

**EXHIBIT C-1**

EXPEDITED REVIEW REQUESTED UNDER 17 CFR 270.0-5(d)

File No. ~~812-15753~~ [ ]

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on ~~June 4~~ October 23, 2025

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549

~~AMENDED AND RESTATED APPLICATION FOR~~  
APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 6(c)  
OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940, AS AMENDED (THE "1940 ACT"), FROM: (1)  
CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SECTION 15(a) OF THE 1940 ACT AND (2) CERTAIN DISCLOSURE  
REQUIREMENTS UNDER VARIOUS RULES AND FORMS

In the Matter of

~~MORGAN STANLEY PATHWAY FUNDS-~~  
~~2000 Westchester Avenue-~~  
FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST  
1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
~~Purchase~~ New York, New York 10577-10105

and

~~CONSULTING GROUP ADVISORY SERVICES LLC~~  
~~2000 Westchester Avenue-~~  
FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC  
1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
~~Purchase~~ New York, New York 10577-10105

Please direct all communications regarding this Application to:

Nathan J. Greene  
Matthew J. Kutner  
Sidley Austin LLP  
787 Seventh Avenue,  
New York, New York 10019  
~~John J. O'Brien, Esq. (john.obrien@morganlewisngreene@sidley.com, (212) 839-8673~~  
~~Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP~~  
mktutner@sidley.com, (212) 839-8679  
~~2222 Market Street-~~  
~~Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-~~  
*with a copy to:*  
~~Erie Metallo-~~  
~~Morgan Stanley-~~  
Sheelyn Michael  
First Eagle Investment Management, LLC  
~~485 Lexington~~ 1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
~~11th Floor-~~  
New York, New York 10017-10105  
sheelyn.michael@firsteagle.com

This Application (including Exhibits) contains ~~78~~ 22 pages.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

In the Matter of

**FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST**

1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
~~MORGAN STANLEY PATHWAY FUNDS~~  
~~2000 Westchester Avenue~~  
~~Purchase~~ New York, New York 10577 10105

and

~~CONSULTING GROUP ADVISORY SERVICES LLC~~  
~~2000 Westchester Avenue~~  
~~Purchase, New York 10577~~  
**FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC**

1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105

Investment Company Act of 1940 File No. ~~812-15753~~ [ ]

APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 6(c) OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940, AS AMENDED (*THE "1940 ACT"*), FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SECTION 15(a) OF THE 1940 ACT AND FROM CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS UNDER VARIOUS RULES AND FORMS

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## I. INTRODUCTION

~~Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds~~ First Eagle ETF Trust (the “Trust”), a registered open-end management investment company that ~~offers~~ will offer multiple series of shares (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”), on its own behalf and on behalf of each Fund, and ~~Consulting Group Advisory Services~~ First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (the “Adviser” and together with the Trust, the “Applicants”),<sup>1</sup> hereby submit this ~~amended and restated~~ application (the “Application”) to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) for an order of exemption pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”).<sup>2</sup>

Applicants request an order exempting them from Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act to permit the Adviser, subject to the approval of the board of trustees of the Trust (the “Board” or “Trustees”)<sup>3</sup>, including a majority of those who are not “interested persons” of the Trust or the Adviser, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act (the “Independent Trustees”), to take certain actions without obtaining shareholder approval as follows: (i) select investment subadvisers (each a “Subadviser” and collectively, the “Subadvisers”) for all or a portion of the assets of a Fund pursuant to an investment subadvisory agreement with each Subadviser (each a “Subadvisory Agreement” and collectively, the “Subadvisory Agreements”); and (ii) materially amend Subadvisory Agreements with the Subadvisers. As used herein, a “Subadviser” for a Fund is any investment adviser that enters into a Subadvisory Agreement with respect to a Fund.

Applicants also apply for an order of the Commission under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act exempting a Fund from certain disclosure obligations under the following rules and forms: (i) Item 19(a)(3) of Form N-1A; (ii) Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8), and 22(c)(9) of Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”); and (iii) Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b), and (c) of Regulation S-X under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). Similar to the order the Commission recently granted to Carillon Series Trust, et al.,<sup>4</sup> in addition to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers (both as defined below), the relief

<sup>1</sup> The term “Adviser” means (i) ~~Consulting Group Advisory Services~~ First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, (ii) its successors, and (iii) any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, ~~Consulting Group Advisory Services~~ First Eagle Investment Management, LLC or its successors that serves as the primary adviser to a Subadvised Fund (as defined below). For the purposes of the requested order, “successor” is limited to an entity that results from a reorganization into another jurisdiction or a change in the type of business organization.

<sup>2</sup> ~~The Trust and the Adviser currently operate pursuant to a manager of managers exemptive order previously granted by the Commission that permits the Adviser to enter into and materially amend sub-advisory agreements with respect to non-affiliated sub-advisers without shareholder approval and grants relief from certain disclosure requirements. See *Consulting Group Capital Markets Funds and Smith Barney Mutual Funds Management Inc., Investment Company Act Rel. Nos. 21318 (August 23, 1995) (Notice) and 21366 (September 19, 1995) (Order) (the “Prior Order”). Any order granted by the Commission with respect to this Application will supersede the Prior Order with the result that no one will continue to rely on the Prior Order if the requested order is granted. The Funds that currently rely on the Prior Order include the Morgan Stanley Pathway Large Cap Equity ETF, Morgan Stanley Pathway Small Mid Cap Equity ETF, International Equity Fund, Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Core Fixed Income Fund, High Yield Fund, International Fixed Income Fund, Municipal Bond Fund, Inflation Linked Fixed Income Fund, Ultra Short Term Fixed Income Fund and Alternative Strategies Fund, each a series of the Trust.*~~

<sup>3</sup> The term “Board” also includes the board of trustees or directors of a future Subadvised Fund (as defined below), if different from the board of trustees of the Trust.

<sup>4</sup> The Commission issued an order granting the expanded relief requested by the Application. Carillon Series Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~ No. 33464 (May 2, 2019) (Notice) and No. 33494 (May 29, 2019) (Order) (the “Carillon Order”). See also Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds Consulting Group Advisory Services LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 35681 (July 17, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35713 (August 12, 2025) (Order) (the “Morgan Stanley Order”); Wedbush Series Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 35668 (July 8, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35706 (August 5, 2025) (Order) (the “Wedbush Order”); Advisors Series Trust and Distribution Cognizant, LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 35642 (June 17, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35676 (July 15, 2025) (Order) (the “Adviser Series Trust Order”); Venerable Variable Insurance Trust and Venerable Investment Advisers, LLC, Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~ No. 35467 (February 6, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35490 (March 4, 2025) (Order) (the “Venerable Order”); The RBB Fund Trust and ~~Tweedy, Browne Company~~ First Eagle Investments Management, LLC, Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~ No. 35463 35462 (January 29, 2025) (Notice) and ~~35478 (No. 35477 (February 25, 2025) (Order) (the “RBB Order”);~~ Roundhill ETF Trust and Roundhill Financial, Inc., Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~ No. 35120 (January 30, 2024) (Notice) and No. 35147 (February 27, 2024) (Order) (the “Roundhill Order”);

described in this Application would extend to any Subadviser that is an “affiliated person” (as such term is defined in Section 2(a)(3) of the 1940 Act) of a Fund or the Adviser for reasons other than serving as investment subadviser to one or more Funds (an “Affiliated Subadviser”).<sup>54</sup>

Applicants request that the relief sought herein apply to Applicants, as well as to any existing or future registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that intends to rely on the requested order in the future and (i) is advised by the Adviser; (ii) uses the multi-manager structure described in this Application; and (iii) complies with the terms and conditions set forth herein (each, and together with any Fund that ~~currently uses or~~ will use the multi-manager structure described in this Application, a “Subadvised Fund” and collectively, the “Subadvised Funds”).<sup>65</sup>

Applicants are seeking this exemption primarily to enhance the ability of the Adviser and the Board to obtain for a Subadvised Fund the services of one or more Subadvisers believed by the Adviser and the Board to be particularly well suited for all or a portion of the assets of the Subadvised Fund, and to make material amendments to Subadvisory Agreements believed by the Adviser and the Board to be appropriate, without the delay and expense of convening special meetings of shareholders to approve the Subadvisory Agreements. Under this structure, the Adviser, in its capacity as investment adviser, would evaluate, allocate assets to and oversee the Subadvisers, and make recommendations about their hiring, termination and replacement to the Board, at all times subject to the authority of the Board. This structure is commonly referred to as a “multi-manager” structure. In addition, Applicants are seeking relief from certain disclosure requirements concerning fees paid to Subadvisers.

For purposes of this Application, the term “Subadviser” will also apply to any Subadviser to any wholly-owned subsidiary of a Subadvised Fund (each, a “Subsidiary” and collectively, the “Subsidiaries”). The Adviser will serve as investment adviser to each Subsidiary and may retain one or more Subadvisers to manage the assets of a Subsidiary. Applicants also request relief with respect to any Subadvisers who serve as Subadvisers to a Subsidiary. Where appropriate, Subsidiaries are also included in the term “Subadvised Funds.”

For the reasons discussed below, Applicants believe that the requested relief is appropriate, in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the Subadvised Funds would be negatively impacted without the requested relief

BondBloxx ETF Trust and BondBloxx Investment Management Corporation, Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~ No. 35119 (~~Notice~~) (January 30, 2024) (Notice) and No. 35146 (~~Order~~) (February 27, 2024) (Order) (the “BondBloxx Order”); Investment Manager Series Trust and Liberty Street Advisers, Inc., Investment Company Act Release No. 34913 (May 10, 2023) (Notice) and No. 35145 (Sept. 5, 2023) (Order) (the “Liberty Order”); RM Opportunity Trust and Rocky Mountain Private Wealth Management L.L.C., Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~ No. 34964 (July 24, 2023) (Notice) and No. 34986 (August 21, 2023) (Order) (the “RM Opportunity Order”); Advisors Series Trust and Semper Capital Management, L.P., Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~ No. 34500 (February 9, 2022) (Notice) and No. 34528 (March 8, 2022) (Order) (the “Advisors Trust Order”); New Age Alpha Trust and New Age Alpha Advisors, LLC, Investment Company Act Rel. ~~No.~~ No. 34322 (July 6, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34348 (August 3, 2021) (Order) (the “New Age Alpha Trust Order”); ~~and~~ Listed Funds Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Rel. ~~No.~~ No. 34293 (June 2, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34321 (June 29, 2021) (Order) (“LFT Order”); Azzad Funds, et al., Investment Company Act Rel. No. 34241 (April 5, 2021) and No. 34261 (April 30, 2021) (“Azzad Order”); ETF Series Solutions and Distillate Capital Partners LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34169 (January 11, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34190 (February 8, 2021) (Order) (the “Distillate Capital Order”); Esoterica Thematic Trust and Esoterica Capital LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34161 (January 4, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34185 (February 1, 2021) (Order) (the “Esoterica Order”); ETF Series Solutions and Clearshares LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34144 (December 21, 2020) (Notice) and No. 34174 (January 19, 2021) (Order) (the “Clearshares Order”); OSI ETF Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 33678 (October 29, 2019) (Notice) and No. 33705 (November 26, 2019) (Order) (the “OSI ETF Order”); and Investment Managers Series Trust II, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 34075 (October 27, 2020) (Notice) and No. 34104 (November 23, 2020) (Order) (the “Investment Managers Order”).

<sup>54</sup> Section 2(a)(3) of the 1940 Act defines “affiliated person” as follows: “Affiliated person” of another person means (A) any person directly or indirectly owning, controlling, or holding with power to vote, 5 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of such other person; (B) any person 5 per centum or more of whose outstanding voting securities are directly or indirectly owned, controlled, or held with power to vote, by such other person; (C) any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, such other person; (D) any officer, director, partner, copartner, or employee of such other person; (E) if such other person is an investment company, any investment adviser thereof or any member of an advisory board thereof; and (F) if such other person is an unincorporated investment company not having a board of directors, the depositor thereof.

<sup>65</sup> All registered open-end investment companies that currently intend to rely on the requested order are named as Applicants. ~~All Funds that The Trust does not~~ currently ~~are, or that currently intend to be,~~ have any Subadvised Funds ~~are identified in this Application~~ but intends to launch such funds in the future. Any entity that relies on the requested order will do so only in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this Application.

because of delays in hiring or replacing Subadvisers and costs associated with the proxy solicitation to approve new or amended Subadvisory Agreements.

## II. BACKGROUND

### A. ~~THE TRUST~~ The Trust

The Trust is registered under the 1940 Act as an open-end management investment company organized as a ~~Massachusetts voluntary association (commonly known as a business~~ Delaware statutory trust). The Adviser ~~serve~~ or will serve as “investment adviser,” as defined in Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act, to each Fund. The Trust intends to operate one or more Funds under a multi-manager structure, ~~and shares of the Funds are or~~ which will be offered and sold pursuant to a registration statement on Form N-1A. The Board consists of ~~five~~ ten (~~5~~ 10) trustees, ~~four~~ eight (~~4~~ 8) of whom ~~serve as~~ are Independent Trustees.

The Trust ~~currently offers, and~~ has filed a registration statement on Form N-1A to register shares of the First Eagle US Equity ETF and the First Eagle Mid Cap Equity ETF (the “Initial Funds”). The registration statement is ~~not effective as of the date of this filing.~~ The Trust intends to offer, ~~shares of multiple Funds~~ series, each with its own distinct investment objectives, policies, and restrictions. The Adviser ~~has retained Subadvisers~~ will retain a Subadviser to provide investment advisory services to ~~the one or more Funds under a multi-manager structure.~~ 7 6

### B. ~~THE ADVISER~~ The Adviser

~~Consulting Group Advisory Services~~ First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, with its business address at ~~2000 Westchester~~ 1345 Avenue, Purchase of the Americas, New York 10577, New York 10105, is a Delaware limited liability company registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “Advisers Act”), and ~~serve~~ or will serve as investment adviser to each Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with the Fund (each, an “Investment Advisory Agreement” and, together, the “Investment Advisory Agreements”). Any future Adviser also will be registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act.

Consistent with the terms of a Subadvised Fund’s Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser may, subject to the approval of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and the shareholders of the applicable Subadvised Fund (if required by applicable law), delegate portfolio management responsibilities of all or a portion of the assets of a Subadvised Fund to a Subadviser. The Adviser retains overall responsibility for the management and investment of the assets of the Subadvised Fund. With respect to each Subadvised Fund, the Adviser’s responsibilities include, for example, recommending the removal or replacement of Subadvisers, and allocating the portion of that Subadvised Fund’s assets to any given Subadviser and reallocating those assets as necessary from time to time. The Adviser evaluates, selects and recommends Subadvisers for the Subadvised Fund, and monitors

~~7 Each Subadvised Fund discloses or will disclose in its registration statement that it intends to operate pursuant to the order requested in this Application, if granted. The prospectus for a Subadvised Fund will continue to include the disclosure required by Condition 2 below at all times subsequent to the approval required by Condition 1 below. If a Subadvised Fund has obtained shareholder approval to operate under the multi-manager structure described herein prior to the issuance of an order as requested in this Application, the prospectus for the Subadvised Fund will at all times following such shareholder approval contain appropriate disclosure that the Subadvised Fund has applied for exemptive relief to operate under the multi-manager structure described herein, including the ability to hire new Subadvisers and materially amend an existing Subadvisory Agreement without soliciting further shareholder vote.~~

6 Each Subadvised Fund will disclose in its registration statement that it intends to operate pursuant to the order requested in this Application, if granted. The prospectus for a Subadvised Fund will continue to include the disclosure required by Condition 2 below at all times subsequent to the approval required by Condition 1 below. If a Subadvised Fund has obtained shareholder approval to operate under the multi-manager structure described herein prior to the issuance of an order as requested in this Application, the prospectus for the Subadvised Fund will at all times following such shareholder approval contain appropriate disclosure that the Subadvised Fund has applied for exemptive relief to operate under the multi-manager structure described herein, including the ability to hire new Subadvisers and materially amend an existing Subadvisory Agreement without soliciting further shareholder vote.

and reviews each Subadviser and its performance and its compliance with the applicable Subadvised Fund's investment policies and restrictions.

