that is a "qualified REIT subsidiary" is not treated as a corporation separate from its parent REIT. All assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of a "qualified REIT subsidiary" are treated as assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of the REIT. A "qualified REIT subsidiary" is a corporation, other than a TRS, all of the stock of which is owned by the REIT. Thus, in applying the requirements described herein, any "qualified REIT subsidiary" that we own will be ignored, and all assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of such subsidiary will be treated as our assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit.

*Other Disregarded Entities and Partnerships.* An unincorporated domestic entity, such as a partnership or limited liability company that has a single owner for federal income tax purposes, generally is not treated as an entity separate from its owner for federal income tax purposes. An unincorporated domestic entity with two or more owners is generally treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership that has other partners, the REIT is treated as owning its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership and as earning its allocable share of the gross income of the partnership for purposes of the applicable REIT qualification tests. Our proportionate share for purposes of the 10% value test (see "—Asset Tests") is based on our proportionate interest in the equity interests and certain debt securities issued by the partnership. For all of the other asset and income tests, our proportionate share is based on our proportionate interest in the capital interests in the partnership. Our proportionate share of the assets, liabilities, and items of income of any partnership, joint venture, or limited liability company that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes in which we acquire an equity interest, directly or indirectly, are treated as our assets and gross income for purposes of applying the various REIT qualification requirements.

We have control of our operating partnership and intend to control any subsidiary partnerships and limited liability companies, and we intend to operate them in a manner consistent with the requirements for our qualification as a REIT. We may from time to time be a limited partner or non-managing member in some of our partnerships and limited liability companies. If a partnership or limited liability company in which we own an interest takes or expects to take actions that could jeopardize our status as a REIT or require us to pay tax, we may be forced to dispose of our interest in such entity. In addition, it is possible that a partnership or limited liability company could take an action which could cause us to fail a gross income or asset test, and that we would not become aware of such action in time to dispose of our interest in the partnership or limited liability company or take other corrective action on a timely basis. In that case, we could fail to qualify as a REIT unless we were entitled to relief, as described below.

*Taxable REIT Subsidiaries.* A REIT may own up to 100% of the shares of one or more TRSs. A TRS is a fully taxable corporation that may earn income that would not be qualifying income if earned directly by the parent REIT. The subsidiary and the REIT must jointly elect to treat the subsidiary as a TRS. A corporation (other than a REIT) of which a TRS directly or indirectly owns more than 35% of the voting power or value of the outstanding securities will automatically be treated as a TRS. We are not treated as holding the assets of a TRS or as receiving any income that the TRS earns. Rather, the stock issued by a TRS to us is an asset in our hands, and we treat the distributions paid to us from such TRS, if any, as dividend income to the extent of the TRS's current and accumulated earnings and profits. This treatment may affect our compliance with the gross income and asset tests. Because we do not include the assets and income of TRSs in determining our compliance with the REIT requirements, we may use such entities to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude us from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. Overall, no more than 25% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) of the value of a REIT's assets may consist of stock or securities of one or more TRSs. A TRS generally may not directly or indirectly operate or manage any health care facilities or lodging facilities or provide rights to any brand name under which any health care facility or lodging facility is operated.

A TRS pays income tax at regular corporate rates on any income that it earns. In addition, the TRS rules limit the deductibility of interest paid or accrued by a TRS to its parent REIT to assure that the TRS is subject to an appropriate level of corporate taxation. Further, the rules impose a 100% excise tax on transactions between a TRS and its parent REIT or the REIT's tenants that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis.

Rent that we receive from a TRS will qualify as "rents from real property" as long as (1) at least 90% of the leased space in the property is leased to persons other than TRSs and related-party tenants, and (2) the amount paid by the TRS to rent space at the property is substantially comparable to rents paid by other tenants of the property for comparable space, as described in further detail below under "—Gross Income Tests—Rents from Real Property." If we lease space to a TRS in the future, we will seek to comply with these requirements. We elected to treat STAG TRS as a TRS. STAG TRS is subject to corporate income tax on its taxable income. We may elect to treat other entities as TRSs in the future.

### **Gross Income Tests**

We must satisfy two gross income tests annually to maintain our qualification as a REIT. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year must consist of defined types of income that we derive, directly or indirectly, from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property or qualified temporary investment income. Qualifying income for purposes of that 75% gross income test generally includes:

- rents from real property;
- interest on debt secured by mortgages on real property, or on interests in real property;
- dividends or other distributions on, and gain from the sale of, shares in other REITs;
- gain from the sale of real estate assets;
- income and gain derived from foreclosure property; and
- income derived from the temporary investment of new capital that is attributable to the issuance of our stock or a public offering of our debt with a maturity date of at least five years and that we receive during the one-year period beginning on the date on which we received such new capital.

Although a debt instrument issued by a "publicly offered REIT" (i.e., a REIT that is required to file annual and periodic reports with the SEC under the Exchange Act) is treated as a "real estate asset" for purposes of the asset tests for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, neither the gain from the sale of such debt instruments nor interest on such debt instruments is treated as qualifying income for the 75% gross income test unless the debt instrument is secured by real property or an interest in real property.

Second, in general, at least 95% of our gross income for each taxable year must consist of income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, other types of interest and dividends, gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, or any combination of these. Gross income from our sale of any property that we hold primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business is excluded from both the numerator and the denominator in both gross income tests. In addition, income and gain from "hedging transactions" (as defined in "—Hedging Transactions") that we enter into to hedge indebtedness incurred or to be incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets and that are clearly and timely identified as such will be excluded from both the numerator and the denominator for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. In addition, certain foreign currency gains will be excluded from gross income for purposes of one or both of the gross income tests. See "—Foreign Currency Gain." Finally, gross income attributable to cancellation of indebtedness income will be excluded from both the numerator and denominator for purposes of both of the gross income tests. The following paragraphs discuss the specific application of the gross income tests to us.

*Rents from Real Property.* Rent that we receive from our real property will qualify as "rents from real property," which is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests, only if the following conditions are met:

- First, the rent must not be based, in whole or in part, on the income or profits of any person, but may be based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales.
- Second, neither we nor a direct or indirect owner of 10% or more of our stock may own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of a tenant from whom we receive rent, other than a TRS.
- Third, if the rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property is 15% or less of the total rent received under the lease, then the rent attributable to personal property will qualify as rents from real property. However, if the 15% threshold is exceeded, the rent attributable to personal property will not qualify as rents from real property.
- Fourth, we generally must not operate or manage our real property or furnish or render services to our tenants, other than through an "independent contractor" who is adequately compensated and from whom we do not derive revenue. Furthermore, we may own up to 100% of the stock of a TRS which may provide customary and noncustomary services to our tenants without tainting our rental income for the related properties. However, we need not provide services through an "independent contractor" or a TRS, but instead may provide services directly to our tenants, if the services are "usually or customarily rendered" in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not considered to be provided for the tenants' convenience. In addition, we may provide a minimal amount of "noncustomary" services to the tenants of a property, other than through an independent contractor or a TRS, as long as our income from the services (valued at not less than 150% of our direct cost of performing such services) does not exceed 1% of our income from the related property.

Our operating partnership and its subsidiaries generally lease our properties in the form of either a triple net lease, a gross lease or a modified gross lease. In order for the rent paid under our leases to constitute "rents from real property," the leases must be respected as true leases for federal income tax

purposes and not treated as service contracts, joint ventures or some other type of arrangement. The determination of whether our leases are true leases depends on an analysis of all the surrounding facts and circumstances. We believe we have, and intend to enter into, leases that will be treated as true leases. If our leases are characterized as service contracts or partnership agreements, rather than as true leases, part or all of the payments that our operating partnership and its subsidiaries receive from our leases may not be considered rent or may 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 test and, as a result, would lose our REIT status unless we qualify for relief, as described below under "—Failure to Satisfy Gross Income Tests."

As described above, for the rent that we receive to constitute "rents from real property," several other requirements must be satisfied. First, rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. Percentage rent, however, will qualify as "rents from real property" if it is based on percentages of receipts or sales and the percentages:

- are fixed at the time the leases are entered into;
- are not renegotiated during the term of the leases in a manner that has the effect of basing rent on income or profits; and
- conform with normal business practice.

More generally, rent will not qualify as "rents from real property" if, considering the leases and all the surrounding circumstances, the arrangement does not conform with normal business practice, but is in reality used as a means of basing the rent on income or profits.

Second, if we own, actually or constructively, 10% or more (measured by voting power or fair market value) of the stock of a corporate lessee, or 10% or more of the assets or net profits of any non-corporate lessee (each a "related party tenant"), other than a TRS, any income we receive from the lessee will be non-qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. The constructive ownership rules generally provide that, if 10% or more in value of our stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by or for any person, we are considered as owning the shares owned, directly or indirectly, by or for such person. We believe that all of our properties are and will be leased to third parties that do not constitute related party tenants. In addition, our charter prohibits transfers of our stock that would cause us to own actually or constructively, 10% or more of the ownership interests in any non-TRS lessee. Based on the foregoing, we should never own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of any lessee other than a TRS. However, because the constructive ownership rules are broad and it is not possible to monitor continually direct and indirect transfers of our stock, no absolute assurance can be given that such transfers or other events of which we have no knowledge will not cause us to own constructively 10% or more of a lessee (or a subtenant, in which case only rent attributable to the subtenant is disqualified) other than a TRS at some future date.