Each Investment Advisory Agreement ~~has been or~~ will be approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and by the shareholders of the relevant Fund in the manner required by Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act. The terms of the Investment Advisory Agreements comply or will comply with Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Applicants are not seeking an exemption from the provisions of the 1940 Act with respect to the Investment Advisory Agreements. Pursuant to the terms of each Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board, has agreed or will agree to ~~(i) provide~~ provide for the overall management of the Subadvised Funds including (i) the provision of a continuous investment ~~management for each Fund; (ii) determine the~~ program for each Subadvised Fund, including investment research and management with respect to all securities, investments, cash and cash equivalents in each Subadvised Fund, (ii) the determination from time to time of the securities and other investments to be purchased, retained, or sold ~~or loaned by each Fund and the portion of such assets to be invested or held uninvested as cash; and (iii) exercise full discretion and act for each Fund in the same manner and with the same force and effect as such Fund itself might or could do with respect to purchases, sales, or other transactions and with respect to all other things necessary or incidental to the furtherance or conduct of such purchases, sales or other transactions. The Adviser also is or will be responsible for effecting transactions for each Fund and selecting brokers or dealers to execute such transactions for each Fund. The Adviser will periodically review each Fund's investment policies and strategies and, based on the need of a particular Fund, may recommend changes to the investment policies and strategies of the Fund for consideration by the Board.~~ by the Trust for each Subadvised Fund, (iii) the placement from time to time of orders for all purchases and sales made for each Subadvised Fund, (iv) in connection with its management of each Subadvised Fund, monitoring and assistance with anticipated purchases and redemptions of creation units by shareholders and new investors, (v) the determination of the amount of the cash component, the identity and number of shares of the securities to be accepted in exchange for "Creation Units" for each Subadvised Fund and the securities that will be applicable that day to redemption requests received for each Subadvised Fund (and may give directions to the Trust's custodian with respect to such designations), (vi) the coordination of each Subadvised Fund's compliance with rules of the applicable securities exchange, and (vii) the establishment, monitoring and keeping up-to-date of each Subadvised Fund's website to comply with applicable law.

Each Investment Advisory Agreement permits or will permit the Adviser to enter into Subadvisory Agreements with one or more Subadvisers. Pursuant to its authority under the Investment Advisory Agreements, the Adviser has entered or will enter into Subadvisory Agreements as described below under "The Subadvisers and the Subadvised Funds." If the name of any Subadvised Fund contains the name of a subadviser, the name of the Adviser that serves as the primary adviser to the Subadvised Fund, or a trademark or trade name that is owned by or publicly used to identify that Adviser, will precede the name of the subadviser.

For its services to ~~a~~ each Fund, the Adviser receives or will receive an investment advisory fee from that Fund as specified in the applicable Investment Advisory Agreement. The investment advisory fees are calculated based on the average daily net assets of the particular Fund, calculated daily as of the close of business on each business day during the month.

C. ~~THE SUBADVISERS AND THE SUBADVISED FUNDS~~ The Subadvisers and Subadvised Funds

Pursuant to the authority under the Investment Advisory Agreements, the Adviser may enter into Subadvisory Agreements with various Subadvisers on behalf of a Fund. ~~The Adviser also may, in the future, enter into Subadvisory Agreements with other Subadvisers on behalf of the Subadvised Funds~~

With respect to any future Subadviser that is wholly owned by the Adviser or the Adviser's parent company, the Adviser will have overall responsibility for the affairs of such Subadviser, and generally will approve certain actions by that Subadviser that could materially affect the operations of the Adviser and its subsidiaries as a group. Any ~~Subadviser, including any~~ future Subadviser, ~~has or~~ will have its own employees who would provide investment services to a Subadvised Fund.

~~Each Subadviser is, and any~~ Any future Subadvisers will be, "investment advisers" to the Subadvised Funds within the meaning of Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act and ~~provide, or will provide,~~ investment management services to

the Subadvised Funds subject to, without limitation, the requirements of Sections 15(c) and 36(b) of the 1940 Act. In addition, ~~each Subadviser is, and~~ any future Subadvisers will be, registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act or not subject to such registration. The Adviser selects Subadvisers based on the Adviser's evaluation of the Subadvisers' skills in managing assets pursuant to particular investment styles, and recommends their hiring to the Board. The Adviser ~~does, and~~ may in the future ~~may,~~ employ multiple Subadvisers for one or more of any Subadvised Funds. In those instances, the Adviser would allocate and, as appropriate, reallocate a Subadvised Fund's assets among the Subadvisers.

The Adviser ~~engages or~~ will engage in an ongoing analysis of the continued advisability of retaining a Subadviser and ~~makes or~~ will make recommendations to the Board as needed. The Adviser ~~also negotiates and renegotiates, or~~ will negotiate and renegotiate, the terms of the Subadvisory Agreements with a Subadviser, including the fees paid to the ~~Subadviser~~ Subadvisers, and ~~makes or~~ will make recommendations to the Board as needed.

The Subadvisers, subject to the oversight of the Adviser and the Board, ~~determine or~~ will determine the securities and other instruments to be purchased, sold or entered into by a Subadvised Fund's portfolio or a portion thereof, and ~~place or~~ will place orders with brokers or dealers that they select.<sup>87</sup> The Subadvisers ~~keep or~~ will keep certain records required by the 1940 Act and the Advisers Act to be maintained on behalf of the relevant Subadvised Fund, and ~~assist or~~ will assist the Adviser to maintain the Subadvised Fund's compliance with the relevant requirements of the 1940 Act. The Subadvisers ~~monitor or~~ will monitor the respective Subadvised Fund's investments and ~~provide or~~ will provide periodic reports to the Board and the Adviser. The Subadvisers also ~~make or~~ will make their officers and employees available to the Adviser and the Board to review the investment performance and investment policies of the Subadvised Fund.

The Subadvisory Agreements ~~were or~~ will be approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, in accordance with Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act.

The terms of each Subadvisory Agreement ~~comply or~~ will comply fully with the requirements of Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Each Subadvisory Agreement will set forth the duties of the Subadviser and precisely describe the compensation paid to the Subadviser.

After an initial two-year period, the terms of the Subadvisory Agreements will be reviewed and renewed on an annual basis by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees in accordance with Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act. The Board ~~dedicates or~~ will dedicate substantial time to review contract matters, including matters relating to Investment Advisory Agreements and Subadvisory Agreements. With respect to each Subadvised Fund, the Board ~~reviews or~~ will review comprehensive materials received from the Adviser, the Subadviser, independent third parties and independent counsel. Applicants will continue this annual review and renewal process for Subadvisory Agreements in accordance with the 1940 Act if the relief requested herein is granted by the Commission.

The Board ~~reviews or~~ will review information provided by the Adviser and Subadvisers when it is asked to approve or renew Subadvisory Agreements. Each Subadvised Fund ~~discloses or~~ will disclose in its statutory prospectus that a discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval and renewal of the Investment Advisory Agreements and any applicable Subadvisory Agreements is available in the Subadvised Fund's reports filed on Form N-CSR for the relevant period in accordance with Item 10(a)(1)(iii) of Form N-1A. The information provided to the Board ~~is or~~ will be maintained as part of the records of the respective Subadvised Fund pursuant to Rule 31a-1(b)(4) and Rule 31a-2 under the 1940 Act.

Pursuant to each Subadvisory Agreement, the Adviser ~~has agreed or~~ will agree to pay each Subadviser a fee, based on a percentage of the assets of a Subadvised Fund, from the fee received by the Adviser from the Subadvised Fund

<sup>87</sup> For the purposes of this Application, a "Subadviser" also includes an investment subadviser that ~~provides or~~ will provide the Adviser with a model portfolio reflecting a specific strategy, style or focus with respect to the investment of all or a portion of a Subadvised Fund's assets. The Adviser or another Subadviser may use the model portfolio to determine the securities and other instruments to be purchased, sold, or entered into by a Subadvised Fund's portfolio or a portion thereof, and place orders with brokers or dealers that it selects.

under the Investment Advisory Agreement.<sup>98</sup> Each Subadviser will bear its own expenses of providing investment management services to a Subadvised Fund.

### III. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTIVE RELIEF

Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security, or transaction or any class or classes of persons, securities, or transactions from any provisions of the 1940 Act, or any rule thereunder, if such relief is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the requested relief described in this Application meets this standard.

### IV. APPLICABLE LAW AND DISCUSSION

#### A. ~~SHAREHOLDER VOTE~~ Shareholder Vote

##### 1. *Regulatory Background*

Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act states, in part, that it is unlawful for any person to act as an investment adviser to a registered investment company “except pursuant to a written contract, which contract, whether with such registered company or with an investment adviser of such registered company, has been approved by the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of such registered company.”

Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act defines an “investment adviser” as any person who, pursuant to an agreement with such registered investment company or with an investment adviser of such registered investment company, is empowered to determine what securities or other property shall be purchased or sold by such registered investment company. Consequently, the Subadvisers are deemed to be within the definition of an “investment adviser” and, therefore, the Subadvisory Agreements are each subject to Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act to the same extent as the Investment Advisory Agreements.

Therefore, Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act requires a majority of the outstanding voting securities of a Subadvised Fund to approve Subadvisory Agreements whenever the Adviser proposes to the Board to hire new Subadvisers for a Subadvised Fund. This provision would also require shareholder approval by a majority vote for any material amendment to Subadvisory Agreements.

Each Subadvisory Agreement is required to terminate automatically and immediately upon its “assignment,” which could occur upon a change in control of the applicable Subadviser.<sup>499</sup>

Rule 2a-6 under the 1940 Act provides that certain transactions that do not result in a “change in actual control or management of the investment adviser” to a registered investment company are not assignments for purposes of Section 15(a)(4) of the 1940 Act, thereby effectively providing an exemption from the shareholder voting requirements in Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Applicants do not believe that Rule 2a-6 under the 1940 Act provides a safe harbor to recommend, hire and terminate Subadvisers. Each Subadviser is expected to run its own day-to-day operations and each will have its own investment personnel. Therefore, in certain instances appointing certain Subadvisers could be viewed as a change in management and, as a result, an “assignment” within the meaning of the 1940 Act.

##### 2. *Requested Relief*

Applicants seek relief to (i) select Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, for all or a portion of the assets of a Subadvised Fund and enter into Subadvisory Agreements and (ii) materially amend Subadvisory Agreements with such Subadvisers, each subject to the approval of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees,

<sup>98</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

<sup>499</sup> See Section 15(a)(4) of the 1940 Act. Section 2(a)(4) of the 1940 Act defines “assignment” as any direct or indirect transfer or hypothecation of a contract.

without obtaining shareholder approval required under Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Such relief would include, without limitation, the replacement or reinstatement of any Subadviser with respect to which a Subadvisory Agreement has automatically terminated as a result of an “assignment,” within the meaning of Section 2(a)(4) of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the relief sought should be granted by the Commission because (1) the Adviser either will operate a Subadvised Fund, or may operate a Subadvised Fund, in a manner that is different from conventional investment companies; (2) the relief will benefit shareholders by enabling a Subadvised Fund to operate in a less costly and more efficient manner; and (3) Applicants will consent to a number of conditions that adequately address the policy concerns of Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act, including conditions designed to ensure that shareholder interests are adequately protected through Board oversight.

*a. Operations of the Trust*

Section 15(a) was designed to protect the interests and expectations of a registered investment company’s shareholders by requiring they approve investment advisory contracts, including subadvisory contracts.<sup>11</sup> Section 15(a) is predicated on the belief that if a registered investment company is to be managed by an investment adviser different from the investment adviser selected by shareholders at the time of the investment, the new investment adviser should be approved by shareholders.<sup>11</sup> The relief sought in this Application is consistent with this public policy.

In the case of a traditional investment company, the investment adviser is a single entity that employs one or more individuals as portfolio managers to make the day-to-day investment decisions. The investment adviser may terminate or hire portfolio managers without board or shareholder approval and has sole discretion to set the compensation it pays to the portfolio managers. Alternatively, for subadvised funds, the investment adviser is not normally responsible for the day-to-day investment decisions and instead, the investment adviser selects, oversees, and evaluates subadvisers who ultimately are responsible for the day-to-day investment decisions.

Primary responsibility for management of a Subadvised Fund’s assets, including the selection and oversight of the Subadvisers, is vested in the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board.

Applicants believe that it is consistent with the protection of investors to vest the selection and oversight of the Subadvisers in the Adviser in light of Applicants’ multi-manager structure, as well as the shareholders’ expectation that the Adviser is in possession of information necessary to select the most capable Subadvisers. The Adviser has the requisite expertise to evaluate, select and oversee the Subadvisers. The Adviser will not normally make day-to-day investment decisions for a Subadvised Fund.<sup>12</sup>

From the perspective of the shareholder, the role of the Subadvisers is substantially equivalent to the role of the individual portfolio managers employed by an investment adviser to a traditional investment company. The individual portfolio managers and the Subadvisers are each charged with the selection ~~and/or trading~~ of portfolio investments in accordance with a Subadvised Fund’s investment objectives and policies and have no broad supervisory, ~~or~~ management or administrative responsibilities with respect to a Subadvised Fund. Shareholders expect the Adviser, subject to review and approval of the Board, to select a Subadviser who is in the best position to achieve a Subadvised Fund’s investment objective. Shareholders also rely on the Adviser for the overall management of a Subadvised Fund and a Subadvised Fund’s total investment performance.

Whenever required by Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act, the Board will request and the Adviser and each Subadviser will furnish such information as may be reasonably necessary for the Board to evaluate the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreements and the Subadvisory Agreements. The information that is provided to the Board will be maintained as part of the records of the Subadvised Funds in accordance with the applicable recordkeeping requirements under the 1940 Act and made available to the Commission in the manner prescribed by the 1940 Act.

<sup>11</sup> See Section 1(b)(6) of the 1940 Act.

<sup>11</sup> Hearings on S. 3580 before a Subcomm. of the Senate Comm. on Banking and Currency, 76th Cong., 3d Sess. 253 (1940) (statement of David Schenker).

<sup>12</sup> Although the Adviser will not normally make such day-to-day investment decisions, it may manage all or a portion of a Subadvised Fund.

In addition, the Adviser and the Board will consider the reasonableness of the Subadviser's compensation with respect to each Subadvised Fund for which the Subadviser will provide portfolio management services. Although only the Adviser's fee is payable directly by a Subadvised Fund, and the Subadviser's fee is payable by the Adviser,<sup>1413</sup> the Subadviser's fee directly bears on the amount and reasonableness of the Adviser's fee payable by a Subadvised Fund. Accordingly, the Adviser and the Board will analyze the fees paid to Subadvisers in evaluating the reasonableness of the overall arrangements.

With respect to oversight, Applicants note that the Adviser performs and will perform substantially identical oversight of all Subadvisers, regardless of whether they are affiliated with the Adviser. Such oversight is similar in many respects to how the Adviser would oversee its own internal portfolio management teams.

*b. Lack of Economic Incentives*

In allocating the management of Subadvised Fund assets between itself and one or more Subadvisers, Applicants acknowledge that the Adviser has an incentive to consider the benefit it will receive, directly or indirectly, from the fee paid for the management of those assets. However, Applicants believe that the protections afforded by the conditions set forth in this Application would prevent the Adviser from acting to the detriment of a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders. Applicants assert that the proposed conditions are designed to provide the Board with sufficient independence and the resources and information it needs to monitor and address conflicts of interest. In particular, the Adviser will provide the Board with any information that may be relevant to the Board's evaluation of material conflicts of interest present in any subadvisory arrangement when the Board is considering, with respect to a Subadvised Fund, a change in ~~Subadviser~~Subadvisers or an existing Subadvisory Agreement as part of its annual review process. The Board will also have to make a separate finding, reflected in the Board minutes, that any change in Subadviser or any renewal of an existing Subadvisory Agreement is in the best interests of the Subadvised Fund and its shareholders and, based on the information provided to it, does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser, a Subadviser, or any officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund or any officer or board member of the Adviser derives an inappropriate advantage.