As described above, we may own up to 100% of the shares of one or more TRSs. Under an exception to the related-party tenant rule described in the preceding paragraph, rent that we receive from a TRS will qualify as "rents from real property" as long as (i) at least 90% of the leased space in the property is leased to persons other than TRSs and related-party tenants, and (ii) the amount paid by the TRS to rent space at the property is substantially comparable to rents paid by other tenants of the property for comparable space. The "substantially comparable" requirement must be satisfied when the lease is entered into, when it is extended, and when the lease is modified, if the modification increases the rent paid by the TRS. If the requirement that at least 90% of the leased space in the related property is rented to unrelated tenants is met when a lease is entered into, extended, or modified, such requirement will continue to be met as long as there is no increase in the space leased to any TRS or related party tenant. Any increased rent attributable to a modification of a lease with a TRS in which we own directly or indirectly more than 50% of the voting power or value of the stock (a

"controlled TRS") will not be treated as "rents from real property." If in the future we receive rent from a TRS, we will seek to comply with this exception.

Third, the rent attributable to the personal property leased in connection with the lease of a property must not be greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease. The rent attributable to the personal property contained in a property is the amount that bears the same ratio to total rent for the taxable year as the average of the fair market values of the personal property at the beginning and at the end of the taxable year bears to the average of the aggregate fair market values of both the real and personal property contained in the property at the beginning and at the end of such taxable year (the "personal property ratio"). With respect to each of our leases, we believe either that the personal property ratio is less than 15% or that any rent attributable to excess personal property, when taken together with all of our other non-qualifying income, will not jeopardize our ability to qualify as a REIT. There can be no assurance, however, that the IRS would not challenge our calculation of a personal property ratio, or that a court would not uphold such assertion. If such a challenge were successfully asserted, we could fail to satisfy the 75% or 95% gross income test and thus potentially lose our REIT status.

Fourth, except as described below, we cannot furnish or render noncustomary services to the tenants of our properties, or manage or operate our properties, other than through an independent contractor who is adequately compensated and from whom we do not derive or receive any income. However, we need not provide services through an "independent contractor," but instead may provide services directly to our tenants, if the services are "usually or customarily rendered" in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not considered to be provided for the tenants' convenience. In addition, we may provide a minimal amount of "noncustomary" services to the tenants of a property, other than through an independent contractor, as long as our income from the services (valued at not less than 150% of our direct cost for performing such services) does not exceed 1% of our income from the related property. Finally, we may own up to 100% of the shares of one or more TRSs, which may provide noncustomary services to our tenants without tainting our rents from the related properties. We believe that we do not perform any services other than customary ones for our lessees, other than services are provided through independent contractors or TRSs.

If a portion of the rent that we receive from a property does not qualify as "rents from real property" because the rent attributable to personal property exceeds 15% of the total rent for a taxable year, the portion of the rent that is attributable to personal property will not be qualifying income for purposes of either the 75% or 95% gross income test. Thus, if such rent attributable to personal property, plus any other income that is non-qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, during a taxable year exceeds 5% of our gross income during the year, we would lose our REIT qualification. If, however, the rent from a particular property does not qualify as "rents from real property" because either (i) the rent is considered based on the income or profits of the related lessee, (ii) the lessee either is a related party tenant or fails to qualify for the exceptions to the related party tenant rule for qualifying TRSs or (iii) we furnish noncustomary services to the tenants of the property, or manage or operate the property, other than through a qualifying independent contractor or a TRS, none of the rent from that property would qualify as "rents from real property." In that case, we might lose our REIT qualification because we would be unable to satisfy either the 75% or 95% gross income test. In addition to the rent, the lessees are required to pay certain additional charges. To the extent that such additional charges represent either (i) reimbursements of amounts that we are obligated to pay to third parties, such as a lessee's proportionate share of a property's operational or capital expenses, or (ii) penalties for nonpayment or late payment of such amounts, such charges generally will qualify as "rents from real property." To the extent such additional charges represent penalties for nonpayment or late payment of such amounts, such charges should qualify as "rents from real property." However, to the extent that late charges do not qualify as "rents from real property," they

instead will be treated as interest that qualifies for the 95% gross income test. We believe that our leases are structured in a manner that will enable us to continue satisfy the REIT gross income tests.

*Interest.* The term "interest" generally does not include any amount received or accrued, directly or indirectly, if the determination of such amount depends in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, interest generally includes the following:

- an amount that is based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales; and
- an amount that is based on the income or profits of a debtor, as long as the debtor derives substantially all of its income from the real property securing the debt from leasing substantially all of its interest in the property, and only to the extent that the amounts received by the debtor would be qualifying "rents from real property" if received directly by a REIT.

Interest on debt secured by a mortgage on real property or on interests in real property, including, for this purpose, discount points, prepayment penalties, loan assumption fees, and late payment charges that are not compensation for services, generally is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. However, except to the extent described below, if a loan is secured by real property and other property and the highest principal amount of a loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property securing the loan as of the date the REIT agreed to originate or acquire the loan or on the date the REIT modifies the loan (if the modification is treated as "significant" for federal income tax purposes), a portion of the interest income from such loan will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, but will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. The portion of the interest income that will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test will be equal to the portion of the principal amount of the loan that is not secured by real property—that is, the amount by which the loan exceeds the value of the real estate that is security for the loan. IRS guidance provides that we do not need to redetermine the fair market value of the real property securing a loan in connection with a loan modification that is occasioned by a borrower default or made at a time when we reasonably believe that the modification to the loan will substantially reduce a significant risk of default on the original loan. In addition, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, in the case of a loan that is secured by both real property and personal property, if the fair market value of such personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value of all such property securing the loan, then the personal property securing the loan will be treated as real property for purposes of determining whether the interest on such loan is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test.

If a loan contains a provision that entitles a REIT to a percentage of the borrower's gain upon the sale of the real property securing the loan or a percentage of the appreciation in the property's value as of a specific date, income attributable to that loan provision will be treated as gain from the sale of the property securing the loan, which generally is qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests assuming the loan is held for investment.

*Dividends.* Our share of any dividends received from any corporation (including any TRS, but excluding any REIT) in which we own an equity interest will qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Our share of any dividends received from any other REIT in which we own an equity interest, if any, will be qualifying income for purposes of both gross income tests.

*Fee Income.* We may receive various fees. Fee income will generally not be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Any fees earned by a TRS are not included for purposes of the gross income tests. We may receive (either actual receipt or deemed receipt) amounts from certain affiliated entities in exchange for such entities' use of intellectual property rights, including the use of the STAG name. We do not expect such amounts to be significant, and, in any event, to negatively impact our compliance with REIT gross income tests.



*Prohibited Transactions.* A REIT will incur a 100% tax on the net income (including foreign currency gain) derived from any sale or other disposition of property, other than foreclosure property, that the REIT holds primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. We believe that none of our assets are held primarily for sale to customers and that a sale of any of our assets will not be in the ordinary course of our business. Whether a REIT holds an asset "primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business" depends, however, on the facts and circumstances in effect from time to time, including those related to a particular asset. A safe harbor to the characterization of the sale of property by a REIT as a prohibited transaction and the 100% prohibited transaction tax is available if the following requirements are met:

- the REIT has held the property for not less than two years;
- the aggregate expenditures made by the REIT, or any partner of the REIT, during the two-year period preceding the date of the sale that are includable in the basis of the property do not exceed 30% of the selling price of the property;
- either (1) during the year in question, the REIT did not make more than seven sales of property other than foreclosure property or sales to which Section 1031 or 1033 of the Code applies, (2) the aggregate adjusted bases of all such properties sold by the REIT during the year did not exceed 10% of the aggregate bases of all of the assets of the REIT at the beginning of the year, (3) the aggregate fair market value of all such properties sold by the REIT during the year did not exceed 10% of the aggregate fair market value of all of the assets of the REIT at the beginning of the year, (4) with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, (a) the aggregate adjusted tax bases of all such property sold by the REIT during the year did not exceed 20% of the aggregate adjusted tax bases of all property of the REIT at the beginning of the year and (b) the average annual percentage of properties sold by the REIT compared to all of the REIT's properties (measured by adjusted tax bases) in the current and two prior years did not exceed 10%, or (5) with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, (a) the aggregate fair market value of all such property sold by the REIT during the year did not exceed 20% of the aggregate fair market value of all property of the REIT at the beginning of the year and (b) the average annual percentage of properties sold by the REIT compared to all the REIT's properties (measured by fair market value) in the current and two prior years did not exceed 10%;
- in the case of property not acquired through foreclosure or lease termination, the REIT has held the property for at least two years for the production of rental income; and
- if the REIT has made more than seven sales of non-foreclosure property during the taxable year, substantially all of the marketing and development expenditures with respect to the property were made through an independent contractor from whom the REIT derives no income or, with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, a TRS.

We will attempt to comply with the terms of the safe-harbor provisions in the federal income tax laws prescribing when an asset sale will not be characterized as a prohibited transaction. We cannot assure you, however, that we can comply with the safe-harbor provisions or that we will avoid owning property that may be characterized as property that we hold "primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business." The 100% tax will not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will be taxed to the corporation at regular corporate income tax rates.

*Foreclosure Property.* We will be subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate on any income from foreclosure property, which includes certain foreign currency gains and related deductions, other than income that otherwise would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, less expenses directly connected with the production of that income. However, gross income from

foreclosure property will qualify under the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Foreclosure property is any real property, including interests in real property, and any personal property incident to such real property:

- that is acquired by a REIT as the result of the REIT having bid on such property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced such property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after there was a default or default was imminent on a lease of such property or on indebtedness that such property secured;
- for which the related loan was acquired by the REIT at a time when the default was not imminent or anticipated; and
- for which the REIT makes a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property.