Applicants note that the relief they are requesting would not be subject to two conditions that have been customary in previous exemptive orders for similar relief, including (i) restrictions on the ownership of interest in Subadvisers by trustees and officers of the Subadvised Funds and the Adviser, and (ii) a requirement that the Adviser provide the Board with profitability reports each quarter. Applicants believe eliminating these conditions is appropriate with respect to the requested relief. As to the condition on ownership, Applicants assert that restricting ownership of interests in a Subadviser by trustees and officers would not be meaningful where the Adviser may itself own an interest in the Subadviser and the Subadviser may be selected for a Subadvised Fund under the requested relief.<sup>1514</sup> As to the condition requiring quarterly profitability reports, Applicants note that the Board reviews and will continue to review profitability information at the time of any proposed Subadviser change (see condition 7) and as part of its annual review of each Subadvisory Agreement pursuant to Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has granted the requested relief solely with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief has been premised on the fact that such a Subadviser serves in the same limited capacity as an individual portfolio manager. Applicants believe this same rationale supports extending the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers. Moreover, Applicants note that, while the Adviser's judgment in recommending a Subadviser can be affected by certain conflicts of interest or economic incentives, they do not warrant denying the extension of the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers. For one, the Adviser faces those conflicts and incentives in allocating fund assets between itself and a Subadviser, and across Subadvisers, as it has an interest in considering the benefit it will receive, directly or indirectly, from the fee the fund pays for the management of those assets. Moreover, the Adviser has employed and will continue to employ the same methodology to evaluate potential conflicts of interest, regardless of the affiliation between the Adviser and Subadviser. While the selection and retention of Affiliated Subadvisers by the Adviser potentially presents different or additional conflicts of interest than may be the case with Non-Affiliated or Wholly-Owned Subadvisers, the

<sup>1413</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

<sup>1514</sup> Any Trustee of the Board that has an ownership interest in a Subadviser would not be deemed an Independent Trustee under Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act.

proposed terms and conditions of the requested relief are designed to address the potential conflicts of interest with respect to both those common to all types of Subadvisers and specific to Affiliated Subadvisers. In particular, Applicants believe that the proposed conditions are protective of shareholder interests by ensuring the Board's independence and providing the Board with the appropriate resources and information to monitor and address conflicts.

*c. Benefits to Shareholders*

Without the requested relief, when a new Subadviser is retained by the Adviser on behalf of a Subadvised Fund, the shareholders of the Subadvised Fund are required to approve the Subadvisory Agreement. Similarly, if an existing Subadvisory Agreement with a Subadviser is amended in any material respect, approval by the shareholders of the affected Subadvised Fund is required. Moreover, if a Subadvisory Agreement with a Subadviser is "assigned" as a result of a change in control of the Subadviser, the shareholders of the affected Subadvised Fund will be required to approve retaining the existing Subadviser. In all these instances the need for shareholder approval requires a Subadvised Fund to call and hold a shareholder meeting, create and distribute proxy materials, and solicit votes from shareholders on behalf of the Subadvised Fund, and generally necessitates the retention of a proxy solicitor. This process is time-intensive, expensive and slow, and, in the case of a poorly performing Subadviser or one whose management team has parted ways with the Subadviser, potentially harmful to a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders.

As noted above, shareholders investing in a Fund that has a Subadviser are effectively hiring the Adviser to manage a Subadvised Fund's assets by overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the Subadviser rather than by the Adviser hiring its own employees to oversee the Subadvised Fund. Applicants believe that permitting the Adviser to perform the duties for which the shareholders of a Subadvised Fund are paying the Adviser — the selection, oversight and evaluation of Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers — without incurring unnecessary delays or expenses is appropriate and in the interest of a Subadvised Fund's shareholders and will allow such Subadvised Fund to operate more efficiently. Within this structure, the Adviser is in the better position to make an informed selection and evaluation of a Subadviser than are individual shareholders. Without the delay inherent in holding shareholder meetings (and the attendant difficulty in obtaining the necessary quorums), a Subadvised Fund will be able to hire or replace Subadvisers more quickly and at less cost, when the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and the Adviser believe that a change would benefit a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has previously granted the requested relief solely with respect to certain Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief ~~has permitted~~ would permit Subadvised Funds to avoid the ~~time-intensive~~ time intensive and expensive shareholder solicitation process with respect to hiring or making a material amendment to a Subadvisory Agreement with respect to such subadvisers. As discussed above, Applicants believe the same rationale supports extending the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers as well, and while Affiliated Subadvisers may give rise to different or additional conflicts of interests, the proposed terms and conditions, including the enhanced oversight by the Board, address such potential conflicts. Moreover, treating all Subadvisers equally under the requested relief might help avoid the selection of Subadvisers potentially being influenced by considerations regarding the applicable regulatory requirements (i.e., whether a shareholder vote is required) and the associated costs and delays.<sup>1615</sup>

If the relief requested is granted, each Investment Advisory Agreement will continue to be fully subject to Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Moreover, the relevant Board will consider the Investment Advisory Agreements and Subadvisory Agreements in connection with its annual contract renewal process under Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act, and the standards of Section 36(b) of the 1940 Act will be applied to the fees paid to each Subadviser.

*3. Shareholder Notification*

<sup>1615</sup> The Adviser is responsible for selecting Subadvisers in the best interests of a Subadvised Fund, regardless of the costs or timing constraints that may be associated with the process of seeking shareholder approval of Subadvisory Agreements and material amendments thereto.

With the exception of the relief requested in connection with Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below), the prospectus and statement of additional information for each Subadvised Fund will include all information required by Form N-1A concerning the Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, if the requested relief is granted. If a new Subadviser is retained, an existing Subadviser is terminated, or a Subadvisory Agreement is materially amended, a Subadvised Fund's prospectus and statement of additional information will be supplemented promptly pursuant to Rule 497(e) under the Securities Act.

If new Subadvisers are hired, the Subadvised Funds will inform shareholders of the hiring of a new Subadviser pursuant to the following procedures (“Modified Notice and Access Procedures”): (a) within 90 days after a new Subadviser is hired for any Subadvised Fund, that Subadvised Fund will send its shareholders either a Multi-manager Notice or a Multi-manager Notice and Multi-manager Information Statement;<sup>1716</sup> and (b) a Subadvised Fund will make the Multi-manager Information Statement available on the website identified in the Multi-manager Notice no later than when the Multi-manager Notice (or Multi-manager Notice and Multi-manager Information Statement) is first sent to shareholders, and will maintain it on that website for at least 90 days. Under the requested relief, a Subadvised Fund would not furnish a Multi-manager Information Statement to shareholders when an existing Subadvisory Agreement is materially modified. In the circumstances described in this Application, a proxy solicitation to approve the appointment of new Subadvisers provides no more meaningful information to shareholders than the proposed Multi-manager Information Statement. Moreover, as indicated above, the Board would comply with the requirements of Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act before entering into or amending Subadvisory Agreements.

Prior to any Subadvised Fund relying on the requested relief in this Application, the Board, including its Independent Trustees, will have approved its operations as described herein. Additionally, the shareholders of the applicable Subadvised Fund ~~have approved, or will approve,~~ its operation as described herein by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities, within the meaning of the 1940 Act, or by the sole shareholder prior to a Subadvised Fund offering its shares.<sup>1817</sup>

B. ~~FEE DISCLOSURE~~-Fee Disclosure

1. *Regulatory Background*

Form N-1A is the registration statement used by open-end investment companies. Item 19(a)(3) of Form N-1A requires a registered investment company to disclose in its statement of additional information the method of computing the “advisory fee payable” by the investment company with respect to each investment adviser, including the total dollar amounts that the investment company “paid to the adviser (aggregated with amounts paid to affiliated advisers, if any), and any advisers who are not affiliated persons of the adviser, under the investment advisory contract for the last three fiscal years.”

<sup>1716</sup> A “Multi-manager Notice” will be modeled on a Notice of Internet Availability as defined in Rule 14a-16 under the Exchange Act, and specifically will, among other things: (a) summarize the relevant information regarding the new Subadviser (except as modified to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure as defined in this Application); (b) inform shareholders that the Multi-manager Information Statement is available on a website; (c) provide the website address; (d) state the time period during which the Multi-manager Information Statement will remain available on that website; (e) provide instructions for accessing and printing the Multi-manager Information Statement; and (f) instruct the shareholder that a paper or email copy of the Multi-manager Information Statement may be obtained, without charge, by contacting the applicable Subadvised Fund.

A “Multi-manager Information Statement” will meet the requirements of Regulation 14C, Schedule 14C and Item 22 of Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act for an information statement, except as modified by the requested order to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure. Multi-manager Information Statements will be filed with the Commission via the EDGAR system.

<sup>1817</sup> If a Subadvised Fund has obtained shareholder approval to operate pursuant to an exemptive order that would permit it to operate in a multi-manager structure where the Adviser would enter into or amend Subadvisory Agreements only with respect to Wholly Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers subject to Board approval but without obtaining shareholder approval and has met all other terms and conditions of the requested order, the Subadvised Fund may rely on the applicable part of the order requested in this Application (i.e., hiring, amending Subadvisory Agreements with, and including Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below) in response to the disclosure requirements discussed herein with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers).

~~A “Multi-manager Information Statement” will meet the requirements of Regulation 14C, Schedule 14C and Item 22 of Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act for an information statement, except as modified by the requested order to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure. Multi-manager Information Statements will be filed with the Commission via the EDGAR system.~~

Rule 20a-1 under the 1940 Act requires proxies solicited with respect to a registered investment company to comply with Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act. Item 22 of Schedule 14A sets forth the information that must be included in a registered investment company’s proxy statement. Item 22(c)(1)(ii) requires a proxy statement for a shareholder meeting at which action will be taken on an investment advisory agreement to describe the terms of the advisory contract, “including the rate of compensation of the investment adviser.” Item 22(c)(1)(iii) requires a description of the “aggregate amount of the investment adviser’s fees and the amount and purpose of any other material payments” by the investment company to the investment adviser, or any affiliated person of the investment adviser during the fiscal year. Item 22(c)(8) requires a description of “the terms of the contract to be acted upon, and, if the action is an amendment to, or a replacement of, an investment advisory contract, the material differences between the current and proposed contract.” Finally, Item 22(c)(9) requires a proxy statement for a shareholder meeting at which a change in the advisory fee will be sought to state (i) the aggregate amount of the investment adviser’s fee during the last year; (ii) the amount that the adviser would have received had the proposed fee been in effect; and (iii) the difference between (i) and (ii) stated as a percentage of the amount in (i). Together, these provisions may require a Subadvised Fund to disclose the fees paid to a Subadviser in connection with shareholder action with respect to entering into, or materially amending, an advisory agreement or establishing, or increasing, advisory fees.

Regulation S-X sets forth the requirements for financial statements required to be included as part of a registered investment company’s registration statement and shareholder reports filed with the Commission. Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X require a registered investment company to include in its financial statement information about the investment advisory fees. These provisions could require a Subadvised Fund’s financial statements to disclose information concerning fees paid to a Subadviser. The exemption from Regulation S-X requested below would permit a Subadvised Fund to include only the Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below); all other items required by Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X will be disclosed.

## 2. Requested Relief

Applicants seek relief to permit each Subadvised Fund to disclose (as a dollar amount and a percentage of the Subadvised Fund’s net assets) (a) the aggregate fees paid to the Adviser and any Wholly-Owned Subadvisers; and (b) the aggregate fees paid to Affiliated and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers (collectively, the “Aggregate Fee Disclosure”) in lieu of disclosing the fees that may be required by Item 19(a)(3) of Form N-1A, Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8) and 22(c)(9) of Schedule 14A, and Section 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X.<sup>19</sup> The Aggregate Fee Disclosure would be presented as both a dollar amount and as a percentage of the Subadvised Fund’s net assets. Applicants believe that the relief sought in this Application should be granted because the Adviser intends to operate the Subadvised Funds under a multi-manager structure. As a result, disclosure of the individual fees that the Adviser pays to the Subadvisers would not serve any meaningful purpose.

As noted above, the Adviser may operate a Subadvised Fund in a manner different from a traditional investment company. By investing in a Subadvised Fund, shareholders are hiring the Adviser to manage the Subadvised Fund’s assets by overseeing, evaluating, monitoring, and recommending Subadvisers rather than by hiring its own employees to manage the assets directly. The Adviser, under the oversight of the Board, is responsible for overseeing the Subadvisers and recommending their hiring and replacement. In return, the Adviser receives an advisory fee from each Subadvised Fund. Pursuant to each Subadvisory Agreement, the Adviser ~~has agreed or will~~ agree to pay each Subadviser a fee, based on a percentage of assets of a Subadvised Fund, from the fee received by

<sup>19</sup> As used herein, a “Wholly-Owned Subadviser” is any investment adviser that is (1) an indirect or direct “wholly-owned subsidiary” (as such term is defined in Section 2(a)(43) of the 1940 Act) of the Adviser, (2) a “sister company” of the Adviser that is an indirect or direct “wholly-owned subsidiary” of the same company that indirectly or directly wholly owns the Adviser (the Adviser’s “parent company”), or (3) a parent company of the Adviser. A “Non-Affiliated Subadviser” is any investment adviser that is not an “affiliated person” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of a Fund or the Adviser, except to the extent that an affiliation arises solely because the Subadviser serves as a subadviser to one or more Funds. Section 2(a)(43) of the 1940 Act defines “wholly-owned subsidiary” of a person as a company 95 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of which are, directly or indirectly, owned by such a person.

the Adviser from a Subadvised Fund under the Investment Advisory Agreement.<sup>2019</sup> Each Subadviser will bear its own expenses of providing investment management services to a Subadvised Fund. Disclosure of the individual fees that the Adviser would pay to the Subadvisers does not serve any meaningful purpose since investors pay the Adviser to oversee, monitor, evaluate and compensate the Subadvisers. Applicants contend that the primary reasons for requiring disclosure of individual fees paid to Subadvisers are to inform shareholders of expenses to be charged by a particular Subadvised Fund and to enable shareholders to compare the fees to those of other comparable investment companies. Applicants believe that the requested relief satisfies these objectives because each Subadvised Fund's overall advisory fee will be fully disclosed and, therefore, shareholders will know what a Subadvised Fund's fees and expenses are and will be able to compare the advisory fees a Subadvised Fund is charged to those of other investment companies.

Indeed, in a more conventional arrangement, requiring the Subadvised Funds to disclose the fees negotiated between the Adviser and the Subadvisers would be the functional equivalent of requiring single adviser investment companies to disclose the salaries of individual portfolio managers employed by that investment adviser. In the case of a traditional investment company, disclosure is made of the compensation paid to the investment adviser, but shareholders are not told or asked to vote on the salary paid by the investment adviser to individual portfolio managers. Similarly, in the case of the Subadvised Funds, the shareholders will have chosen to employ the Adviser and to rely upon the Adviser's expertise in monitoring the Subadvisers, recommending the Subadvisers' selection and termination (if necessary), and negotiating the compensation of the Subadvisers. There are no policy reasons that require shareholders of the Subadvised Funds to be informed of the individual Subadviser's fees any more than shareholders of a traditional investment company (single investment adviser) would be informed of the particular investment adviser's portfolio managers' salaries.<sup>2120</sup>

The requested relief would benefit shareholders of the Subadvised Funds because it would improve the Adviser's ability to negotiate the fees paid to Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers. The Adviser's ability to negotiate with the various Subadvisers would be adversely affected by public disclosure of fees paid to each Subadviser. If the Adviser is not required to disclose the Subadvisers' fees to the public, the Adviser may be able to negotiate rates that are below a Subadviser's "posted" amounts as the rate would not be disclosed to the Subadviser's other clients. Moreover, if one Subadviser is aware of the advisory fee paid to another Subadviser, the Subadviser would likely take it into account in negotiating its own fee.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has previously granted the requested relief solely with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief only permitted the disclosure of aggregate fees paid to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers and required disclosure of individual fees paid to Affiliated Subadvisers. If the requested relief under Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act is granted to extend to Affiliated Subadvisers, Applicants believe it is appropriate to permit each Subadvised Fund to disclose only aggregate fees paid to Affiliated Subadvisers for the same reasons that similar relief has been granted to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers, as discussed above.