A REIT will not be considered to have foreclosed on a property where the REIT takes control of the property as a mortgagee-in-possession and cannot receive any profit or sustain any loss except as a creditor of the mortgagor. Property generally ceases to be foreclosure property at the end of the third taxable year (or, with respect to qualified health care property, the second taxable year) following the taxable year in which the REIT acquired the property, or longer if an extension is granted by the Secretary of the Treasury. However, this grace period terminates and foreclosure property ceases to be foreclosure property on the first day:

- on which a lease is entered into for the property that, by its terms, will give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test, or any amount is received or accrued, directly or indirectly, pursuant to a lease entered into on or after such day that will give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test;
- on which any construction takes place on the property, other than completion of a building or any other improvement, where more than 10% of the construction was completed before default became imminent; or
- which is more than 90 days after the day on which the REIT acquired the property and the property is used in a trade or business which is conducted by the REIT, other than through an independent contractor from whom the REIT itself does not derive or receive any income or, with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, a TRS.

*Hedging Transactions.* From time to time, we or our operating partnership have and will enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Our hedging activities may include entering into interest rate swaps, caps, and floors, options to purchase such items, and futures and forward contracts. Income and gain from "hedging transactions" will be excluded from gross income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests provided we satisfy the identification requirements discussed below. A "hedging transaction" means (i) any transaction entered into in the normal course of our or our operating partnership's trade or business primarily to manage the risk of interest rate, price changes, or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, (ii) any transaction entered into primarily to manage the risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% gross income test (or any property which generates such income or gain), or (iii) any transaction entered into after December 31, 2015 to "offset" transactions described in (i) or (ii) if a portion of the hedged indebtedness is extinguished or the related property disposed of. We are required to clearly identify any such hedging transaction before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into and to satisfy other identification requirements. We believe we have structured any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT.

*Foreign Currency Gain.* Certain foreign currency gains will be excluded from gross income for purposes of one or both of the gross income tests. "Real estate foreign exchange gain" will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Real estate foreign exchange gain generally includes foreign currency gain attributable to any item of income or gain that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, foreign currency gain attributable to the acquisition or ownership of (or becoming or being the obligor under) obligations secured by mortgages on real property or an interest in real property and certain foreign currency gain attributable to certain "qualified business units" of a REIT. "Passive foreign exchange gain" will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. Passive foreign exchange gain generally includes real estate foreign exchange gain as described above, and also includes foreign currency gain attributable to any item of income or gain that is qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test and foreign currency gain attributable to the acquisition or ownership of (or becoming or being the obligor under) obligations. These exclusions for real estate foreign exchange gain and passive foreign exchange gain do not apply to any certain foreign currency gain derived from dealing, or engaging in substantial and regular trading, in securities. Such gain is treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests.

*Failure to Satisfy Gross Income Tests.* We may have gross income that fails to constitute qualifying income for purposes of one or both of the gross income tests. Taking into account our anticipated sources of non-qualifying income, however, we expect that our aggregate gross income will allow us to continue to satisfy the 75% and 95% gross income tests applicable to REITs. If we fail to satisfy one or both of the gross income tests for any taxable year, we nevertheless may qualify as a REIT for that year if we qualify for relief under certain provisions of the federal income tax laws. Those relief provisions are available if:

- our failure to meet those tests is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect; and
- following such failure for any taxable year, we file a schedule of the sources of our income in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury.

We cannot predict, however, whether in all circumstances we would qualify for the relief provisions. In addition, as discussed above in "—Taxation of Our Company," even if the relief provisions apply, we would incur a 100% tax on the gross income attributable to the greater of the amount by which we fail the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test multiplied, in either case, by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

## **Asset Tests**

To qualify as a REIT, we also must satisfy the following asset tests at the end of each quarter of each taxable year.

First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must consist of:

- cash or cash items, including certain receivables and, in certain circumstances, foreign currencies;
- government securities;
- interests in real property, including leaseholds, options to acquire real property and leaseholds, and, with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, personal property to the extent such personal property is leased in connection with real property and rents attributable to such personal property are treated as "rents from real property";
- interests in mortgage loans secured by real property;
- stock in other REITs and debt instruments issued by "publicly offered REITs"; and

- investments in stock or debt instruments during the one-year period following our receipt of new capital that we raise through equity offerings or public offerings of debt with at least a five-year term.

Second, of our investments not included in the 75% asset class, the value of our interest in any one issuer's securities may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets, or the 5% asset test.

Third, of our investments not included in the 75% asset class, we may not own more than 10% of the voting power of any one issuer's outstanding securities or 10% of the value of any one issuer's outstanding securities, or the 10% vote test or 10% value test, respectively.

Fourth, no more than 25% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) of the value of our total assets may consist of the securities of one or more TRSs.

Fifth, no more than 25% of the value of our total assets may consist of the securities of TRSs and other non-TRS taxable subsidiaries and other assets that are not qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test, or the 25% securities test.

Sixth, not more than 25% of the value of our total assets may consist of debt instruments issued by "publicly offered REITs" to the extent not secured by real property or interests in real property.

For purposes of the 5% asset test, the 10% vote test and the 10% value test, the term "securities" does not include shares in another REIT, debt of "publicly offered REITs," equity or debt securities of a qualified REIT subsidiary or TRS, mortgage loans that constitute real estate assets, or equity interests in a partnership. The term "securities," however, generally includes debt securities issued by a partnership or another REIT, except that for purposes of the 10% value test, the term "securities" does not include:

- "Straight debt" securities, which is defined as a written unconditional promise to pay on demand or on a specified date a sum certain in money if (i) the debt is not convertible, directly or indirectly, into equity, and (ii) the interest rate and interest payment dates are not contingent on profits, the borrower's discretion, or similar factors. "Straight debt" securities do not include any securities issued by a partnership or a corporation in which we or any controlled TRS (i.e., a TRS in which we own directly or indirectly more than 50% of the voting power or value of the stock) hold non-"straight debt" securities that have an aggregate value of more than 1% of the issuer's outstanding securities. However, "straight debt" securities include debt subject to the following contingencies:
  - a contingency relating to the time of payment of interest or principal, as long as either (i) there is no change to the effective yield of the debt obligation, other than a change to the annual yield that does not exceed the greater of 0.25% or 5% of the annual yield, or (ii) neither the aggregate issue price nor the aggregate face amount of the issuer's debt obligations held by us exceeds \$1 million and no more than 12 months of unaccrued interest on the debt obligations can be required to be prepaid; and
  - a contingency relating to the time or amount of payment upon a default or prepayment of a debt obligation, as long as the contingency is consistent with customary commercial practice.
- Any loan to an individual or an estate;
- Any "section 467 rental agreement," other than an agreement with a related party tenant;
- Any obligation to pay "rents from real property";
- Certain securities issued by governmental entities;
- Any security issued by a REIT;

- Any debt instrument issued by an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes in which we are a partner to the extent of our proportionate interest in the equity and debt securities of the partnership; and
- Any debt instrument issued by an entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes not described in the preceding bullet points if at least 75% of the partnership's gross income, excluding income from prohibited transactions, is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test described above in "—Gross Income Tests."

For purposes of the 10% value test, our proportionate share of the assets of a partnership is our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership, without regard to the securities described in the last two bullet points above.

In general, under the applicable Treasury Regulations, if a loan is secured by real property and other property and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property securing the loan as of: (i) the date we agreed to acquire or originate the loan; or (ii) in the event of a significant modification, the date we modified the loan, then a portion of the interest income from such a loan will not be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, but will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. A portion of the loan will also likely be a non-qualifying asset for purposes of the 75% asset test. The non-qualifying portion of such a loan would be subject to, among other requirements, the 10% vote or value test. IRS Revenue Procedure 2014-51 provides a safe harbor under which the IRS has stated that it will not challenge a REIT's treatment of a loan as being, in part, a real estate asset for purposes of the 75% asset test if the REIT treats the loan as being a qualifying real estate asset in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the fair market value of the loan on the relevant quarterly REIT asset testing date or (ii) the greater of (a) the fair market value of the real property securing the loan in the relevant quarterly REIT asset testing date or (b) the fair market value of the real property securing the loan on the date the REIT committed to originate or acquire the loan. It is unclear how the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2014-51 is affected by the recent legislative changes regarding the treatment of personal property securing a mortgage loan, which treat personal property as real property for purposes of the gross income tests so long as no more than 15% of the fair market value of the property securing a loan is personal property. Until additional guidance is issued, we intend to apply the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2014-51 without taking into account the legislative changes regarding the treatment of loans secured by both real and personal property.

We will monitor the status of our assets for purposes of the various asset tests and will manage our portfolio to comply at all times with such tests. However, there is no assurance that we will not inadvertently fail to comply with such tests. If we fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter, we will not lose our REIT qualification if:

- we satisfied the asset tests at the end of the preceding calendar quarter; and
- the discrepancy between the value of our assets and the asset test requirements arose from changes in the market values of our assets and was not wholly or partly caused by the acquisition of one or more non-qualifying assets.

If we did not satisfy the condition described in the second item, above, we still could avoid disqualification by eliminating any discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose.

If we violate the 5% asset test, the 10% vote test or the 10% value test described above, we will not lose our REIT qualification if (i) the failure is *de minimis* (up to the lesser of 1% of our assets or \$10 million) and (ii) we dispose of assets causing the failure or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identify such failure. If we fail any of the asset tests (other than *de minimis* failures described in the preceding sentence), as long as the

failure was due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, we will not lose our REIT qualification if we (i) dispose of assets causing the failure or otherwise comply with the asset tests within six months after the last day of the quarter in which we identify the failure, (ii) we file a description of each asset causing the failure with the IRS and (iii) pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or 35% of the net income from the assets causing the failure during the period in which we failed to satisfy the asset tests.