### C. ~~PRECEDENT~~Precedent

Applicants note that substantially identical relief was granted by the Commission in the Carillon Order and more recently in the [Morgan Stanley Order](#), the [Wedbush Order](#), the [Adviser Series Trust Order](#), the [Venerable Order](#), the [RBB Order](#), the [Roundhill Order](#), the [BondBloxx Order](#), the [Liberty Order](#), the [RM Opportunity Order](#), the [Advisors Trust Order](#), the [New Age Alpha Trust Order](#), ~~and~~ the [LFT Order](#), the [Azzad Order](#), the [Distillate Capital Order](#), the [Esoterica Order](#), the [Clearshares Order](#), the [OSI ETF Order](#), and the [Investment Managers Order](#). Applicants note

<sup>20</sup><sub>19</sub> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

<sup>21</sup><sub>20</sub> The relief would be consistent with the Commission's disclosure requirements applicable to fund portfolio managers that were previously adopted. See Investment Company Act Release No. 26533 (Aug. 23, 2004). Under these disclosure requirements, a fund is required to include in its statement of additional information, among other matters, a description of the structure of and the method used to determine the compensation structure of its "portfolio managers." Applicants state that with respect to each Subadvised Fund, the statement of additional information will describe the structure of, and method used to determine, the compensation received by each portfolio manager employed by any Subadviser. In addition to this disclosure with respect to portfolio managers, Applicants state that with respect to each Subadvised Fund, the statement of additional information will describe the structure of, and method used to determine, the compensation received by each Subadviser.

that substantially the same exemptions requested herein with respect to relief from Section 15(a) and relief from the disclosure requirements of the rules and forms discussed herein for Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, have been granted previously by the Commission with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers. See, e.g., Natixis Funds Trust I, et al., Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33265 (October 5, 2018) (notice) and 33287 (October 31, 2018) (order); Advisors Asset Management, Inc. and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33169 (July 24, 2018) (notice) and 33207 (August 21, 2018) (order); TriLine Index Solutions, LLC and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33159 (July 11, 2018) (notice) and 33192 (August 6, 2018) (order); SL Advisors, LLC and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33158 (July 11, 2018) (notice) and 33193 (August 6, 2018) (order); DMS ETF Trust I, et al., Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33156 (July 10, 2018) (notice) and 33196 (August 7, 2018) (order).

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe that the relief sought would be appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

## V. CONDITIONS

Applicants agree that reliance on any order of the Commission granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Before a Subadvised Fund may rely on the order requested herein, the operation of the Subadvised Fund in the manner described in this Application will be ~~or has been~~ approved by a majority of the Subadvised Fund's outstanding voting securities as defined in the 1940 Act, or, in the case of a Subadvised Fund whose public shareholders purchase shares on the basis of a prospectus containing the disclosure contemplated by condition 2 below, by the initial shareholder before such Subadvised Fund's shares are offered to the public.

(2) The prospectus for each Subadvised Fund will disclose the existence, substance and effect of any order granted pursuant to the Application. In addition, each Subadvised Fund will hold itself out to the public as employing the multi-manager structure described in this Application. The prospectus will prominently disclose that the Adviser has the ultimate responsibility, subject to oversight by the Board, to oversee the Subadvisers and recommend their hiring, termination, and replacement.

(3) The Adviser will provide general management services to each Subadvised Fund, including overall supervisory responsibility for the general management and investment of the Subadvised Fund's assets, and subject to review and oversight of the Board, will (i) set the Subadvised Fund's overall investment strategies, (ii) evaluate, select, and recommend Subadvisers for all or a portion of the Subadvised Fund's assets, (iii) allocate and, when appropriate, reallocate the Subadvised Fund's assets among Subadvisers, (iv) monitor and evaluate the Subadvisers' performance, and (v) implement procedures reasonably designed to ensure that Subadvisers comply with the Subadvised Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions.

(4) Subadvised Funds will inform shareholders of the hiring of a new Subadviser within 90 days after the hiring of the new Subadviser pursuant to the Modified Notice and Access Procedures.

(5) At all times, at least a majority of the Board will be Independent Trustees, and the selection and nomination of new or additional Independent Trustees will be placed within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

(6) Independent Legal Counsel, as defined in Rule 0-1(a)(6) under the 1940 Act, will be engaged to represent the Independent Trustees. The selection of such counsel will be within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

(7) Whenever a Subadviser is hired or terminated, the Adviser will provide the Board with information showing the expected impact on the profitability of the Adviser.

(8) The Board must evaluate any material conflicts that may be present in a subadvisory arrangement. Specifically, whenever a subadviser change is proposed for a Subadvised Fund (“Subadviser Change”) or the Board considers an existing Subadvisory Agreement as part of its annual review process (“Subadviser Review”):

(a) the Adviser will provide the Board, to the extent not already being provided pursuant to Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act, with all relevant information concerning:

(i) any material interest in the proposed new Subadviser, in the case of a Subadviser Change, or the Subadviser in the case of a Subadviser Review, held directly or indirectly by the Adviser or a parent or sister company of the Adviser, and any material impact the proposed Subadvisory Agreement may have on that interest;

(ii) any arrangement or understanding in which the Adviser or any parent or sister company of the Adviser is a participant that (A) may have had a material effect on the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review, or (B) may be materially affected by the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review;

(iii) any material interest in a Subadviser held directly or indirectly by an officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund, or an officer or board member of the Adviser (other than through a pooled investment vehicle not controlled by such person); and

(iv) any other information that may be relevant to the Board in evaluating any potential material conflicts of interest in the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review.

(b) the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, will make a separate finding, reflected in the Board minutes, that the Subadviser Change or continuation after Subadviser Review is in the best interests of the Subadvised Fund and its shareholders and, based on the information provided to the Board, does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser, a Subadviser, any officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund, or any officer or board member of the Adviser derives an inappropriate advantage.

(9) Each Subadvised Fund will disclose in its registration statement the Aggregate Fee Disclosure.

(10) In the event that the Commission adopts a rule under the 1940 Act providing substantially similar relief to that in the order requested in the Application, the requested order will expire on the effective date of that rule.

(11) Any new Subadvisory Agreement or any amendment to an existing Investment Advisory Agreement or Subadvisory Agreement that directly or indirectly results in an increase in the aggregate advisory fee rate payable by a Subadvised Fund will be submitted to the Subadvised Fund’s shareholders for approval.

## VI. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

All of the requirements for execution and filing of this Application on behalf of Applicants have been complied with in accordance with the applicable organizational documents of Applicants, and the undersigned officers of Applicants are fully authorized to execute this Application and any amendments hereto. The authorizations to file are attached as Exhibits A-1 and A-2 to this Application in accordance with the requirements of Rule 0-2(c)(1) under the 1940 Act and the verifications required by Rule 0-2(d) under the 1940 Act are attached as Exhibits B-1 and B-2 to this Application. Marked copies of the Application are included as Exhibits C-1 and C-~~2~~3 to this Application in accordance with the requirements of Rule 0-5(e) under the 1940 Act.

Pursuant to Rule 0-2(f) under the 1940 Act, the Trust states that its address is ~~2000 Westchester~~1345 Avenue, ~~Purchase of the Americas~~, New York ~~10577~~, New York 10105 and the Adviser states that its address is ~~2000 Westchester~~1345 Avenue, ~~Purchase of the Americas~~, New York ~~10577~~, New York 10105, and that all written communications regarding this Application should be directed to the individuals and addresses indicated on the first page of this Application.

Applicants desire that the Commission issue the requested order pursuant to Rule 0-5 under the 1940 Act without conducting a hearing.

## VII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Commission issue an order under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act granting the relief requested in the Application.

Applicants submit that the requested exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, consistent with the protection of investors and consistent with the purpose fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

[\[Signature Page Follows\]](#)

Respectfully submitted,

~~MORGAN STANLEY PATHWAY FUNDS~~

~~FIRST EAGLE ETC TRUST~~

By: /s/ ~~Robert Garcia~~Sheelyn Michael

Name: ~~Name: Robert Garcia~~Sheelyn Michael

Title: ~~Title: Chief Operating Officer~~Secretary and Deputy General Counsel

~~CONSULTING GROUP ADVISORY SERVICES LLC~~

~~FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC~~

By: /s/ ~~Robert Garcia~~Sheelyn Michael

Name: ~~Name: Robert Garcia~~Sheelyn Michael

Title: ~~Title: Chief Operating Officer~~Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director

October 23, 2025

~~June 4, 2025~~

~~EXHIBIT INDEX~~

Exhibit Index

Authorization of <del>Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds</del> <u>First Eagle</u> ETF Trust		Exhibit A-1
Authorization of First Eagle Investment Management, LLC		<u>Exhibit A-2</u>
<del>Authorization of Consulting Group Advisory Services LLC</del>	-	<del>Exhibit A-2</del>
<u>Verification of First Eagle ETF Trust</u>		<u>Exhibit B-1</u>
<del>Verification of Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds Pursuant to Rule 0-2(d)</del>	-	<del>Exhibit B-1</del>
<u>Verification of First Eagle Investment Management, LLC</u>		<u>Exhibit B-2</u>
<del>Verification of Consulting Group Advisory Services LLC Pursuant to Rule 0-2(d)</del>	-	<del>Exhibit B-2</del>
Marked Copies of the Application Pursuant to Rule 0-5(e)		Exhibits C-1 <del>and</del> C-2 <del>and</del> C-3

**EXHIBIT A-1**  
~~MORGAN STANLEY PATHWAY FUNDS~~  
FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

AUTHORIZATION TO FILE EXEMPTIVE ORDER APPLICATION

The undersigned, ~~Eric Metallo~~Sheelyn Michael, hereby certifies that ~~he~~she is the duly appointed ~~Chief Legal Officer and~~ Secretary of ~~Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds~~First Eagle ETF Trust (the “Trust”); that, with respect to the attached application for exemption from the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “1940 Act”), the rules and forms thereunder and any amendments thereto (such application along with any ~~future~~ amendments, the “Application”), all actions necessary to authorize the execution and filing of the Application under the ~~Third Amended and Restated Master Trust Agreement and Second Amended and Restated~~Declaration of Trust and By-Laws of the Trust have been taken and the person signing and filing the Application on behalf of the Trust is fully authorized to do so; and that the following is a complete, true and correct copy of the resolutions duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Trust on ~~July 8, 2024~~October 22, 2025, and that such resolutions have not been revoked, modified, rescinded, or amended and are in full force and effect:

~~**RESOLVE** That the officers of the Trust be, and each hereby is, authorized to prepare and file, in the name and on behalf of the Trust, with the SEC an application for an order of the SEC pursuant to Section 6(e) of the 1940 Act, for an exemption from (a) the provisions of Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act and Rule 18f 2 thereunder to permit a Trust investment adviser (the “Adviser”), subject to the supervision of the Trustees, to appoint new unaffiliated and/or affiliated sub-advisers to each Fund for which the Adviser serves as investment adviser and to make material changes to the sub-advisory agreements with sub-advisers to a Fund without obtaining shareholder approval of the applicable Fund; and (b) the disclosures required pursuant to certain Items of Form N-1A and Schedule 14A and Sections 6-07(2)(a)-(c) of Regulation S-X relating to sub-adviser compensation (the “Exemptive Application”);~~

~~**RESOLVE** That the officers of the Trust, with the assistance of Trust counsel or others as may be required, are hereby authorized to prepare, execute and file, in the name and on behalf of the Trust, any and all amendments to such Exemptive Application as may be necessary or appropriate.~~

**RESOLVED**, that the officers of First Eagle ETF Trust (the “Trust”) be, and each hereby is, authorized to prepare or cause to be prepared, execute, and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, an application, and any amendments thereto, for an order pursuant to Sections 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), for exemptions from various sections of the 1940 Act, including, but not limited to, Sections 15(a) of the 1940 Act, to permit its series advised by First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, subject to the Board of Trustees of the Trust’s approval, to enter into and materially amend investment sub-advisory agreements without obtaining shareholder approval; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the officers of the Trust be, and each hereby is, authorized to take any and all actions that each of them, in his or her sole discretion, deems necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent and accomplish the purpose of the foregoing resolution.

By: /s/ Sheelyn Michael

Name: Sheelyn Michael

Title: Secretary

~~Dated:~~  
October 23, 2023

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EXHIBIT A-2

~~CONSULTING-GROUP ADVISORY SERVICES~~ FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

AUTHORIZATION TO FILE EXEMPTIVE APPLICATION

The undersigned, ~~Robert Garcia~~ Sheelyn Michael, hereby certifies that ~~heshe~~ is the ~~Chief Operating Officer of Consulting Group Advisory Services~~ Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director of First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (“CGASFEIM”); that, with respect to the attached application for exemption from the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, rules and forms thereunder and any amendments thereto (such application along with any amendments, the “Application”), all actions necessary to authorize the execution and filing of the Application under the ~~charter~~ governing documents of CGASFEIM have been taken; and that the person signing and filing the Application by CGASFEIM is fully authorized to do so.

By:	<del>/s/ Robert Garcia</del> <u>Sheelyn Michael</u>
Name:	<del>Robert Garcia</del> <u>Sheelyn Michael</u>
Title:	<del>Chief Operating Officer</del> <u>Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director</u>
<del>Dated:</del>	<del>June 4, 2025</del>
	<u>October 23, 2025</u>

**EXHIBIT B-1**  
~~MORGAN STANLEY PATHWAY FUNDS~~  
FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 0-2(d)

The undersigned states heshe has duly executed the attached Application dated ~~June 4~~October 23, 2025, for and on behalf of ~~Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds~~First Eagle ETF Trust; that heshe is the ~~Chief Operating Officer~~Secretary and Deputy General Counsel of such trust; and that all action by shareholders, trustees and other bodies necessary to authorize the undersigned to execute and file such instrument has been taken. The undersigned further says that heshe is familiar with such instrument, and the contents thereof, and that the facts therein set forth are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

<u>FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST</u>		
By:	<u>/s/ Sheelyn Michael</u>	<del>/s/</del>
Name:	<u>Sheelyn Michael</u>	<del>Robert Garcia</del> Rober
Title:	<u>Secretary and Deputy General Counsel</u>	<del>t Garcia</del> Chief Operating Officer
<u>October 23, 2025</u>		

EXHIBIT B-2

~~CONSULTING-GROUP-ADVISORY-SERVICES~~FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 0-2(d)

The undersigned states ~~he~~Sheelyn Michael has duly executed the attached Application dated ~~June 4~~October 23, 2025, for and on behalf of ~~Consulting-Group-Advisory-Services~~First Eagle Investment Management, LLC; that ~~he is Chief Operating Officer~~Sheelyn Michael is the Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director of such company; and that all action by stockholders, officers, directors and other bodies necessary to authorize the undersigned to execute and file such instrument has been taken. The undersigned further says that ~~he~~Sheelyn Michael is familiar with such instrument, and the contents thereof, and that the facts therein set forth are true to the best of ~~his~~her knowledge, information and belief.