Some of our assets consist of goodwill, including goodwill related to the contribution of our predecessor's management company in connection with our initial public offering. We do not believe that the value of any such goodwill has been or will be significant such that it negatively impacts our compliance with the REIT asset tests.

We believe that the assets that we hold, and that we will acquire in the future, will allow us to satisfy the foregoing asset test requirements. However, we do not typically obtain independent appraisals to support our conclusions as to the value of our assets. Moreover, the values of some assets may not be susceptible to a precise determination. As a result, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that our ownership of certain assets violates one or more of the asset tests applicable to REITs.

### **Sale-Leaseback Transactions**

A portion of our investments is expected to be in the form of sale-leaseback transactions. We intend to treat these transactions as true leases for federal income tax purposes. However, depending on the terms of any specific transaction, the IRS might take the position that the transaction is not a true lease but is more properly treated in some other manner. If such recharacterization were successful, we would not be entitled to claim the depreciation deductions available to an owner of the property. In addition, the recharacterization of one or more of these transactions might cause us to fail to satisfy the asset tests or the income tests described above and such failure could result in our failing to qualify as a REIT. Alternatively, the amount or timing of income inclusion or the loss of depreciation deductions resulting from the recharacterization might cause us to fail to meet the distribution requirement described below for one or more taxable years absent the availability of the deficiency dividend procedure or might result in a larger portion of our dividends being treated as ordinary income to our stockholders.

### **Distribution Requirements**

Each taxable year, we must distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends and deemed distributions of retained capital gain, to our stockholders in an aggregate amount at least equal to:

- the sum of
  - 90% of our "REIT taxable income," computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain or loss, and
  - 90% of our after-tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property, minus
- the sum of certain items of non-cash income.

We must pay such distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if either (i) we declare the distribution before we timely file our federal income tax return for the year and pay the distribution on or before the first regular dividend payment date after such declaration or (ii) we declare the distribution in October, November or December of the taxable year, payable to stockholders of record on a specified day in any such month, and we actually pay the dividend before the end of January of the following year. The distributions under clause (i) are taxable to the stockholders in the year in which paid, and the distributions in clause (ii) are treated as paid on

December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior taxable year. In both instances, these distributions relate to our prior taxable year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement.

We will pay federal income tax on taxable income, including net capital gain, that we do not distribute to stockholders. Furthermore, if we fail to distribute during a calendar year, or by the end of January following the calendar year in the case of distributions with declaration and record dates falling in the last three months of the calendar year, at least the sum of:

- 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year,
- 95% of our REIT capital gain income for such year, and
- any undistributed taxable income from prior periods,

we will incur a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts we actually distribute.

We may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain we receive in a taxable year. If we so elect, we will be treated as having distributed any such retained amount for purposes of the 4% nondeductible excise tax described above. We intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy the annual distribution requirements and to avoid corporate income tax and the 4% nondeductible excise tax.

It is possible that, from time to time, we may experience timing differences between the actual receipt of income and actual payment of deductible expenses and the inclusion of that income and deduction of such expenses in arriving at our REIT taxable income. For example, we may not deduct recognized capital losses from our "REIT taxable income." Further, it is possible that, from time to time, we may be allocated a share of net capital gain attributable to the sale of depreciated property that exceeds our allocable share of cash attributable to that sale. As a result of the foregoing, we may have less cash than is necessary to distribute taxable income sufficient to avoid corporate income tax and the excise tax imposed on certain undistributed income or even to meet the 90% distribution requirement. In such a situation, we may need to borrow funds or, if possible, pay taxable dividends of our capital stock or debt securities.

We may satisfy the 90% distribution test with taxable distributions of our stock or debt securities. The IRS has issued private letter rulings to other REITs treating certain distributions that are paid partly in cash and partly in stock as dividends that would satisfy the REIT annual distribution requirement and qualify for the dividends paid deduction for federal income tax purposes. Those rulings may be relied upon only by taxpayers to whom they were issued, but we could request a similar ruling from the IRS. In addition, the IRS previously issued a revenue procedure creating a temporary safe harbor authorizing publicly traded REITs to make elective cash/stock dividends, but that temporary safe harbor has expired. Accordingly, it is unclear whether and to what extent we will be able to make taxable dividends payable in cash and stock. We have no current intention to make a taxable dividend payable in our stock.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to correct a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying "deficiency dividends" to our stockholders in a later year. We may include such deficiency dividends in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Although we may be able to avoid income tax on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, we will be required to pay interest to the IRS based upon the amount of any deduction we take for deficiency dividends.

### **Recordkeeping Requirements**

To avoid a monetary penalty, we must request on an annual basis information from our stockholders designed to disclose the actual ownership of our outstanding stock. We have complied and intend to continue to comply with these requirements.

## Failure to Qualify

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification, other than the gross income tests and the 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. In addition, there are relief provisions for a failure of the gross income tests and asset tests, as described in "—Gross Income Tests" and "—Asset Tests."

If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, and no relief provision applies, we would be subject to federal income tax and any applicable alternative minimum tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. In calculating our taxable income in a year in which we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would not be able to deduct amounts paid out to stockholders. In fact, we would not be required to distribute any amounts to stockholders in that year. In such event, to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, distributions to stockholders generally would be taxable as ordinary income. Subject to certain limitations of the federal income tax laws, corporate stockholders may be eligible for the dividends received deduction and stockholders taxed at individual rates may be eligible for the reduced federal income tax rate of 20% on such dividends. Unless we qualified for relief under specific statutory provisions, we also would be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we ceased to qualify as a REIT. We cannot predict whether in all circumstances we would qualify for such statutory relief.

## Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders

As used herein, the term "U.S. stockholder" means a beneficial owner of our capital stock 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 federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any of its states or the District of Columbia;
- an estate whose income is subject to federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- any trust if (i) 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 (ii) it has a valid election in place to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership, entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes holds our capital stock, the federal income tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership holding our capital stock, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the consequences of the ownership and disposition of our capital stock by the partnership.

As long as we qualify as a REIT, a taxable U.S. stockholder must generally take into account as ordinary income distributions made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits that we do not designate as capital gain dividends or retained long-term capital gain. For purposes of determining whether a distribution is made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, our earnings and profits will be allocated first to our preferred stock dividends and then to our common stock dividends. Our dividends will not qualify for the dividends received deduction generally available to corporations. In addition, dividends paid to a U.S. stockholder generally will not qualify for the 20% tax rate for "qualified dividend income." The maximum tax rate for qualified dividend income received by U.S. stockholders taxed at individual rates is currently 20%. The maximum tax rate on qualified dividend income is lower than the maximum tax rate on ordinary income, which is currently 39.6%. Qualified dividend income generally includes dividends paid to U.S. stockholders taxed at individual



rates by domestic C corporations and certain qualified foreign corporations. Because we are not generally subject to federal income tax on the portion of our REIT taxable income distributed to our stockholders (See—"Taxation of Our Company" above), our dividends generally will not be eligible for the 20% rate on qualified dividend income. As a result, our ordinary REIT dividends generally will be taxed at the higher tax rate applicable to ordinary income. However, the 20% tax rate for qualified dividend income will apply to our ordinary REIT dividends (i) attributable to dividends received by us from non-REIT corporations during the taxable year, such as a TRS, and (ii) to the extent attributable to income upon which we have paid corporate income tax (e.g., to the extent that we distribute less than 100% of our taxable income). In general, to qualify for the reduced tax rate on qualified dividend income, a stockholder must hold our capital stock for more than 60 days during the 121 day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the date on which our capital stock becomes ex-dividend. Certain individuals, estates or trusts whose income exceeds certain thresholds are also subject to a 3.8% Medicare tax on dividends received from us.

A U.S. stockholder generally will take into account as long-term capital gain any distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends without regard to the period for which the U.S. stockholder has held our stock. We generally will designate our capital gain dividends as either 20% or 25% rate distributions. See "—Capital Gains and Losses." A corporate U.S. stockholder, however, may be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain dividends as ordinary income.

We may elect to retain and pay income tax on the net long-term capital gain that we receive in a taxable year. In that case, to the extent that we designate such amount in a timely notice to such stockholder, a U.S. stockholder would be taxed on its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain. The U.S. stockholder would receive a credit for its proportionate share of the tax we paid. The U.S. stockholder would increase the basis in its stock by the amount of its proportionate share of our undistributed long-term capital gain, minus its share of the tax we paid.

A U.S. stockholder will not incur tax on a distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits if the distribution does not exceed the adjusted basis of the U.S. stockholder in the shares of capital stock on which the distribution was paid. Instead, the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of such stock. A U.S. stockholder will recognize a distribution in excess of both our current and accumulated earnings and profits and the U.S. stockholder's adjusted basis in his or her stock as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the shares of stock have been held for one year or less, assuming the shares of stock are a capital asset in the hands of the U.S. stockholder. In addition, if we declare a distribution in October, November, or December of any year that is payable to a U.S. stockholder of record on a specified date in any such month, such distribution shall be treated as both paid by us and received by the U.S. stockholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the distribution during January of the following calendar year.