~~FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC~~  
~~CONSULTING-GROUP-ADVISORY-SERVICES-LLC~~

By: /s/ Robert GarciaSheelyn Michael  
Name: Robert GarciaSheelyn Michael  
Title: Chief Operating OfficerDeputy General Counsel and Managing Director  
October 23, 2025

**EXHIBIT C-2**

EXPEDITED REVIEW REQUESTED UNDER 17 CFR 270.0-5(d)

File No. [ ]

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on ~~May 29~~October 23, 2025

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Washington, D.C. 20549

APPLICATION FOR  
AN ORDER OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 6(c)  
OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940,  
AS AMENDED (THE "1940 ACT"),  
FROM: (1) CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SECTION 15(a) OF THE 1940 ACT AND  
(2) CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS UNDER VARIOUS RULES AND FORMS

In the Matter of

~~WEDBUSH SERIES TRUST~~

~~225 S Lake Ave~~

~~Pasadena, CA 91101~~

FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

1345 Avenue of the Americas,

New York, New York 10105

and

~~WEDBUSH FUND ADVISERS, LLC~~

~~225 S Lake Ave~~

~~Pasadena, CA 91101~~

FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

1345 Avenue of the Americas,

New York, New York 10105

*Please direct all communications regarding this Application to:*

~~Matthew J. Bromberg~~

~~Wedbush Series Trust~~

~~225 S Lake Ave~~

~~Pasadena, CA 91101~~

~~Telephone: (917) 581-0525~~

Nathan J. Greene

Matthew J. Kutner

Sidley Austin LLP

787 Seventh Avenue,

New York, New York 10019

ngreene@sidley.com, (212) 839-8673

mkutner@sidley.com, (212) 839-8679

*with a copy to:*

~~Erie Simanek, Esq.~~

~~Evershed Sutherland (US) LLP~~

~~700 6th Street, N.W.~~

~~Washington, DC 20001~~

~~Telephone: (202) 220-8412~~

Sheelyn Michael  
First Eagle Investment Management, LLC  
1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105  
sheelyn.michael@firsteagle.com

This Application (including ~~exhibits~~Exhibits) contains ~~63~~22 pages.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

In the Matter of

**FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST**

1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105

**and**

**FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC**

1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105

Investment Company Act of 1940 File No. [ ]

APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 6(c) OF THE INVESTMENT  
COMPANY ACT OF 1940, AS AMENDED (THE "1940 ACT"), FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SECTION  
15(a) OF THE 1940 ACT AND FROM CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS UNDER VARIOUS RULES  
AND FORMS

## I. INTRODUCTION

~~Wedbush Series~~First Eagle ETF Trust (the “Trust”), a registered open-end management investment company that ~~offers~~will offer multiple series of shares (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”), on its own behalf and on behalf of each Fund, and ~~Wedbush Fund Advisers~~First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (the “Adviser” and together with the Trust, the “Applicants”),<sup>1</sup> hereby submit this application (the “Application”) to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) for an order of exemption pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”).

Applicants request an order exempting them from Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act to permit the Adviser, subject to the approval of the board of trustees of the Trust (the “Board” or “Trustees”),<sup>2</sup> including a majority of those who are not “interested persons” of the Trust or the Adviser, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act (the “Independent Trustees”), to take certain actions without obtaining shareholder approval as follows: (i) select investment subadvisers (each a “Subadviser” and collectively, the “Subadvisers”) for all or a portion of the assets of a Fund pursuant to an investment subadvisory agreement with each Subadviser (each a “Subadvisory Agreement” and collectively, the “Subadvisory Agreements”); and (ii) materially amend Subadvisory Agreements with the Subadvisers. As used herein, a “Subadviser” for a Fund is any investment adviser that enters into a Subadvisory Agreement with respect to a Fund.

Applicants also apply for an order of the Commission under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act exempting a Fund from certain disclosure obligations under the following rules and forms: (i) Item 19(a)(3) of Form N-1A; (ii) Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8), and 22(c)(9) of Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”); and (iii) Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b), and (c) of Regulation S-X under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). Similar to the order the Commission recently granted to Carillon Series Trust, et al.,<sup>3</sup> in addition to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers (both as defined below), the relief

<sup>1</sup> The term “Adviser” means (i) ~~Wedbush Fund Advisers~~First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, (ii) its successors, and (iii) any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, ~~Wedbush Fund Advisers~~First Eagle Investment Management, LLC or its successors that serves as the primary adviser to a Subadvised Fund (as defined below). For the purposes of the requested order, “successor” is limited to an entity that results from a reorganization into another jurisdiction or a change in the type of business organization.

<sup>2</sup> The term “Board” also includes the board of trustees or directors of a future Subadvised Fund (as defined below), if different from the board of trustees of the Trust.

<sup>3</sup> The Commission issued an order granting the expanded relief requested by the Application. Carillon Series Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~No. 33464 (May 2, 2019) (Notice) and No. 33494 (May 29, 2019) (Order) (the “Carillon Order”). See also Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds Consulting Group Advisory Services LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 35681 (July 17, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35713 (August 12, 2025) (Order) (the “Morgan Stanley Order”); Wedbush Series Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 35668 (July 8, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35706 (August 5, 2025) (Order) (the “Wedbush Order”); Advisors Series Trust and Distribution Cognizant, LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 35642 (June 17, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35676 (July 15, 2025) (Order) (the “Adviser Series Trust Order”); Venerable Variable Insurance Trust and Venerable Investment Advisers, LLC, Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~No. 35467 (February 6, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35490 (March 4, 2025) (Order) (the “Venerable Order”); The RBB Fund Trust and ~~Tweedy, Browne Company~~First Eagle Investments Management, LLC, Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~No. ~~35463~~35462 (January 29, 2025) (Notice) and ~~35478~~(No. 35477 (February 25, 2025) (Order) (the “RBB Order”); Roundhill ETF Trust and Roundhill Financial, Inc., Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~No. 35120 (January 30, 2024) (Notice) and No. 35147 (February 27, 2024) (Order) (the “Roundhill Order”); BondBloxx ETF Trust and BondBloxx Investment Management Corporation, Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~No. 35119 (~~Notice~~) (January 30, 2024) (Notice) and No. 35146 (~~Order~~) (February 27, 2024) (Order) (the “BondBloxx Order”); Investment Manager Series Trust and Liberty Street Advisers, Inc., Investment Company Act Release No. 34913 (May 10, 2023) (Notice) and No. 35145 (Sept. 5, 2023) (Order) (the “Liberty Order”); RM Opportunity Trust and Rocky Mountain Private Wealth Management L.L.C., Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~No. 34964 (July 24, 2023) (Notice) and No. 34986 (August 21, 2023) (Order) (the “RM Opportunity Order”); Advisors Series Trust and Semper Capital Management, L.P., Investment Company Act Release ~~No.~~No. 34500 (February 9, 2022) (Notice) and No. 34528 (March 8, 2022) (Order) (the “Advisors Trust Order”); New Age Alpha Trust and New Age Alpha Advisers, LLC, Investment Company Act Rel. ~~No.~~No. 34322 (July 6, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34348 (August 3, 2021) (Order) (the “New Age Alpha Trust Order”); and Listed Funds Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Rel. ~~No.~~No. 34293 (June 2, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34321 (June 29, 2021) (Order) (“LFT Order”); Azzad Funds, et al., Investment Company Act Rel. No. 34241 (April 5, 2021) and No. 34261 (April 30, 2021) (“Azzad Order”); ETF Series Solutions and Distillate Capital Partners LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34169 (January 11, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34190 (February 8, 2021) (Order) (the “Distillate Capital Order”); Esoterica Thematic Trust and Esoterica Capital LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34161 (January 4, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34185 (February 1, 2021) (Order) (the “Esoterica Order”); ETF Series Solutions and Clearshares LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34144 (December 21, 2020) (Notice) and No. 34174 (January 19, 2021) (Order) (the “Clearshares Order”); OSI ETF Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 33678 (October 29, 2019) (Notice) and No. 33705 (November 26, 2019) (Order) (the “OSI ETF Order”); and Investment Managers Series Trust II, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 34075 (October 27, 2020) (Notice) and No. 34104 (November 23, 2020) (Order) (the “Investment Managers Order”).

described in this Application would extend to any Subadviser that is an “affiliated person” (as such term is defined in Section 2(a)(3) of the 1940 Act) of a Fund or the Adviser for reasons other than serving as investment subadviser to one or more Funds (an “Affiliated Subadviser”).<sup>4</sup>

Applicants request that the relief sought herein apply to Applicants, as well as to any existing or future registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that intends to rely on the requested order in the future and (i) is advised by the Adviser; (ii) uses the multi-manager structure described in this Application; and (iii) complies with the terms and conditions set forth herein (each, and together with any Fund that will use the multi-manager structure described in this Application, a “Subadvised Fund” and collectively, the “Subadvised Funds”).<sup>5</sup>

~~For purposes of this Application, the term “Subadviser” will also apply to any Subadviser to any wholly owned subsidiary of a Subadvised Fund (each, a “Subsidiary” and collectively, the “Subsidiaries”). The Adviser will serve as investment adviser to each Subsidiary and may retain one or more Subadvisers to manage the assets of a Subsidiary. Applicants also request relief with respect to any Subadvisers who serve as Subadvisers to a Subsidiary. Where appropriate, Subsidiaries are also included in the term “Subadvised Funds.”~~

Applicants are seeking this exemption primarily to enhance the ability of the Adviser and the Board to obtain for a Subadvised Fund the services of one or more Subadvisers believed by the Adviser and the Board to be particularly well suited for all or a portion of the assets of the Subadvised Fund, and to make material amendments to Subadvisory Agreements believed by the Adviser and the Board to be appropriate, without the delay and expense of convening special meetings of shareholders to approve the Subadvisory Agreements. Under this structure, the Adviser, in its capacity as investment adviser, would evaluate, allocate assets to, and oversee the Subadvisers, and make recommendations about their hiring, termination and replacement to the Board, at all times subject to the authority of the Board. This structure is commonly referred to as a “multi-manager” structure. In addition, Applicants are seeking relief from certain disclosure requirements concerning fees paid to Subadvisers.

For purposes of this Application, the term “Subadviser” will also apply to any Subadviser to any wholly-owned subsidiary of a Subadvised Fund (each, a “Subsidiary” and collectively, the “Subsidiaries”). The Adviser will serve as investment adviser to each Subsidiary and may retain one or more Subadvisers to manage the assets of a Subsidiary. Applicants also request relief with respect to any Subadvisers who serve as Subadvisers to a Subsidiary. Where appropriate, Subsidiaries are also included in the term “Subadvised Funds.”

For the reasons discussed below, Applicants believe that the requested relief is appropriate, in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the Subadvised Funds would be negatively impacted without the requested relief because of delays in hiring or replacing Subadvisers and costs associated with the proxy solicitation to approve new or amended Subadvisory Agreements.

## II. BACKGROUND

### A. The Trust

The Trust is registered under the 1940 Act as an open-end management investment company organized as a Delaware statutory trust. The Adviser ~~serves or~~ will serve as “investment adviser,” as defined in Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act, to each Fund. The Trust intends to operate one or more Funds under a multi-manager structure and ~~shares of the Funds are or which~~ will be offered and sold pursuant to a registration statement on Form N-1A. The Board consists of ~~four~~ten (410) trustees, ~~three~~eight (8) of whom are Independent Trustees.

<sup>4</sup> Section 2(a)(3) of the 1940 Act defines “affiliated person” as follows: “Affiliated person” of another person means (A) any person directly or indirectly owning, controlling, or holding with power to vote, 5 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of such other person; (B) any person 5 per centum or more of whose outstanding voting securities are directly or indirectly owned, controlled, or held with power to vote, by such other person; (C) any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, such other person; (D) any officer, director, partner, copartner, or employee of such other person; (E) if such other person is an investment company, any investment adviser thereof or any member of an advisory board thereof; and (F) if such other person is an unincorporated investment company not having a board of directors, the depositor thereof.

<sup>5</sup> All registered open-end investment companies that currently intend to rely on the requested order are named as Applicants. The Trust does not currently have any Subadvised Funds but intends to launch such funds in the future. Any entity that relies on the requested order will do so only in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this Application.

The Trust has filed a registration statement ~~(and amendments thereto)~~ on Form N-1A to register shares of the ~~Dan-IVES Wedbush AI Revolution~~ First Eagle US Equity ETF and the First Eagle Mid Cap Equity ETF (the “Initial FundFunds”). The registration statement is not effective as of the date of this filing. The ~~Initial Fund is not a Subadvised Fund. The~~ Trust intends to ~~introduce Funds in the future that will operate under a multi-manager structure~~ offer shares of multiple series, each with its own distinct investment objectives, policies, and restrictions. The Adviser will retain a Subadviser to provide investment advisory services to one or more Funds.<sup>6</sup>

#### B. The Adviser

~~Wedbush Fund Advisers~~ First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, with its business address at ~~225 S Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101~~ 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105, is a Delaware limited liability company registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “Advisers Act”), and ~~serves or~~ will serve as investment adviser to each Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with the Fund (each, an “Investment Advisory Agreement” and, together, the “Investment Advisory Agreements”). Any future Adviser also will be registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act.

Consistent with the terms of a Subadvised Fund’s Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser may, subject to the approval of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and the shareholders of the applicable Subadvised Fund (if required by applicable law), delegate portfolio management responsibilities of all or a portion of the assets of a Subadvised Fund to a Subadviser. The Adviser retains overall responsibility for the management and investment of the assets of the Subadvised Fund. With respect to each Subadvised Fund, the Adviser’s responsibilities include, for example, recommending the removal or replacement of Subadvisers, and allocating the portion of that Subadvised Fund’s assets to any given Subadviser and reallocating those assets as necessary from time to time. The Adviser evaluates, selects and recommends Subadvisers for the Subadvised Fund, and monitors and reviews each Subadviser and its performance and its compliance with the applicable Subadvised Fund’s investment policies and restrictions.

Each Investment Advisory Agreement ~~has been or~~ will be approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and by the shareholders of the relevant Fund in the manner required by Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act. The terms of the Investment Advisory Agreements comply or will comply with Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Applicants are not seeking an exemption from the provisions of the 1940 Act with respect to the Investment Advisory Agreements. Pursuant to the terms of each Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board, has agreed or will agree to ~~(i) provide~~ provide for the overall management of the Subadvised Funds including (i) the provision of a continuous investment ~~management for each Fund; (ii) determine the~~ program for each Subadvised Fund, including investment research and management with respect to all securities, investments, cash and cash equivalents in each Subadvised Fund, (ii) the determination from time to time of the securities and other investments to be purchased, retained, ~~or sold or loaned by each Fund and the portion of such assets to be invested or held uninvested as cash; and (iii) exercise full discretion and act for each Fund in the same manner and with the same force and effect as such Fund itself might or could do with respect to purchases, sales, or other transactions and with respect to all other things necessary or incidental to the furtherance or conduct of such purchases, sales or other transactions. The Adviser also is or will be responsible for effecting transactions for each Fund and selecting brokers or dealers to execute such transactions for each Fund. The Adviser will periodically review each Fund’s investment policies and strategies and, based on the need of a particular Fund, may recommend changes to the investment policies and strategies of the Fund for consideration by the Board.~~ by the Trust for each Subadvised Fund, (iii) the placement from time to time of orders for all purchases and sales made for each Subadvised Fund, (iv) in connection with its management of each Subadvised Fund, monitoring and assistance with

<sup>6</sup> Each Subadvised Fund will disclose in its registration statement that it intends to operate pursuant to the order requested in this Application, if granted. The prospectus for a Subadvised Fund will continue to include the disclosure required by Condition 2 below at all times subsequent to the approval required by Condition 1 below. If a Subadvised Fund has obtained shareholder approval to operate under the multi-manager structure described herein prior to the issuance of an order as requested in this Application, the prospectus for the Subadvised Fund will at all times following such shareholder approval contain appropriate disclosure that the Subadvised Fund has applied for exemptive relief to operate under the multi-manager structure described herein, including the ability to hire new Subadvisers and materially amend an existing Subadvisory Agreement without soliciting further shareholder vote.

anticipated purchases and redemptions of creation units by shareholders and new investors, (v) the determination of the amount of the cash component, the identity and number of shares of the securities to be accepted in exchange for “Creation Units” for each Subadvised Fund and the securities that will be applicable that day to redemption requests received for each Subadvised Fund (and may give directions to the Trust’s custodian with respect to such designations), (vi) the coordination of each Subadvised Fund’s compliance with rules of the applicable securities exchange, and (vii) the establishment, monitoring and keeping up-to-date of each Subadvised Fund’s website to comply with applicable law.

Each Investment Advisory Agreement permits or will permit the Adviser to enter into Subadvisory Agreements with one or more Subadvisers. Pursuant to its authority under the Investment Advisory Agreements, the Adviser has entered or will enter into Subadvisory Agreements as described below under “The Subadvisers and the Subadvised Funds.” If the name of any Subadvised Fund contains the name of a subadviser, the name of the Adviser that serves as the primary adviser to the Subadvised Fund, or a trademark or trade name that is owned by or publicly used to identify that Adviser, will precede the name of the subadviser.

For its services to ~~a~~each Fund, the Adviser receives or will receive an investment advisory fee from that Fund as specified in the applicable Investment Advisory Agreement. The investment advisory fees are calculated based on the average daily net assets of the particular Fund, calculated daily as of the close of business on each business day during the month.

### C. The Subadvisers and Subadvised Funds

Pursuant to the authority under the Investment Advisory Agreements, the Adviser may enter into Subadvisory Agreements with various Subadvisers on behalf of ~~the Funds~~a Fund.

With respect to any future Subadviser that is wholly owned by the Adviser or the Adviser’s parent company, the Adviser will have overall responsibility for the affairs of such Subadviser, and generally will approve certain actions by that Subadviser that could materially affect the operations of the Adviser and its subsidiaries as a group. Any future Subadviser will have its own employees who would provide investment services to a Subadvised Fund.

Any future Subadvisers will be “investment advisers” to the Subadvised Funds within the meaning of Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act and will provide investment management services to the Subadvised Funds subject to, without limitation, the requirements of Sections 15(c) and 36(b) of the 1940 Act. In addition, any future Subadvisers will be registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act or not subject to such registration. The Adviser selects Subadvisers based on the Adviser’s evaluation of the Subadvisers’ skills in managing assets pursuant to particular investment styles, and recommends their hiring to the Board. The Adviser may in the future employ multiple Subadvisers for one or more of any Subadvised Funds. In those instances, the Adviser would allocate and, as appropriate, reallocate a Subadvised Fund’s assets among the Subadvisers.

The Adviser will engage in an ongoing analysis of the continued advisability of retaining a Subadviser and will make recommendations to the Board as needed. The Adviser will negotiate and renegotiate the terms of the Subadvisory Agreements with a Subadviser, including the fees paid to the ~~Subadviser~~Subadvisers, and will make recommendations to the Board as needed.

The Subadvisers, subject to the oversight of the Adviser and the Board, will determine the securities and other instruments to be purchased, sold or entered into by a Subadvised Fund’s portfolio or a portion thereof, and will place orders with brokers or dealers that they select.<sup>7</sup> The Subadvisers will keep certain records required by the 1940 Act and the Advisers Act to be maintained on behalf of the relevant Subadvised Fund, and will assist the Adviser to maintain the Subadvised Fund’s compliance with the relevant requirements of the 1940 Act. The Subadvisers will monitor the respective Subadvised Fund’s investments and will provide periodic reports to the Board and the

<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of this Application, a “Subadviser” also includes an investment subadviser that will provide the Adviser with a model portfolio reflecting a specific strategy, style or focus with respect to the investment of all or a portion of a Subadvised Fund’s assets. The Adviser or another Subadviser may use the model portfolio to determine the securities and other instruments to be purchased, sold, or entered into by a Subadvised Fund’s portfolio or a portion thereof, and place orders with brokers or dealers that it selects.

Adviser. The Subadvisers also will make their officers and employees available to the Adviser and the Board to review the investment performance and investment policies of the Subadvised Fund.

The Subadvisory Agreements will be approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, in accordance with Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act.

The terms of each Subadvisory Agreement will comply fully with the requirements of Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Each Subadvisory Agreement will set forth the duties of the Subadviser and precisely describe the compensation paid to the Subadviser.

After an initial two-year period, the terms of the Subadvisory Agreements will be reviewed and renewed on an annual basis by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees in accordance with Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act. The Board will dedicate substantial time to review contract matters, including matters relating to Investment Advisory Agreements and Subadvisory Agreements. With respect to each Subadvised Fund, the Board will review comprehensive materials received from the Adviser, the Subadviser, independent third parties and independent counsel. Applicants will continue this annual review and renewal process for Subadvisory Agreements in accordance with the 1940 Act if the relief requested herein is granted by the Commission.

The Board will review information provided by the Adviser and Subadvisers when it is asked to approve or renew Subadvisory Agreements. Each Subadvised Fund will disclose in its statutory prospectus that a discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval and renewal of the Investment Advisory Agreements and any applicable Subadvisory Agreements is available in the Subadvised Fund's reports filed on Form N-CSR for the relevant period in accordance with Item 10(a)(1)(iii) of Form N-1A. The information provided to the Board will be maintained as part of the records of the respective Subadvised Fund pursuant to Rule 31a-1(b)(4) and Rule 31a-2 under the 1940 Act.

Pursuant to each Subadvisory Agreement, the Adviser will agree to pay each Subadviser a fee, based on a percentage of the assets of a Subadvised Fund, from the fee received by the Adviser from the Subadvised Fund under the Investment Advisory Agreement.<sup>8</sup> Each Subadviser will bear its own expenses of providing investment management services to a Subadvised Fund.

### **III. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTIVE RELIEF**

Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security, or transaction or any class or classes of persons, securities, or transactions from any provisions of the 1940 Act, or any rule thereunder, if such relief is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the requested relief described in this Application meets this standard.

### **IV. APPLICABLE LAW AND DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Shareholder Vote**

##### *1. Regulatory Background*

Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act states, in part, that it is unlawful for any person to act as an investment adviser to a registered investment company "except pursuant to a written contract, which contract, whether with such registered company or with an investment adviser of such registered company, has been approved by the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of such registered company."

Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act defines an "investment adviser" as any person who, pursuant to an agreement with such registered investment company or with an investment adviser of such registered investment company, is empowered to determine what securities or other property shall be purchased or sold by such registered investment

<sup>8</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

company. Consequently, the Subadvisers are deemed to be within the definition of an “investment adviser” and, therefore, the Subadvisory Agreements are each subject to Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act to the same extent as the Investment Advisory Agreements.

Therefore, Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act requires a majority of the outstanding voting securities of a Subadvised Fund to approve Subadvisory Agreements whenever the Adviser proposes to the Board to hire new Subadvisers for a Subadvised Fund. This provision would also require shareholder approval by a majority vote for any material amendment to Subadvisory Agreements.

Each Subadvisory Agreement is required to terminate automatically and immediately upon its “assignment,” which could occur upon a change in control of the applicable Subadviser.<sup>9</sup>

Rule 2a-6 under the 1940 Act provides that certain transactions that do not result in a “change in actual control or management of the investment adviser” to a registered investment company are not assignments for purposes of Section 15(a)(4) of the 1940 Act, thereby effectively providing an exemption from the shareholder voting requirements in Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Applicants do not believe that Rule 2a-6 under the 1940 Act provides a safe harbor to recommend, hire and terminate Subadvisers. Each Subadviser is expected to run its own day-to-day operations and each will have its own investment personnel. Therefore, in certain instances appointing certain Subadvisers could be viewed as a change in management and, as a result, an “assignment” within the meaning of the 1940 Act.

## 2. *Requested Relief*

Applicants seek relief to (i) select Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, for all or a portion of the assets of a Subadvised Fund and enter into Subadvisory Agreements and (ii) materially amend Subadvisory Agreements with such Subadvisers, each subject to the approval of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, without obtaining shareholder approval required under Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Such relief would include, without limitation, the replacement or reinstatement of any Subadviser with respect to which a Subadvisory Agreement has automatically terminated as a result of an “assignment,” within the meaning of Section 2(a)(4) of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the relief sought should be granted by the Commission because (1) the Adviser either will operate a Subadvised Fund, or may operate a Subadvised Fund, in a manner that is different from conventional investment companies; (2) the relief will benefit shareholders by enabling a Subadvised Fund to operate in a less costly and more efficient manner; and (3) Applicants will consent to a number of conditions that adequately address the policy concerns of Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act, including conditions designed to ensure that shareholder interests are adequately protected through Board oversight.

### a. *Operations of the Trust*

Section 15(a) was designed to protect the interests and expectations of a registered investment company’s shareholders by requiring they approve investment advisory contracts, including subadvisory contracts.<sup>10</sup> Section 15(a) is predicated on the belief that if a registered investment company is to be managed by an investment adviser different from the investment adviser selected by shareholders at the time of the investment, the new investment adviser should be approved by shareholders.<sup>11</sup> The relief sought in this Application is consistent with this public policy.

In the case of a traditional investment company, the investment adviser is a single entity that employs one or more individuals as portfolio managers to make the day-to-day investment decisions. The investment adviser may terminate or hire portfolio managers without board or shareholder approval and has sole discretion to set the compensation it pays to the portfolio managers. Alternatively, for subadvised funds, the investment adviser is not

<sup>9</sup> See Section 15(a)(4) of the 1940 Act. Section 2(a)(4) of the 1940 Act defines “assignment” as any direct or indirect transfer or hypothecation of a contract.

<sup>10</sup> See Section 1(b)(6) of the 1940 Act.

<sup>11</sup> Hearings on S. 3580 before a Subcomm. of the Senate Comm. on Banking and Currency, 76th Cong., 3d Sess. 253 (1940) (statement of David Schenker).

normally responsible for the day-to-day investment decisions and instead, the investment adviser selects, oversees, and evaluates subadvisers who ultimately are responsible for the day-to-day investment decisions.

Primary responsibility for management of a Subadvised Fund's assets, including the selection and oversight of the Subadvisers, is vested in the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board.

Applicants believe that it is consistent with the protection of investors to vest the selection and oversight of the Subadvisers in the Adviser in light of Applicants' multi-manager structure, as well as the shareholders' expectation that the Adviser is in possession of information necessary to select the most capable Subadvisers. The Adviser has the requisite expertise to evaluate, select and oversee the Subadvisers. The Adviser will not normally make day-to-day investment decisions for a Subadvised Fund.<sup>12</sup>

From the perspective of the shareholder, the role of the Subadvisers is substantially equivalent to the role of the individual portfolio managers employed by an investment adviser to a traditional investment company. The individual portfolio managers and the Subadvisers are each charged with the selection of portfolio investments in accordance with a Subadvised Fund's investment objectives and policies and have no broad supervisory or management or administrative responsibilities with respect to a Subadvised Fund. Shareholders expect the Adviser, subject to review and approval of the Board, to select a Subadviser who is in the best position to achieve a Subadvised Fund's investment objective. Shareholders also rely on the Adviser for the overall management of a Subadvised Fund and a Subadvised Fund's total investment performance.

Whenever required by Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act, the Board will request and the Adviser and each Subadviser will furnish such information as may be reasonably necessary for the Board to evaluate the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreements and the Subadvisory Agreements. The information that is provided to the Board will be maintained as part of the records of the Subadvised Funds in accordance with the applicable recordkeeping requirements under the 1940 Act and made available to the Commission in the manner prescribed by the 1940 Act.

In addition, the Adviser and the Board will consider the reasonableness of the Subadviser's compensation with respect to each Subadvised Fund for which the Subadviser will provide portfolio management services. Although only the Adviser's fee is payable directly by a Subadvised Fund, and the Subadviser's fee is payable by the Adviser,<sup>13</sup> the Subadviser's fee directly bears on the amount and reasonableness of the Adviser's fee payable by a Subadvised Fund. Accordingly, the Adviser and the Board will analyze the fees paid to Subadvisers in evaluating the reasonableness of the overall arrangements.

With respect to oversight, Applicants note that the Adviser performs and will perform substantially identical oversight of all Subadvisers, regardless of whether they are affiliated with the Adviser. Such oversight is similar in many respects to how the Adviser would oversee its own internal portfolio management teams.

*b. Lack of Economic Incentives*

In allocating the management of Subadvised Fund assets between itself and one or more Subadvisers, Applicants acknowledge that the Adviser has an incentive to consider the benefit it will receive, directly or indirectly, from the fee paid for the management of those assets. However, Applicants believe that the protections afforded by the conditions set forth in this Application would prevent the Adviser from acting to the detriment of a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders. Applicants assert that the proposed conditions are designed to provide the Board with sufficient independence and the resources and information it needs to monitor and address conflicts of interest. In particular, the Adviser will provide the Board with any information that may be relevant to the Board's evaluation of material conflicts of interest present in any subadvisory arrangement when the Board is considering, with respect to a Subadvised Fund, a change in SubadviserSubadvisers or an existing Subadvisory Agreement as part of its annual review process. The Board will also have to make a separate finding, reflected in the Board minutes, that any change in Subadviser or any renewal of an existing Subadvisory Agreement is in the best interests of the Subadvised Fund and its shareholders and, based on the information provided to it, does not involve a conflict of interest from which

<sup>12</sup> Although the Adviser will not normally make such day-to-day investment decisions, it may manage all or a portion of a Subadvised Fund.

<sup>13</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

the Adviser, a Subadviser, or any officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund or any officer or board member of the Adviser derives an inappropriate advantage.

Applicants note that the relief they are requesting would not be subject to two conditions that have been customary in previous exemptive orders for similar relief, including (i) restrictions on the ownership of interest in Subadvisers by trustees and officers of the Subadvised Funds and the Adviser, and (ii) a requirement that the Adviser provide the Board with profitability reports each quarter. Applicants believe eliminating these conditions is appropriate with respect to the requested relief. As to the condition on ownership, Applicants assert that restricting ownership of interests in a Subadviser by trustees and officers would not be meaningful where the Adviser may itself own an interest in the Subadviser and the Subadviser may be selected for a Subadvised Fund under the requested relief.<sup>14</sup> As to the condition requiring quarterly profitability reports, Applicants note that the Board reviews and will continue to review profitability information at the time of any proposed Subadviser change (see condition 7) and as part of its annual review of each Subadvisory Agreement pursuant to Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has granted the requested relief solely with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief has been premised on the fact that such a Subadviser serves in the same limited capacity as an individual portfolio manager. Applicants believe this same rationale supports extending the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers. Moreover, Applicants note that, while the Adviser's judgment in recommending a Subadviser can be affected by certain conflicts of interest or economic incentives, they do not warrant denying the extension of the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers. For one, the Adviser faces those conflicts and incentives in allocating fund assets between itself and a Subadviser, and across Subadvisers, as it has an interest in considering the benefit it will receive, directly or indirectly, from the fee the fund pays for the management of those assets. Moreover, the Adviser has employed and will continue to employ the same methodology to evaluate potential conflicts of interest, regardless of the affiliation between the Adviser and Subadviser. While the selection and retention of Affiliated Subadvisers by the Adviser potentially presents different or additional conflicts of interest than may be the case with Non-Affiliated or Wholly-Owned Subadvisers, the proposed terms and conditions of the requested relief are designed to address the potential conflicts of interest with respect to both those common to all types of Subadvisers and specific to Affiliated Subadvisers. In particular, Applicants believe that the proposed conditions are protective of shareholder interests by ensuring the Board's independence and providing the Board with the appropriate resources and information to monitor and address conflicts.

*c. Benefits to Shareholders*

Without the requested relief, when a new Subadviser is retained by the Adviser on behalf of a Subadvised Fund, the shareholders of the Subadvised Fund are required to approve the Subadvisory Agreement. Similarly, if an existing Subadvisory Agreement with a Subadviser is amended in any material respect, approval by the shareholders of the affected Subadvised Fund is required. Moreover, if a Subadvisory Agreement with a Subadviser is "assigned" as a result of a change in control of the Subadviser, the shareholders of the affected Subadvised Fund will be required to approve retaining the existing Subadviser. In all these instances the need for shareholder approval requires a Subadvised Fund to call and hold a shareholder meeting, create and distribute proxy materials, and solicit votes from shareholders on behalf of the Subadvised Fund, and generally necessitates the retention of a proxy solicitor. This process is time-intensive, expensive and slow, and, in the case of a poorly performing Subadviser or one whose management team has parted ways with the Subadviser, potentially harmful to a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders.