U.S. stockholders may not include in their individual income tax returns any of our net operating losses or capital losses. Instead, these losses are generally carried over by us for potential offset against our future income. Taxable distributions from us and gain from the disposition of our capital stock will not be treated as passive activity income and, therefore, U.S. stockholders generally will not be able to apply any "passive activity losses," such as losses from certain types of limited partnerships in which the U.S. stockholder is a limited partner, against such income. In addition, taxable distributions from us and gain from the disposition of our capital stock generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of the investment interest limitations. We will notify U.S. stockholders after the close of our taxable year as to the portions of the distributions attributable to that year that constitute ordinary income, return of capital and capital gain.

### **Taxation of U.S. Stockholders on the Disposition of Capital Stock**

A U.S. stockholder who is not a dealer in securities must generally treat any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of our stock as long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. stockholder has held our stock for more than one year and otherwise as short-term capital gain or loss. In general, a U.S. stockholder will realize gain or loss 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. stockholder's adjusted tax basis. A stockholder's adjusted tax basis generally will equal the U.S. stockholder's acquisition cost, increased by the excess of net capital gains deemed distributed to the U.S. stockholder (discussed above) less tax deemed paid on such gains and reduced by any returns of capital. However, a U.S. stockholder must treat any loss upon a sale or exchange of stock held by such stockholder for six months or less as a long-term capital loss to the extent of capital gain dividends and any other actual or deemed distributions from us that such U.S. stockholder treats as long-term capital gain. All or a portion of any loss that a U.S. stockholder realizes upon a taxable disposition of shares of our stock may be disallowed if the U.S. stockholder purchases other stock within 30 days before or after the disposition.

### **Taxation of U.S. Stockholders on a Conversion of Preferred Stock**

Except as provided below, (i) a U.S. stockholder generally will not recognize gain or loss upon the conversion of preferred stock into our common stock, and (ii) a U.S. stockholder's basis and holding period in our common stock received upon conversion generally will be the same as those of the converted preferred stock (but the basis will be reduced by the portion of adjusted tax basis allocated to any fractional share exchanged for cash). Any of our shares of common stock received in a conversion that are attributable to accrued and unpaid dividends that are in arrears on the converted preferred stock will be treated as a distribution that is potentially taxable as a dividend. Cash received upon conversion in lieu of a fractional share generally will be treated as a payment in a taxable exchange for such fractional share, and gain or loss will be recognized on the receipt of cash in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash received and the adjusted tax basis allocable to the fractional share deemed exchanged. This gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. stockholder has held the preferred stock for more than one year at the time of conversion. U.S. stockholders are urged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the federal income tax consequences of any transaction by which such holder exchanges shares of our common stock received on a conversion of preferred stock for cash or other property.

### **Taxation of U.S. Stockholders on a Redemption of Preferred Stock**

A redemption of preferred stock will be treated under Section 302 of the Code as a distribution that is taxable as dividend income (to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits), unless the redemption satisfies certain tests set forth in Section 302(b) of the Code enabling the redemption to be treated as a sale of the preferred stock (in which case the redemption will be treated in the same manner as a sale described above in "—Taxation of U.S. Stockholders on the Disposition of Capital Stock"). The redemption will satisfy such tests if it (i) is "substantially disproportionate" with respect to the U.S. stockholder's interest in our stock, (ii) results in a "complete termination" of the U.S. stockholder's interest in all of our classes of stock or (iii) is "not essentially equivalent to a dividend" with respect to the stockholder, all within the meaning of Section 302(b) of the Code. In determining whether any of these tests have been met, stock considered to be owned by the holder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in the Code, as well as stock actually owned, generally must be taken into account. Because the determination as to whether any of the three alternative tests of Section 302(b) of the Code described above will be satisfied with respect to any particular U.S. stockholder of preferred stock depends upon the facts and circumstances at the time that the determination must be made, prospective investors are urged to consult their tax advisors to

determine such tax treatment. If a redemption of preferred stock does not meet any of the three tests described above, the redemption proceeds will be taxable as a dividend, as described above in "—Taxation of Taxable U.S. Stockholders." In that case, a U.S. stockholder's adjusted tax basis in the redeemed preferred stock will be transferred to such U.S. stockholder's remaining share holdings in us. If the U.S. stockholder does not retain any of our stock, such basis could be transferred to a related person that holds our stock or it may be lost.

Under proposed Treasury regulations, if any portion of the amount received by a U.S. stockholder on a redemption of any class of our preferred stock is treated as a distribution with respect to our stock but not as a taxable dividend, then such portion will be allocated to all shares of stock of the redeemed class held by the redeemed stockholder just before the redemption on a pro-rata, share-by-share, basis. The amount applied to each share of stock will first reduce the redeemed U.S. stockholder's basis in that share and any excess after the basis is reduced to zero will result in taxable gain. If the redeemed stockholder has different bases in its shares of stock, then the amount allocated could reduce some of the basis in certain shares of stock while reducing all the basis and giving rise to taxable gain in others. Thus, the redeemed U.S. stockholder could have gain even if such U.S. stockholder's basis in all its shares of stock of the redeemed class exceeded such portion.

The proposed Treasury regulations permit the transfer of basis in the redeemed shares of preferred stock to the redeemed U.S. stockholder's remaining, unredeemed shares of preferred stock of the same class (if any), but not to any other class of stock held (directly or indirectly) by the redeemed U.S. stockholder. Instead, any unrecovered basis in the redeemed shares of preferred stock would be treated as a deferred loss to be recognized when certain conditions are satisfied. The 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.

## **Capital Gains and Losses**

A taxpayer generally must hold a capital asset for more than one year for gain or loss derived from its sale or exchange to be treated as long-term capital gain or loss. The highest marginal individual income tax rate currently is 39.6%. The maximum tax rate on long-term capital gain applicable to taxpayers taxed at individual rates is 20% for sales and exchanges of assets held for more than one year. The maximum tax rate on long-term capital gain from the sale or exchange of "Section 1250 property," or depreciable real property, is 25%, which applies to the lesser of the total amount of the gain or the accumulated depreciation on the Section 1250 property. Certain individuals, trusts and estates whose income exceeds certain thresholds are also subject to a 3.8% Medicare tax on gain from the sale of our securities.

With respect to distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends and any retained capital gain that we are deemed to distribute, we generally may designate whether such a distribution is taxable to U.S. stockholders taxed at individual rates currently at a 20% or 25% rate. Thus, the tax rate differential between capital gain and ordinary income for those taxpayers may be significant. In addition, the characterization of income as capital gain or ordinary income may affect the deductibility of capital losses. A non-corporate taxpayer may deduct capital losses not offset by capital gains against its ordinary income only up to a maximum annual amount of \$3,000. A non-corporate taxpayer may carry forward unused capital losses indefinitely. A corporate taxpayer must pay tax on its net capital gain at ordinary corporate rates. A corporate taxpayer may deduct capital losses only to the extent of capital gains, with unused losses being carried back three years and forward five years.

## Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from federal income taxation. However, they are subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI"). Although many investments in real estate generate UBTI, the IRS has issued a ruling that dividend distributions from a REIT to an exempt employee pension trust do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, amounts that we distribute to tax-exempt stockholders generally should not constitute UBTI. However, if a tax-exempt stockholder were to finance (or be deemed to finance) its acquisition of capital stock with debt, a portion of the income that it receives from us would constitute UBTI pursuant to the "debt-financed property" rules. Moreover, social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts and qualified group legal services plans that are exempt from taxation under special provisions of the federal income tax laws are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally will require them to characterize distributions that they receive from us as UBTI. Finally, in certain circumstances, a qualified employee pension or profit sharing trust that owns more than 10% of our capital stock must treat a percentage of the dividends that it receives from us as UBTI. Such percentage is equal to the gross income we derive from an unrelated trade or business, determined as if we were a pension trust, divided by our total gross income for the year in which we pay the dividends. That rule applies to a pension trust holding more than 10% of our capital stock only if:

- the percentage of our dividends that the tax-exempt trust must treat as UBTI is at least 5%;
- we qualify as a REIT by reason of the modification of the rule requiring that no more than 50% of our capital stock be owned by five or fewer individuals that allows the beneficiaries of the pension trust to be treated as holding our capital stock in proportion to their actuarial interests in the pension trust; and
- either:
  - one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our capital stock; or
  - a group of pension trusts individually holding more than 10% of the value of our capital stock collectively owns more than 50% of the value of our capital stock.

## Taxation of Non-U.S. Stockholders

The term "non-U.S. stockholder" means a beneficial owner of our capital stock that is not a U.S. stockholder, a partnership (or entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes) or a tax-exempt stockholder. The rules governing federal income taxation of nonresident alien individuals, foreign corporations, foreign partnerships, and other foreign stockholders are complex. This section is only a summary of such rules. **We urge non-U.S. stockholders to consult their own tax advisors to determine the effect of federal, state, and local income tax laws on the purchase, ownership and sale of our capital stock, including any reporting requirements.**

## Distributions

A non-U.S. stockholder that receives a distribution that is not attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of a "United States real property interest" ("USRPI"), as defined below, and that we do not designate as a capital gain dividend or retained capital gain will recognize ordinary income to the extent that we pay such distribution out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. A withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution ordinarily will apply to such distribution unless an applicable tax treaty reduces or eliminates the tax. However, if a distribution is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. stockholder generally will be subject to federal income tax on the distribution at graduated rates, in the same manner as U.S. stockholders are taxed with respect to such distribution, and a

non-U.S. stockholder that is a corporation also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax with respect to that distribution. We plan to withhold U.S. income tax at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any such distribution paid to a non-U.S. stockholder unless either:

- a lower treaty rate applies and the non-U.S. stockholder files an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate with us;
- the non-U.S. stockholder files an IRS Form W-8ECI with us claiming that the distribution is effectively connected income; or
- the distribution is treated as attributable to a sale of a USRPI under FIRPTA (discussed below).