As noted above, shareholders investing in a Fund that has a Subadviser are effectively hiring the Adviser to manage a Subadvised Fund's assets by overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the Subadviser rather than by the Adviser hiring its own employees to oversee the Subadvised Fund. Applicants believe that permitting the Adviser to perform the duties for which the shareholders of a Subadvised Fund are paying the Adviser — the selection, oversight and evaluation of Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers — without incurring unnecessary delays or expenses is appropriate and in the interest of a Subadvised Fund's shareholders and will allow such Subadvised Fund to operate

<sup>14</sup> Any Trustee of the Board that has an ownership interest in a Subadviser would not be deemed an Independent Trustee under Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act.

more efficiently. Within this structure, the Adviser is in the better position to make an informed selection and evaluation of a Subadviser than are individual shareholders. Without the delay inherent in holding shareholder meetings (and the attendant difficulty in obtaining the necessary quorums), a Subadvised Fund will be able to hire or replace Subadvisers more quickly and at less cost, when the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and the Adviser believe that a change would benefit a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has previously granted the requested relief solely with respect to certain Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief would permit Subadvised Funds to avoid the time intensive and expensive shareholder solicitation process with respect to hiring or making a material amendment to a Subadvisory Agreement with respect to such subadvisers. As discussed above, Applicants believe the same rationale supports extending the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers as well, and while Affiliated Subadvisers may give rise to different or additional conflicts of interests, the proposed terms and conditions, including the enhanced oversight by the Board, address such potential conflicts. Moreover, treating all Subadvisers equally under the requested relief might help avoid the selection of Subadvisers potentially being influenced by considerations regarding the applicable regulatory requirements (i.e., whether a shareholder vote is required) and the associated costs and delays.<sup>15</sup>

If the relief requested is granted, each Investment Advisory Agreement will continue to be fully subject to Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Moreover, the relevant Board will consider the Investment Advisory Agreements and Subadvisory Agreements in connection with its annual contract renewal process under Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act, and the standards of Section 36(b) of the 1940 Act will be applied to the fees paid to each Subadviser.

### 3. *Shareholder Notification*

With the exception of the relief requested in connection with Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below), the prospectus and statement of additional information for each Subadvised Fund will include all information required by Form N-1A concerning the Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, if the requested relief is granted. If a new Subadviser is retained, an existing Subadviser is terminated, or a Subadvisory Agreement is materially amended, a Subadvised Fund's prospectus and statement of additional information will be supplemented promptly pursuant to Rule 497(e) under the Securities Act.

If new Subadvisers are hired, the Subadvised Funds will inform shareholders of the hiring of a new Subadviser pursuant to the following procedures ("Modified Notice and Access Procedures"): (a) within 90 days after a new Subadviser is hired for any Subadvised Fund, that Subadvised Fund will send its shareholders either a Multi-manager Notice or a Multi-manager Notice and ~~Multi-manager~~ Multi-manager Information Statement;<sup>16</sup> and (b) a Subadvised Fund will make the Multi-manager Information Statement available on the website identified in the Multi-manager Notice no later than when the Multi-manager Notice (or Multi-manager Notice and ~~Multi-manager~~ Multi-manager Information Statement) is first sent to shareholders, and will maintain it on that website for at least 90 days. Under the requested relief, a Subadvised Fund would not furnish a Multi-manager Information Statement to shareholders when an existing Subadvisory Agreement is materially modified. In the circumstances described in this Application, a proxy solicitation to approve the appointment of new Subadvisers provides no more meaningful information to shareholders than the proposed Multi-manager Information Statement. Moreover, as

<sup>15</sup> The Adviser is responsible for selecting Subadvisers in the best interests of a Subadvised Fund, regardless of the costs or timing constraints that may be associated with the process of seeking shareholder approval of Subadvisory Agreements and material amendments thereto.

<sup>16</sup> A "Multi-manager Notice" will be modeled on a Notice of Internet Availability as defined in Rule 14a-16 under the Exchange Act, and specifically will, among other things: (a) summarize the relevant information regarding the new Subadviser (except as modified to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure as defined in this Application); (b) inform shareholders that the Multi-manager Information Statement is available on a website; (c) provide the website address; (d) state the time period during which the Multi-manager Information Statement will remain available on that website; (e) provide instructions for accessing and printing the Multi-manager Information Statement; and (f) instruct the shareholder that a paper or email copy of the Multi-manager Information Statement may be obtained, without charge, by contacting the applicable Subadvised Fund.

A "Multi-manager Information Statement" will meet the requirements of Regulation 14C, Schedule 14C and Item 22 of Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act for an information statement, except as modified by the requested order to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure. Multi-manager Information Statements will be filed with the Commission via the EDGAR system.

indicated above, the Board would comply with the requirements of Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act before entering into or amending Subadvisory Agreements.

Prior to any Subadvised Fund relying on the requested relief in this Application, the Board, including its Independent Trustees, will have approved its operations as described herein. Additionally, the shareholders of the applicable Subadvised Fund will approve its operation as described herein by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities, within the meaning of the 1940 Act, or by the sole shareholder prior to a Subadvised Fund offering its shares.<sup>17</sup>

## B. Fee Disclosure

### 1. *Regulatory Background*

Form N-1A is the registration statement used by open-end investment companies. Item 19(a)(3) of Form N-1A requires a registered investment company to disclose in its statement of additional information the method of computing the “advisory fee payable” by the investment company with respect to each investment adviser, including the total dollar amounts that the investment company “paid to the adviser (aggregated with amounts paid to affiliated advisers, if any), and any advisers who are not affiliated persons of the adviser, under the investment advisory contract for the last three fiscal years.”

Rule 20a-1 under the 1940 Act requires proxies solicited with respect to a registered investment company to comply with Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act. Item 22 of Schedule 14A sets forth the information that must be included in a registered investment company’s proxy statement. Item 22(c)(1)(ii) requires a proxy statement for a shareholder meeting at which action will be taken on an investment advisory agreement to describe the terms of the advisory contract, “including the rate of compensation of the investment adviser.” Item 22(c)(1)(iii) requires a description of the “aggregate amount of the investment adviser’s fees and the amount and purpose of any other material payments” by the investment company to the investment adviser, or any affiliated person of the investment adviser during the fiscal year. Item 22(c)(8) requires a description of “the terms of the contract to be acted upon, and, if the action is an amendment to, or a replacement of, an investment advisory contract, the material differences between the current and proposed contract.” Finally, Item 22(c)(9) requires a proxy statement for a shareholder meeting at which a change in the advisory fee will be sought to state (i) the aggregate amount of the investment adviser’s fee during the last year; (ii) the amount that the adviser would have received had the proposed fee been in effect; and (iii) the difference between (i) and (ii) stated as a percentage of the amount in (i). Together, these provisions may require a Subadvised Fund to disclose the fees paid to a Subadviser in connection with shareholder action with respect to entering into, or materially amending, an advisory agreement or establishing, or increasing, advisory fees.

Regulation S-X sets forth the requirements for financial statements required to be included as part of a registered investment company’s registration statement and shareholder reports filed with the Commission. Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X require a registered investment company to include in its financial statement information about the investment advisory fees. These provisions could require a Subadvised Fund’s financial statements to disclose information concerning fees paid to a Subadviser. The exemption from Regulation S-X requested below would permit a Subadvised Fund to include only the Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below); all other items required by Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X will be disclosed.

### 2. *Requested Relief*

Applicants seek relief to permit each Subadvised Fund to disclose (as a dollar amount and a percentage of the Subadvised Fund’s net assets) (a) the aggregate fees paid to the Adviser and any Wholly-Owned Subadvisers; and

<sup>17</sup> If a Subadvised Fund has obtained shareholder approval to operate pursuant to an exemptive order that would permit it to operate in a multi-manager structure where the Adviser would enter into or amend Subadvisory Agreements only with respect to Wholly Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers subject to Board approval but without obtaining shareholder approval and has met all other terms and conditions of the requested order, the Subadvised Fund may rely on the applicable part of the order requested in this Application (i.e., hiring, amending Subadvisory Agreements with, and including Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below) in response to the disclosure requirements discussed herein with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers).

(b) the aggregate fees paid to Affiliated and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers (collectively, the “Aggregate Fee Disclosure”) in lieu of disclosing the fees that may be required by Item 19(a)(3) of Form N-1A, Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8) and 22(c)(9) of Schedule 14A, and Section 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X.<sup>18</sup> The Aggregate Fee Disclosure would be presented as both a dollar amount and as a percentage of the Subadvised Fund’s net assets. Applicants believe that the relief sought in this Application should be granted because the Adviser intends to operate the Subadvised Funds under a multi-manager structure. As a result, disclosure of the individual fees that the Adviser pays to the Subadvisers would not serve any meaningful purpose.

As noted above, the Adviser may operate a Subadvised Fund in a manner different from a traditional investment company. By investing in a Subadvised Fund, shareholders are hiring the Adviser to manage the Subadvised Fund’s assets by overseeing, evaluating, monitoring, and recommending Subadvisers rather than by hiring its own employees to manage the assets directly. The Adviser, under the oversight of the Board, is responsible for overseeing the Subadvisers and recommending their hiring and replacement. In return, the Adviser receives an advisory fee from each Subadvised Fund. Pursuant to each Subadvisory Agreement, the Adviser will agree to pay each Subadviser a fee, based on a percentage of assets of a Subadvised Fund, from the fee received by the Adviser from a Subadvised Fund under the Investment Advisory Agreement.<sup>19</sup> Each Subadviser will bear its own expenses of providing investment management services to a Subadvised Fund. Disclosure of the individual fees that the Adviser would pay to the Subadvisers does not serve any meaningful purpose since investors pay the Adviser to oversee, monitor, evaluate and compensate the Subadvisers. Applicants contend that the primary reasons for requiring disclosure of individual fees paid to Subadvisers are to inform shareholders of expenses to be charged by a particular Subadvised Fund and to enable shareholders to compare the fees to those of other comparable investment companies. Applicants believe that the requested relief satisfies these objectives because each Subadvised Fund’s overall advisory fee will be fully disclosed and, therefore, shareholders will know what a Subadvised Fund’s fees and expenses are and will be able to compare the advisory fees a Subadvised Fund is charged to those of other investment companies.

Indeed, in a more conventional arrangement, requiring the Subadvised Funds to disclose the fees negotiated between the Adviser and the Subadvisers would be the functional equivalent of requiring single adviser investment companies to disclose the salaries of individual portfolio managers employed by that investment adviser. In the case of a traditional investment company, disclosure is made of the compensation paid to the investment adviser, but shareholders are not told or asked to vote on the salary paid by the investment adviser to individual portfolio managers. Similarly, in the case of the Subadvised Funds, the shareholders will have chosen to employ the Adviser and to rely upon the Adviser’s expertise in monitoring the Subadvisers, recommending the Subadvisers’ selection and termination (if necessary), and negotiating the compensation of the Subadvisers. There are no policy reasons that require shareholders of the Subadvised Funds to be informed of the individual Subadviser’s fees any more than shareholders of a traditional investment company (single investment adviser) would be informed of the particular investment adviser’s portfolio managers’ salaries.<sup>20</sup>

The requested relief would benefit shareholders of the Subadvised Funds because it would improve the Adviser’s ability to negotiate the fees paid to Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers. The Adviser’s ability to negotiate with the various Subadvisers would be adversely affected by public disclosure of fees paid to each Subadviser. If the

<sup>18</sup> As used herein, a “Wholly-Owned Subadviser” is any investment adviser that is (1) an indirect or direct “wholly-owned subsidiary” (as such term is defined in Section 2(a)(43) of the 1940 Act) of the Adviser, (2) a “sister company” of the Adviser that is an indirect or direct “wholly-owned subsidiary” of the same company that indirectly or directly wholly owns the Adviser (the Adviser’s “parent company”), or (3) a parent company of the Adviser. A “Non-Affiliated Subadviser” is any investment adviser that is not an “affiliated person” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of a Fund or the Adviser, except to the extent that an affiliation arises solely because the Subadviser serves as a subadviser to one or more Funds. Section 2(a)(43) of the 1940 Act defines “wholly-owned subsidiary” of a person as a company 95 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of which are, directly or indirectly, owned by such a person.

<sup>19</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

<sup>20</sup> The relief would be consistent with the Commission’s disclosure requirements applicable to fund portfolio managers that were previously adopted. See Investment Company Act Release No. 26533 (Aug. 23, 2004). Under these disclosure requirements, a fund is required to include in its statement of additional information, among other matters, a description of the structure of and the method used to determine the compensation structure of its “portfolio managers.” Applicants state that with respect to each Subadvised Fund, the statement of additional information will describe the structure of, and method used to determine, the compensation received by each portfolio manager employed by any Subadviser. In addition to this disclosure with respect to portfolio managers, Applicants state that with respect to each Subadvised Fund, the statement of additional information will describe the structure of, and method used to determine, the compensation received by each Subadviser.

Adviser is not required to disclose the Subadvisers' fees to the public, the Adviser may be able to negotiate rates that are below a Subadviser's "posted" amounts as the rate would not be disclosed to the Subadviser's other clients. Moreover, if one Subadviser is aware of the advisory fee paid to another Subadviser, the Subadviser would likely take it into account in negotiating its own fee.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has previously granted the requested relief solely with respect to Wholly-Owned and ~~Non-Affiliated~~Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief only permitted the disclosure of aggregate fees paid to ~~Wholly-Owned~~Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers and required disclosure of individual fees paid to Affiliated Subadvisers. If the requested relief under Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act is granted to extend to Affiliated Subadvisers, Applicants believe it is appropriate to permit each Subadvised Fund to disclose only aggregate fees paid to Affiliated Subadvisers for the same reasons that similar relief has been granted to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers, as discussed above.

### C. Precedent

Applicants note that substantially identical relief was granted by the Commission in the Carillon Order and more recently in the Morgan Stanley Order, the Wedbush Order, the Adviser Series Trust Order, the Venerable Order, the RBB Order, the Roundhill Order, the BondBloxx Order, the Liberty Order, the RM Opportunity Order, the Advisors Trust Order, the New Age Alpha Trust Order, ~~and~~ the LFT Order, the Azzad Order, the Distillate Capital Order, the Esoterica Order, the Clearshares Order, the OSI ETF Order, and the Investment Managers Order. Applicants note that substantially the same exemptions requested herein with respect to relief from Section 15(a) and relief from the disclosure requirements of the rules and forms discussed herein for Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, have been granted previously by the Commission with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers. See, e.g., Natixis Funds Trust I, et al., Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33265 (October 5, 2018) (notice) and 33287 (October 31, 2018) (order); Advisors Asset Management, Inc. and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33169 (July 24, 2018) (notice) and 33207 (August 21, 2018) (order); TriLine Index Solutions, LLC and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33159 (July 11, 2018) (notice) and 33192 (August 6, 2018) (order); SL Advisors, LLC and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33158 (July 11, 2018) (notice) and 33193 (August 6, 2018) (order); DMS ETF Trust I, et al., Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33156 (July 10, 2018) (notice) and 33196 (August 7, 2018) (order).

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe that the relief sought would be appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

## V. CONDITIONS

Applicants agree that reliance on any order of the Commission granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Before a Subadvised Fund may rely on the order requested herein, the operation of the Subadvised Fund in the manner described in this Application will be approved by a majority of the Subadvised Fund's outstanding voting securities as defined in the 1940 Act, or, in the case of a Subadvised Fund whose public shareholders purchase shares on the basis of a prospectus containing the disclosure contemplated by condition 2 below, by the initial shareholder before such Subadvised Fund's shares are offered to the public.

(2) The prospectus for each Subadvised Fund will disclose the existence, substance and effect of any order granted pursuant to the Application. In addition, each Subadvised Fund will hold itself out to the public as employing the multi-manager structure described in this Application. The prospectus will prominently disclose that the Adviser has the ultimate responsibility, subject to oversight by the Board, to oversee the Subadvisers and recommend their hiring, termination, and replacement.

(3) The Adviser will provide general management services to each Subadvised Fund, including overall supervisory responsibility for the general management and investment of the Subadvised Fund's assets, and subject to review and oversight of the Board, will (i) set the Subadvised Fund's overall investment strategies, (ii) evaluate, select, and recommend Subadvisers for all or a portion of the Subadvised Fund's assets, (iii) allocate and, when appropriate,

reallocate the Subadvised Fund's assets among Subadvisers, (iv) monitor and evaluate the Subadvisers' performance, and (v) implement procedures reasonably designed to ensure that Subadvisers comply with the Subadvised Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions.

(4) Subadvised Funds will inform shareholders of the hiring of a new Subadviser within 90 days after the hiring of the new Subadviser pursuant to the Modified Notice and Access Procedures.