A non-U.S. stockholder will not incur tax on a distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits if the excess portion of such distribution does not exceed the adjusted basis of the non-U.S. stockholder in the shares of capital stock on which the distribution was paid. Instead, the excess portion of such distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of such stock. A non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to tax on a distribution that exceeds both our current and accumulated earnings and profits and the adjusted basis of its capital stock, if the non-U.S. stockholder otherwise would be subject to tax on gain from the sale or disposition of its capital stock, as described below. We must withhold 15% of any distribution that exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Consequently, although we intend to withhold at a rate of 30% on the entire amount of any distribution, to the extent that we do not do so, we will withhold at a rate of 15% on any portion of a distribution not subject to withholding at a rate of 30%. Because we generally cannot determine at the time we make a distribution whether the distribution will exceed our current and accumulated earnings and profits, we normally will withhold tax on the entire amount of any distribution at the same rate as we would withhold on a dividend. However, a non-U.S. stockholder may claim a refund of amounts that we withhold if we later determine that a distribution in fact exceeded our current and accumulated earnings and profits.

For any year in which we qualify as a REIT, a non-U.S. stockholder may incur tax on distributions that are attributable to gain from our sale or exchange of a USRPI under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Act of 1980 ("FIRPTA"). A USRPI includes certain interests in real property and stock in corporations at least 50% of whose assets consist of interests in real property. Under FIRPTA, subject to the exceptions discussed below, a non-U.S. stockholder is taxed on distributions attributable to gain from sales of USRPIs as if such gain were effectively connected with a U.S. business of the non-U.S. stockholder. A non-U.S. stockholder thus would be taxed on such a distribution at the normal capital gains rates applicable to U.S. stockholders, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of a nonresident alien individual. A non-U.S. corporate stockholder not entitled to treaty relief or exemption also may be subject to the 30% branch profits tax on such a distribution.

Capital gain distributions to the holders of a shares of a class of our capital stock that are attributable to our sale of real property will be treated as ordinary dividends rather than as gain from the sale of USRPI, as long as (i) (a) such class of capital stock is treated as being "regularly traded" on an established securities market in the United States, and (b) the non-U.S. stockholder did not own more than 10% of such class of capital stock at any time during the one-year period preceding the distribution or (ii) the non-U.S. stockholder was treated as a "qualified shareholder" or "qualified foreign pension fund," as discussed below. As a result, non-U.S. stockholders owning 10% or less of the applicable class of our capital stock generally will be subject to withholding tax on such capital gain distributions in the same manner as they are subject to withholding tax on ordinary dividends. We believe that our common stock, Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock are regularly traded on an established securities market in the United States. If a class of our capital stock is not regularly traded on an established securities market in the United States or the non-U.S. stockholder owned more than 10% of the applicable class of our capital stock at any time during the one-year

period preceding the distribution, capital gain distributions that are attributable to our sale of real property would be subject to tax under FIRPTA, as described in the preceding paragraph. In such case, we must withhold 35% of any distribution that we could designate as a capital gain dividend. A non-U.S. stockholder may receive a credit against its tax liability for the amount we withhold. Moreover, if a non-U.S. stockholder disposes of shares of our capital stock during the 30-day period preceding a dividend payment, and such non-U.S. stockholder (or a person related to such non-U.S. stockholder) acquires or enters into a contract or option to acquire that capital stock within 61 days of the first day of the 30-day period described above, and any portion of such dividend payment would, but for the disposition, be treated as a USRPI capital gain to such non-U.S. stockholder, then such non-U.S. stockholder shall be treated as having USRPI capital gain in an amount that, but for the disposition, would have been treated as USRPI capital gain.

Although the law is not clear on the matter, it appears that amounts we designate as retained capital gains in respect of our capital stock held by U.S. stockholders generally should be treated with respect to non-U.S. stockholders in the same manner as actual distributions by us of capital gain dividends. Under this approach, a non-U.S. stockholder would be able to offset as a credit against its federal income tax liability resulting from its proportionate share of the tax paid by us on such retained capital gains, and to receive from the IRS a refund to the extent of the non-U.S. stockholder's proportionate share of such tax paid by us exceeds its actual federal income tax liability, provided that the non-U.S. stockholder furnishes required information to the IRS on a timely basis.

### *Dispositions*

Non-U.S. stockholders could incur tax under FIRPTA with respect to gain realized upon a disposition of our capital stock if we are a United States real property holding corporation during a specified testing period. If at least 50% of a REIT's assets are USRPIs, then the REIT will be a United States real property holding corporation. We believe that we are and will continue to be a United States real property holding corporation based on our investment strategy. However, despite our status as a United States real property holding corporation, a non-U.S. stockholder generally would not incur tax under FIRPTA on gain from the sale of our capital stock if we are a "domestically controlled qualified investment entity." A domestically controlled qualified investment entity includes a REIT in which, at all times during a specified testing period, less than 50% in value of its shares are held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. stockholders. We cannot assure you that this test will be met. If a class of our capital stock is regularly traded on an established securities market, an additional exception to the tax under FIRPTA will be available with respect to that class of our capital stock, even if we do not qualify as a domestically controlled qualified investment entity at the time the non-U.S. stockholder sells shares of that class of our capital stock. Under that exception, the gain from such a sale by such a non-U.S. stockholder will not be subject to tax under FIRPTA if:

- that class of our capital stock is treated as being regularly traded under applicable Treasury Regulations on an established securities market; and
- the non-U.S. stockholder owned, actually and constructively, 10% or less of that class of our capital stock at all times during a specified testing period.

As noted above, we believe our common stock, Series A Preferred Stock and Series B Preferred Stock are regularly traded on an established securities market.

If the gain on the sale of shares of our capital stock were taxed under FIRPTA, a non-U.S. stockholder would be taxed on that gain in the same manner as U.S. stockholders, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien

individuals. Furthermore, a non-U.S. stockholder generally will incur tax on gain not subject to FIRPTA if:

- the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. stockholder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. stockholders with respect to such gain; or
- the non-U.S. stockholder 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, in which case the non-U.S. stockholder will incur a 30% tax on his or her capital gains.

### ***Qualified Shareholders***

Subject to the exception discussed below, any distribution to a "qualified shareholder" who holds REIT stock directly or indirectly (through one or more partnerships) will not be subject to U.S. tax as income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business and thus will not be subject to special withholding rules under FIRPTA. While a "qualified shareholder" will not be subject to FIRPTA withholding on REIT distributions, certain investors of a "qualified shareholder" (i.e., non-U.S. persons who hold interests in the "qualified shareholder" (other than interests solely as a creditor), and hold more than 10% of the stock of such REIT (whether or not by reason of the investor's ownership in the "qualified shareholder")) may be subject to FIRPTA withholding.

In addition, a sale of shares of our capital stock by a "qualified shareholder" who holds such shares directly or indirectly (through one or more partnerships) will not be subject to federal income taxation under FIRPTA. As with distributions, certain investors of a "qualified shareholder" (i.e., non-U.S. persons who hold interests in the "qualified shareholder" (other than interests solely as a creditor), and hold more than 10% of the stock of such REIT (whether or not by reason of the investor's ownership in the "qualified shareholder")) may be subject to FIRPTA withholding on a sale of our shares.

A "qualified shareholder" is a foreign person that (i) either is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty which includes an exchange of information program and whose principal class of interests is listed and regularly traded on one or more recognized stock exchanges (as defined in such comprehensive income tax treaty), or is a foreign partnership that is created or organized under foreign law as a limited partnership in a jurisdiction that has an agreement for the exchange of information with respect to taxes with the United States and has a class of limited partnership units representing greater than 50% of the value of all the partnership units that is regularly traded on the NYSE or NASDAQ markets, (ii) is a qualified collective investment vehicle (defined below), and (iii) maintains records on the identity of each person who, at any time during the foreign person's taxable year, is the direct owner of 5% or more of the class of interests or units (as applicable) described in (i), above.

A qualified collective investment vehicle is a foreign person that (i) would be eligible for a reduced rate of withholding under the comprehensive income tax treaty described above, even if such entity holds more than 10% of the stock of such REIT, (ii) is publicly traded, is treated as a partnership under the Code, is a withholding foreign partnership, and would be treated as a "United States real property holding corporation" if it were a domestic corporation, or (iii) is designated as such by the Secretary of the Treasury and is either (a) fiscally transparent within the meaning of Section 894 of the Code, or (b) required to include dividends in its gross income, but is entitled to a deduction for distributions to its investors.

### ***Qualified Foreign Pension Funds***

Any distribution to a "qualified foreign pension fund" (or an entity all of the interests of which are held by a "qualified foreign pension fund") who holds REIT stock directly or indirectly (through one or more partnerships) will not be subject to U.S. tax as income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business and thus will not be subject to special withholding rules under FIRPTA. In addition, a sale of shares of our capital stock by a "qualified foreign pension fund" that holds such shares directly or indirectly (through one or more partnerships) will not be subject to federal income taxation under FIRPTA.

A qualified foreign pension fund is any trust, corporation, or other organization or arrangement (i) which is created or organized under the law of a country other than the United States, (ii) which is established to provide retirement or pension benefits to participants or beneficiaries that are current or former employees (or persons designated by such employees) of one or more employers in consideration for services rendered, (iii) which does not have a single participant or beneficiary with a right to more than 5% of its assets or income, (iv) which is subject to government regulation and provides annual information reporting about its beneficiaries to the relevant tax authorities in the country in which it is established or operates, and (v) with respect to which, under the laws of the country in which it is established or operates, (a) contributions to such organization or arrangement that would otherwise be subject to tax under such laws are deductible or excluded from the gross income of such entity or taxed at a reduced rate, or (b) taxation of any investment income of such organization or arrangement is deferred or such income is taxed at a reduced rate.

### ***FATCA Withholding***

Under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA"), a U.S. withholding tax at a 30% rate will be imposed on dividends paid to non-U.S. stockholders if certain disclosure requirements related to U.S. accounts or ownership are not satisfied. In addition, if those disclosure requirements are not satisfied, a U.S. withholding tax at a 30% rate will be imposed, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018, on proceeds from the sale of our capital stock received by certain non-U.S. stockholders. If payment of withholding taxes is required, non-U.S. stockholders that are otherwise eligible for an exemption from, or reduction of, U.S. withholding taxes with respect of such dividends and proceeds will be required to seek a refund from the IRS to obtain the benefit or such exemption or reduction. We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of any amounts withheld.

### ***Conversion of Preferred Stock***

The conversion of our preferred stock into our common stock may be a taxable exchange for a non-U.S. stockholder if our preferred stock constitutes a USRPI. Even if our preferred stock constitutes a USRPI, provided our common stock also constitutes a USRPI, a non-U.S. stockholder generally will not recognize gain or loss upon a conversion of preferred stock into our common stock so long as certain FIRPTA-related reporting requirements are satisfied. If our preferred stock constitutes a USRPI and such requirements are not satisfied, however, a conversion will be treated as a taxable exchange of preferred stock for our common stock. Such a deemed taxable exchange will be subject to tax under FIRPTA at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a U.S. stockholder of the same type (e.g., a corporate or a non-corporate stockholder, as the case may be) on the excess, if any, of the fair market value of such non-U.S. stockholder's common stock received over such non-U.S. stockholder's adjusted basis in its preferred stock. Collection of such tax will be enforced by a refundable withholding tax at a rate of 10% of the value of the common stock.



Non-U.S. stockholders are urged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the federal income tax consequences of any transaction by which such non-U.S. stockholder exchanges shares of our common stock received on a conversion of preferred stock for cash or other property.

### ***Redemption of Preferred Stock***

For a discussion of the treatment of a redemption of preferred stock, see "—Taxation of U.S. Stockholders on a Redemption of Preferred Stock."

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

We will report to our stockholders and to the IRS the amount of distributions we pay during each calendar year, and the amount of tax we withhold, if any. Under the backup withholding rules, a stockholder may be subject to backup withholding, at a rate of 28%, with respect to distributions unless the stockholder:

- is a corporation or qualifies for 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 stockholder 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 stockholder's income tax liability. In addition, we may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distributions to any stockholders who fail to certify their non-foreign status to us.

Backup withholding will generally not apply to payments of dividends made by us or our paying agents, in their capacities as such, to a non-U.S. stockholder provided that the non-U.S. stockholder furnishes to us or our paying agent the required certification as to its non-U.S. status, such as providing a valid IRS Form W-8BEN, W-8BEN-E or W-8ECI, or certain other requirements are met. Notwithstanding the foregoing, backup withholding may apply if either we or our paying agent has actual knowledge, or reason to know, that the holder is a U.S. person that is not an exempt recipient. Payments of the proceeds from a disposition or a redemption effected outside the U.S. by a non-U.S. stockholder made by or through a foreign office of a broker generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, information reporting (but not backup withholding) generally will apply to such a payment if the broker has certain connections with the U.S. unless the broker has documentary evidence in its records that the beneficial owner is a non-U.S. stockholder and specified conditions are met or an exemption is otherwise established. Payment of the proceeds from a disposition by a non-U.S. stockholder of stock made by or through the U.S. office of a broker is generally subject to information reporting and backup withholding unless the non-U.S. stockholder certifies under penalties of perjury that it is not a U.S. person and satisfies certain other requirements, or otherwise establishes an exemption from information reporting and backup withholding.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be refunded or credited against the stockholder's federal income tax liability if certain required information is furnished to the IRS. Stockholders should consult their tax advisors regarding application of backup withholding to them and the availability of, and procedure for obtaining an exemption from, backup withholding.

Under FATCA, a U.S. withholding tax at a 30% rate will be imposed on dividends received by U.S. stockholders who own shares through foreign accounts or foreign intermediaries if certain disclosure requirements related to U.S. accounts or ownership are not satisfied. In addition, if those disclosure requirements are not satisfied, a U.S. withholding tax at a 30% rate will be imposed, for

taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018, on proceeds from the sale of our capital stock by U.S. stockholders who own our capital stock through foreign accounts or foreign intermediaries. We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of any amounts withheld.

## **Other Tax Consequences**

### ***Tax Aspects of Our Investments in Our Operating Partnership and Subsidiary Partnerships***

The following discussion summarizes certain federal income tax considerations applicable to our direct or indirect investments in our operating partnership and any subsidiary partnerships or limited liability companies that we form or acquire (each individually a "Partnership" and, collectively, the "Partnerships"). The discussion does not cover state or local tax laws or any federal tax laws other than income tax laws.

*Classification as Partnerships.* We will be entitled to include in our income our distributive share of each Partnership's income and to deduct our distributive share of each Partnership's losses only if such Partnership is classified for federal income tax purposes as a partnership (or an entity that is disregarded for federal income tax purposes if the entity is treated as having only one owner for federal income tax purposes) rather than as a corporation or an association taxable as a corporation. An unincorporated entity with at least two owners or members will be classified as a partnership, rather than as a corporation, for federal income tax purposes if it:

- is treated as a partnership under the Treasury Regulations relating to entity classification (the "check-the-box regulations"); and
- is not a "publicly-traded partnership."

Under the check-the-box regulations, an unincorporated entity with at least two owners or members may elect to be classified either as an association taxable as a corporation or as a partnership. If such an entity fails to make an election, it generally will be treated as a partnership (or an entity that is disregarded for federal income tax purposes if the entity is treated as having only one owner for federal income tax purposes) for federal income tax purposes. Our operating partnership intends to be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes and will not elect to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation under the check-the-box regulations.

A publicly-traded partnership is a partnership whose interests are traded on an established securities market or are readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof. A publicly-traded partnership will not, however, be treated as a corporation for any taxable year if, for each taxable year beginning after December 31, 1987 in which it was classified as a publicly-traded partnership, 90% or more of the partnership's gross income for such year consists of certain passive-type income, including real property rents, gains from the sale or other disposition of real property, interest, and dividends (the "90% passive income exception"). Treasury Regulations (the "PTP regulations") provide limited safe harbors from the definition of a publicly-traded partnership. Pursuant to one of those safe harbors (the "private placement exclusion"), interests in a partnership will not be treated as readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof if (i) all interests in the partnership were issued in a transaction or transactions that were not required to be registered under the Securities Act, and (ii) the partnership does not have more than 100 partners at any time during the partnership's taxable year. In determining the number of partners in a partnership, a person owning an interest in a partnership, grantor trust, or S corporation that owns an interest in the partnership is treated as a partner in such partnership only if (i) substantially all of the value of the owner's interest in the entity is attributable to the entity's direct or indirect interest in the partnership and (ii) a principal purpose of the use of the entity is to permit the partnership to satisfy the 100-partner limitation. We believe our operating partnership has qualified and will continue to qualify for the private placement exclusion. We expect that any other Partnership that we form in the

future will qualify for the private placement exclusion. Our operating partnership's partnership agreement contains provisions enabling its general partner to take such steps as are necessary or appropriate to prevent the issuance and transfers of interests in our operating partnership from causing our operating partnership to be treated as a publicly traded partnership under the PTP regulations.

We have not requested, and do not intend to request, a ruling from the IRS that our operating partnership will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. If for any reason our operating partnership were taxable as a corporation, rather than as a partnership, for federal income tax purposes, we likely would not be able to qualify as a REIT unless we qualified for certain relief provisions. See "—Gross Income Tests" and "—Asset Tests." In addition, any change in a Partnership's status for tax purposes might be treated as a taxable event, in which case we might incur tax liability without any related cash distribution. See "—Distribution Requirements." Further, items of income and deduction of such Partnership would not pass through to its partners, and its partners would be treated as stockholders for tax purposes. Consequently, such Partnership would be required to pay income tax at corporate rates on its net income, and distributions to its partners would constitute dividends that would not be deductible in computing such Partnership's taxable income.

### ***Income Taxation of the Partnerships and their Partners***

*Partners, Not the Partnerships, Subject to Tax.* A partnership is not a taxable entity for federal income tax purposes. Rather, we are required to take into account our allocable share of each Partnership's income, gains, losses, deductions, and credits for any taxable year of such Partnership ending within or with our taxable year, without regard to whether we have received or will receive any distribution from such Partnership. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016, however, the tax liability for adjustments to a Partnership's tax returns made as a result of an audit by the IRS will be imposed on the Partnership itself in certain circumstances absent an election to the contrary.

*Partnership Allocations.* Although a partnership agreement generally will determine the allocation of income and losses among partners, such allocations will be disregarded for tax purposes if they do not comply with the provisions of the federal income tax laws governing partnership allocations. 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 item. Each Partnership's allocations of taxable income, gain, and loss are intended to comply with the requirements of the federal income tax laws governing partnership allocations.

*Tax Allocations With Respect to Partnership Properties.* Income, gain, loss, and deduction attributable to appreciated or depreciated property that is contributed to a partnership in exchange for an interest in the partnership must be allocated in a manner such that the contributing partner is charged with, or benefits from, respectively, the unrealized gain or unrealized loss associated with the property at the time of the contribution. In the case of a contribution of property, the amount of the unrealized gain or unrealized loss ("built-in gain" or "built-in loss") is generally equal to the difference between the fair market value of the contributed property at the time of contribution and the adjusted tax basis of such property at the time of contribution (a "book-tax difference"). Any property purchased for cash initially will have an adjusted tax basis equal to its fair market value, resulting in no book-tax difference. In connection with our initial public offering, we acquired a significant portion of our portfolio in exchange for interests in our operating partnership, which resulted in book-tax differences. Furthermore, our operating partnership may admit partners in the future in exchange for a contribution of property, which will result in book-tax differences.

Allocations with respect to book-tax differences are solely for federal income tax purposes and do not affect the book capital accounts or other economic or legal arrangements among the partners. The

U.S. Treasury Department has issued regulations requiring partnerships to use a "reasonable method" for allocating items with respect to which there is a book-tax difference and outlining several reasonable allocation methods. Under certain available methods, the carryover basis in the hands of our operating partnership of properties contributed to us would cause us to be allocated lower amounts of depreciation deductions for tax purposes than would be allocated to us if all our properties were to have a tax basis equal to their fair market value at the time of contribution. We intend to use the "traditional" method for the book-tax difference caused by the contribution of our initial portfolio to our operating partnership in connection with our initial public offering. The "traditional" method is generally the method that will result in the least favorable tax results for us. We have not yet decided what method will be used to account for book-tax differences caused by our operating partnership admitting partners in the future in exchange for contributions of property.

### ***Sale of a Partnership's Property***

Generally, any gain realized by a Partnership on the sale of property held by the Partnership for more than one year will be long-term capital gain, except for any portion of such gain that is treated as depreciation or cost recovery recapture. Under Section 704(c) of the Code, any gain or loss recognized by a Partnership on the disposition of contributed properties will be allocated first to the partners of the Partnership who contributed such properties to the extent of their built-in gain or loss on those properties for federal income tax purposes. The partners' built-in gain or loss on such contributed properties will equal the difference between the partners' proportionate share of the book value of those properties and the partners' tax basis allocable to those properties at the time of the contribution as reduced for any decrease in the "book-tax difference." See "*Income Taxation of the Partnerships and Their Partners—Tax Allocations With Respect to Partnership Properties.*" Any remaining gain or loss recognized by the Partnership on the disposition of the contributed properties, and any gain or loss recognized by the Partnership on the disposition of the other properties, will be allocated among the partners in accordance with their respective percentage interests in the Partnership.

Our share of any gain realized by a Partnership on the sale of any property held by the Partnership as inventory or other property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the Partnership's trade or business will be treated as income from a prohibited transaction that is subject to a 100% penalty tax. Such prohibited transaction income also may have an adverse effect upon our ability to satisfy the income tests for REIT status. See "*Gross Income Tests.*" We do not presently intend to acquire or hold or to allow any Partnership to acquire or hold any property that represents inventory or other property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of our or such Partnership's trade or business.

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

The present federal income tax treatment of REITs may be modified, possibly with retroactive effect, by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time. The REIT rules are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department which may result in statutory changes as well as revisions to regulations and interpretations. Additionally, several of the tax considerations described herein are currently under review and are subject to change. Prospective securityholders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the effect of potential changes to the federal tax laws on an investment in our securities.

### **State and Local Taxes**

We and/or you may be subject to taxation by various states and localities, including those in which we or a securityholder transacts business, owns property or resides. The state and local tax treatment may differ from the federal income tax treatment described above. Consequently, you should consult your own tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws upon an investment in our securities.

## **SELLING STOCKHOLDERS**

Information about selling stockholders of STAG Industrial, Inc., where applicable, will be set forth in a prospectus supplement, in a post-effective amendment, or in filings we make with the SEC which are incorporated into this prospectus by reference.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We or any selling stockholder may sell the securities offered by this prospectus from time to time in one or more transactions, including without limitation:

- to or through underwriters or dealers;
- directly to one or more purchasers;
- in a rights offering;
- in "at the market" offerings, within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market on an exchange or otherwise;
- through agents;
- in block trades;
- through a combination of any of these methods; or
- through any other method permitted by applicable law and described in a prospectus supplement.

In addition, we may issue the securities as a dividend or distribution to our existing stockholders or other securityholders.

The prospectus supplement with respect to any offering of securities will include the following information:

- the terms of the offering;
- the names of any underwriters or agents;
- the name or names of any managing underwriter or underwriters;
- the purchase price or initial public offering price of the securities;
- the net proceeds from the sale of the securities;
- any delayed delivery arrangements;
- any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers;
- any commissions paid to agents; and
- any securities exchange on which the securities may be listed.

Any initial public offering price, discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. The distribution of the offered securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions:

- at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to prevailing market prices; or

- at negotiated prices.

## **Sale through Underwriters or Dealers**

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the offered securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

We will describe the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents and the purchase price of the securities in a prospectus supplement relating to the securities.

In connection with the sale of the securities, underwriters may receive compensation from us or from purchasers of the securities, for whom they may act as agents, in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and these dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents, which is not expected to exceed that customary in the types of transactions involved. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts or commissions they receive from us, and any profit on the resale of the securities they realize may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions, under the Securities Act. The prospectus supplement will identify any underwriter or agent and will describe any compensation they receive from us.

Underwriters could make sales in privately negotiated transactions and/or any other method permitted by law, including sales deemed to be an "at-the-market" offering, sales made directly on the NYSE, the existing trading market for our shares of common stock, or sales made to or through a market maker other than on an exchange. The name of any such underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of our securities, the amounts underwritten, and the nature of its obligations to take our securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, each series of the securities will be a new issue with no established trading market, other than our shares of common stock, the Series A Preferred Stock and the Series B Preferred Stock, which are each currently listed on the NYSE. We currently intend to list any shares of common stock sold pursuant to this prospectus on the NYSE. We may elect to list any series of preferred stock on an exchange, but are not obligated to do so. It is possible that one or more underwriters may make a market in a series of the securities, but underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. Therefore, we can give no assurance about the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

Under agreements we may enter into, we may indemnify underwriters, dealers, and agents who participate in the distribution of the securities against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribute with respect to payments that the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"), the aggregate maximum discount, commission, agency fees or other items constituting underwriting compensation to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer will not exceed 8% of the gross offering proceeds from any offering pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.



To facilitate the offering of securities, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the price of the securities. This may include over-allotments or short sales of the securities, which involve the sale by persons participating in the offering of more securities than we sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option, if any. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of the securities by bidding for or purchasing securities in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if securities sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

From time to time, we may engage in transactions with these underwriters, dealers, and agents in the ordinary course of business. Underwriters have from time to time in the past provided, and may from time to time in the future provide, investment banking services to us for which they have in the past received, and may in the future receive, customary fees.

### **Direct Sales and Sales through Agents**

We may sell the securities directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We also may sell the securities through agents designated by us from time to time. In the applicable prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities, and we will describe any commissions payable to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any sales of these securities in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Remarketing Arrangements**

Securities also may be offered and sold, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreements, if any, with us and its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Delayed Delivery Contracts**

If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

### **General Information**

We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that the underwriters, dealers, agents or remarketing firms may be required to make. Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You also may read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. You also may obtain copies of our SEC filings at prescribed rates by writing to the Public Reference Section of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Please call 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operations at the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005, or by accessing our website at [www.stagindustrial.com](http://www.stagindustrial.com); however, the information found on our website is not considered part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete, and in each instance reference is made to the copy of that contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by that reference and the exhibits and schedules thereto. For further information about us and the securities offered by this prospectus, you should refer to the registration statement and such exhibits and schedules which may be obtained from the SEC at its principal office in Washington, DC upon payment of any fees prescribed by the SEC.

## INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The documents listed below have been filed by us under the Exchange Act with the SEC and are incorporated by reference in this prospectus:

- our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed with the SEC on February 25, 2016;
- the information specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 from our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on March 25, 2015;
- our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 27, 2016;
- the description of our common stock in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on April 8, 2011, including any amendments and reports filed for the purpose of updating such description;
- the description of the Series A Preferred Stock in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on October 26, 2011, including any amendments and reports filed for the purpose of updating such description; and
- the description of the Series B Preferred Stock in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on April 11, 2013, including any amendments and reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents that we file (but not those that we furnish) with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act on or after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of any securities covered by this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus and will automatically update and supersede the information in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and any previously filed documents.

This means that important information about us appears or will appear in these documents and will be regarded as appearing in this prospectus. To the extent that information appearing in a

document filed later is inconsistent with prior information, the later statement will control and the prior information, except as modified or superseded, will no longer be a part of this prospectus.

Copies of all documents which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement (not including the exhibits to such information, unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference) will be provided without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner of the securities offered by this prospectus, to whom this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement is delivered, upon written or oral request. Requests should be directed to our Corporate Secretary, One Federal Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02110 (telephone number: (614) 574-4777). You also may obtain copies of these filings, at no cost, by accessing our website at [www.stagindustrial.com](http://www.stagindustrial.com); however, the information found on our website is not considered part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities offered by means of this prospectus has been passed upon for us by DLA Piper LLP (US). Certain U.S. federal income tax matters have been passed upon for us by Hunton & Williams LLP.

## **EXPERTS**

The financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting (which is included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting) incorporated in this prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.