(5) At all times, at least a majority of the Board will be Independent Trustees, and the selection and nomination of new or additional Independent Trustees will be placed within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

(6) Independent Legal Counsel, as defined in Rule 0-1(a)(6) under the 1940 Act, will be engaged to represent the Independent Trustees. The selection of such counsel will be within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

(7) Whenever a Subadviser is hired or terminated, the Adviser will provide the Board with information showing the expected impact on the profitability of the Adviser.

(8) The Board must evaluate any material conflicts that may be present in a subadvisory arrangement. Specifically, whenever a subadviser change is proposed for a Subadvised Fund ("Subadviser Change") or the Board considers an existing Subadvisory Agreement as part of its annual review process ("Subadviser Review"):

(a) the Adviser will provide the Board, to the extent not already being provided pursuant to Section 15(c) of ~~the 1940~~the 1940 Act, with all relevant information concerning:

(i) any material interest in the proposed new Subadviser, in the case of a Subadviser Change, or the Subadviser in the case of a Subadviser Review, held directly or indirectly by the Adviser or a parent or sister company of the Adviser, and any material impact the proposed Subadvisory Agreement may have on that interest;

(ii) any arrangement or understanding in which the Adviser or any parent or sister company of the Adviser is a participant that (A) may have had a material effect on the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review, or (B) may be materially affected by the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review;

(iii) any material interest in a Subadviser held directly or indirectly by an officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund, or an officer or board member of the Adviser (other than through a pooled investment vehicle not controlled by such person); and

(iv) any other information that may be relevant to the Board in evaluating any potential material conflicts of interest in the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review.

(b) the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, will make a separate finding, reflected in the Board minutes, that the Subadviser Change or continuation after Subadviser Review is in the best interests of the Subadvised Fund and its shareholders and, based on the information provided to the Board, does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser, a Subadviser, any officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund, or any officer or board member of the Adviser derives an inappropriate advantage.

(9) Each Subadvised Fund will disclose in its registration statement the Aggregate Fee Disclosure.

(10) In the event that the Commission adopts a rule under the 1940 Act providing substantially similar relief to that in the order requested in the Application, the requested order will expire on the effective date of that rule.

(11) Any new Subadvisory Agreement or any amendment to an existing Investment Advisory Agreement or Subadvisory Agreement that directly or indirectly results in an increase in the aggregate advisory fee rate payable by a Subadvised Fund will be submitted to the Subadvised Fund's shareholders for approval.

## VI. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

All of the requirements for execution and filing of this Application on behalf of Applicants have been complied with in accordance with the applicable organizational documents of Applicants, and the undersigned officers of Applicants are fully authorized to execute this Application and any amendments hereto. The authorizations to file are attached as Exhibits A-1 and A-2 to this Application in accordance with the requirements of Rule 0-2(c)(1) under the 1940 Act and the verifications required by Rule 0-2(d) under the 1940 Act are attached as Exhibits B-1 and B-2 to this Application. Marked copies of the Application are included as Exhibits C-1 and C-~~2~~3 to this Application in accordance with the requirements of Rule 0-5(e) under the 1940 Act.

Pursuant to Rule 0-2(f) under the 1940 Act, the Trust states that its address is ~~225 S Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101~~1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105 and the Adviser states that its address is ~~225 S Lake Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101~~1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105, and that all written communications regarding this Application should be directed to the individuals and addresses indicated on the first page of this Application.

Applicants desire that the Commission issue the requested order pursuant to Rule 0-5 under the 1940 Act without conducting a hearing.

## VII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Commission issue an order under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act granting the relief requested in the Application.

Applicants submit that the requested exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, consistent with the protection of investors and consistent with the purpose fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

[Signature Page Follows]

Respectfully submitted,

~~Wedbush Series Trust~~ FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

By: ~~/s/ Matthew J. Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Name: ~~Matthew J. Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Title: ~~President~~ Secretary and Deputy General Counsel

~~Wedbush Fund Advisers~~ FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: ~~/s/ Matthew J. Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Name: ~~Matthew J. Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Title: ~~Chief Operating Officer~~ Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director

~~May 29~~ October 23, 2025

### Exhibit Index

Authorization of <del>Wedbush Series</del> First Eagle ETF Trust	Exhibit A-1
Authorization of <del>Wedbush Fund Advisers</del> First Eagle Investment Management, LLC	Exhibit A-2
Verification of <del>Wedbush Series</del> First Eagle ETF Trust	Exhibit B-1
Verification of <del>Wedbush Fund Advisers</del> First Eagle Investment Management, LLC	Exhibit B-2
Marked Copies of the Application Pursuant to Rule 0-5(e)	Exhibits C-1 <del>-and</del> , C-2 and C-3

~~Exhibit~~EXHIBIT A-1

~~Wedbush Series Trust~~  
FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

~~Authorization to File Exemptive Application~~  
AUTHORIZATION TO FILE EXEMPTIVE ORDER APPLICATION

The undersigned, ~~Matthew Bromberg~~Sheelyn Michael, hereby certifies that ~~he~~she is the duly appointed Secretary of ~~Wedbush Series~~First Eagle ETF Trust (the "Trust"); that, with respect to the attached application for exemption from the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act"), the rules and forms thereunder and any amendments thereto (such application along with any amendments, the "Application"), all actions necessary to authorize the execution and filing of the Application under the Declaration of Trust and ~~Bylaws~~By-Laws of the Trust have been taken and the person signing and filing the Application on behalf of the Trust is fully authorized to do so; and that the following is a complete, true and correct copy of the resolutions duly adopted by the Board ~~on April 9 of~~Trustees of the Trust on October 22, 2025, and that such resolutions have not been revoked, modified, rescinded, or amended and are in full force and effect:

~~WHEREAS, the Board deems it to be in the best interests of the Trust to permit the Adviser, subject to certain terms and conditions required by the SEC in an exemptive application ("Application"), to enter into and materially amend investment sub-advisory agreements with sub-advisers, for any Series of the Trust advised by the Adviser, or any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser or its successors, that uses the multi-manager structure described in the Application, and any amendments thereto, subject to review and approval by the Board, including the Independent Trustees, but not the shareholders of the Fund;~~

RESOLVED, that the officers of First Eagle ETF Trust (the "Trust") be, and each hereby is, authorized to prepare or cause to be prepared, execute, and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, an application, and any amendments thereto, for an order pursuant to Sections 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), for exemptions from various sections of the 1940 Act, including, but not limited to, Sections 15(a) of the 1940 Act, to permit its series advised by First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, subject to the Board of Trustees of the Trust's approval, to enter into and materially amend investment sub-advisory agreements without obtaining shareholder approval; and be it

~~WHEREAS, the Board deems it to be in the best interests of the Trust to permit the Fund to disclose to shareholders only the aggregate fees paid to sub-advisers; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is appropriate and necessary to file with the SEC the Application which will accomplish the objectives described above.~~

~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT~~

~~RESOLVED, that the filing with the SEC of the Application for exemptive relief for the Fund under Section 6(c) for exemptions from Section 15 of the 1940 Act and from certain disclosure requirements, and of any amendments thereto, to operate in a multi-manager structure as described in the Application, as it may be amended, be and it hereby is, approved; and it is~~

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of the Trust be, and each hereby is, authorized and directed to take any and all actions that each of them, in his or her sole discretion, deems necessary or and appropriate to carry out the intent and purposes accomplish the purpose of the foregoing resolution.

By: /s/ Matthew J. BrombergSheelyn Michael  
Name: Matthew J. BrombergSheelyn Michael  
Title: Secretary  
~~May 29~~October 23, 2025

~~Exhibit~~ EXHIBIT A-2

~~Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC~~  
~~Authorization to File Exemptive Application~~  
FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

AUTHORIZATION TO FILE EXEMPTIVE APPLICATION

The undersigned, ~~Matthew Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael, hereby certifies that ~~he~~ she is the ~~duly elected Chief Operating Officer of Wedbush Fund Advisers~~ Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director of First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (“WEA/FEIM”); that, with respect to the attached application for exemption from the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, rules and forms thereunder and any amendments thereto (such application along with any amendments, the “Application”), all actions necessary to authorize the execution and filing of the Application under the governing documents of ~~WEA/FEIM~~ WEA/FEIM have been taken; and that the person signing and filing the Application by ~~WEA/FEIM~~ WEA/FEIM is fully authorized to do so.

By: /s/ Matthew J. Bromberg Sheelyn Michael  
Name: ~~Matthew J. Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Title: ~~Chief Operating Officer~~ Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director

~~May 29~~ October 23, 2025

~~Exhibit~~ EXHIBIT B-1

FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

~~Wedbush Series Trust~~

~~Verification Pursuant to Rule~~ VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 0-2(d)

The undersigned states ~~he~~she has duly executed the attached Application dated ~~May 29~~October 23, 2025, for and on behalf of ~~Wedbush Series~~First Eagle ETF Trust; that ~~he~~she is the ~~President~~Secretary and Deputy General Counsel of such trust; and that all action by shareholders, trustees and other bodies necessary to authorize the undersigned to execute and file such instrument has been taken. The undersigned further says that she is familiar with such instrument, and the contents thereof, and that the facts therein set forth are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

~~Wedbush Series Trust~~ FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

By: /s/ Matthew J. Bromberg ~~Matthew J. Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Name: Matthew J. Bromberg ~~Matthew J. Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Title: President ~~President~~ Secretary and Deputy General Counsel  
~~May 29~~October 23, 2025

~~Exhibit~~ EXHIBIT B-2

FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

~~Wedbush Fund Advisers, LLC~~

~~Verification Pursuant to Rule~~

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 0-2(d)

The undersigned states ~~he~~ Sheelyn Michael has duly executed the attached Application dated ~~May-29~~ October 23, 2025, for and on behalf of ~~Wedbush Fund Advisers~~ First Eagle Investment Management, LLC; that ~~he is the Chief Operating Officer~~ Sheelyn Michael is the Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director of such company; and that all action by stockholders, officers, directors and other bodies necessary to authorize the undersigned to execute and file such instrument has been taken. The undersigned further says that ~~he~~ Sheelyn Michael is familiar with such instrument, and the contents thereof, and that the facts therein set forth are true to the best of ~~his~~ her knowledge, information and belief.

~~Wedbush Fund Advisers~~ FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: /s/ Matthew J. Bromberg Sheelyn Michael

Name: ~~Matthew J. Bromberg~~ Sheelyn Michael

Title: ~~Chief Operating Officer~~ Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director

~~May 29~~ October 23, 2025

**EXHIBIT C-3**

EXPEDITED REVIEW REQUESTED UNDER 17 CFR 270.0-5(d)

File No. ~~812~~-[ ]

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on ~~December 18, 2024~~October 23, 2025

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549

APPLICATION FOR  
AN ORDER OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 6(c)  
OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940,  
AS AMENDED (THE "1940 ACT"),  
FROM: (1) CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SECTION 15(a) OF THE 1940 ACT AND  
(2) CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS UNDER  
VARIOUS RULES AND FORMS

In the Matter of

~~THE RBB FUND TRUST~~  
FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST  
1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105

~~615 East Michigan Street~~  
~~Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5207~~  
and

FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC  
1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105

*Please direct all communications regarding this Application to:*

~~Jillian L. Bosmann, Esq. (jillian.bosmann@faegredrinker.com)~~  
~~Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP~~  
~~One Logan Square, Suite 2000~~  
~~Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996~~

Nathan J. Greene  
Matthew J. Kutner  
Sidley Austin LLP  
787 Seventh Avenue,  
New York, New York 10019  
ngreene@sidley.com, (212) 839-8673  
mkutner@sidley.com, (212) 839-8679

*with a copy to:*

Sheelyn Michael (~~sheelyn.michael@firsteagle.com~~)  
First Eagle Investment Management, LLC  
1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105  
sheelyn.michael@firsteagle.com

This Application (including Exhibits) contains ~~24~~22 pages.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

In the Matter of

~~THE RBB FUND~~ FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

~~615 East Michigan Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5207~~  
1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105

and

**FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC**

1345 Avenue of the Americas,  
New York, New York 10105

Investment Company Act of 1940 File No. ~~812~~-[ ]

APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 6(c) OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940, AS AMENDED (*THE "1940 ACT"*), FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SECTION 15(a) OF THE 1940 ACT AND FROM CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS UNDER VARIOUS RULES AND FORMS

## I. INTRODUCTION

~~The RBB Fund~~ First Eagle ETF Trust (the “Trust”), a registered open-end management investment company that ~~offers one or more~~ will offer multiple series of shares, ~~including certain series advised by the Adviser (defined below) (each such series advised by the Adviser;~~ (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”), on its own behalf, ~~and on behalf of each Fund,~~ and First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (the “~~Initial Adviser~~” ~~or the~~ “Adviser” and together with the Trust, the “Applicants”),<sup>1</sup> hereby submit this application (the “Application”) to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) for an order of exemption pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”).

Applicants request an order exempting them from Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act to permit the Adviser, subject to the approval of the board of trustees of the Trust (the “Board” or “Trustees”)<sup>2</sup>, including a majority of those who are not “interested persons” of the Trust or the Adviser, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act (the “Independent Trustees”), to take certain actions without obtaining shareholder approval as follows: (i) select investment subadvisers (each a “Subadviser” and collectively, the “Subadvisers”) for all or a portion of the assets of a Fund pursuant to an investment subadvisory agreement with each Subadviser (each a “Subadvisory Agreement” and collectively, the “Subadvisory Agreements”); and (ii) materially amend Subadvisory Agreements with the Subadvisers.

As used herein, a “Subadviser” for a Fund is any investment adviser that enters into a Subadvisory Agreement with respect to a Fund.

Applicants also apply for an order of the Commission under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act exempting a Fund from certain disclosure obligations under the following rules and forms: (i) Item 19(a)(3) of Form N-1A; (ii) Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8), and 22(c) (9) of Schedule 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”); and (iii) Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b), and (c) of Regulation S-X under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). Similar to the order the Commission recently granted to Carillon Series Trust, et al.,<sup>3</sup> in addition to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers (both as defined below), the relief

<sup>1</sup> The term “Adviser” means (i) ~~the Initial Adviser~~ First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, (ii) its successors, and (iii) any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, ~~the Initial Adviser~~ First Eagle Investment Management, LLC or its successors that serves as the primary adviser to a Subadvised Fund (as defined below). For the purposes of the requested order, “successor” is limited to an entity that results from a reorganization into another jurisdiction or a change in the type of business organization.

<sup>2</sup> The term “Board” also includes the board of trustees or directors of a future Subadvised Fund (as defined below), if different from the board of trustees of the Trust.

<sup>3</sup> The Commission issued an order granting the expanded relief requested by the Application. Carillon Series Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 33464 (May 2, 2019) (Notice) and No. 33494 (May 29, 2019) (Order) (the “Carillon Order”). See also Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds Consulting Group Advisory Services LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 35681 (July 17, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35713 (August 12, 2025) (Order) (the “Morgan Stanley Order”); Wedbush Series Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 35668 (July 8, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35706 (August 5, 2025) (Order) (the “Wedbush Order”); Advisors Series Trust and Distribution Cognizant, LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 35642 (June 17, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35676 (July 15, 2025) (Order) (the “Adviser Series Trust Order”); Venerable Variable Insurance Trust and Venerable Investment Advisers, LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 35467 (February 6, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35490 (March 4, 2025) (Order) (the “Venerable Order”); The RBB Fund Trust and First Eagle Investments Management, LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 35462 (January 29, 2025) (Notice) and No. 35477 (February 25, 2025) (Order) (the “RBB Order”); Roundhill ETF Trust and Roundhill Financial, Inc., Investment Company Act Release No. 35120 (January 30, 2024) (Notice) and No. 35147 (February 27, 2024) (Order) (the “Roundhill Trust Order”); ~~See also:~~ BondBloxx ETF Trust and BondBloxx Investment Management Corporation, Investment Company Act Release No. 35119 (January 30, 2024) (Notice) and No. 35146 (February 27, 2024) (Order) (the “BondBloxx Trust Order”); ~~See also:~~ Investment Manager Series Trust and Liberty Street Advisers, Inc., Investment Company Act Release No. 34913 (May 10, 2023) (Notice) and No. 35145 (Sept. 5, 2023) (Order) (the “Liberty Order”); ~~See also:~~ RM Opportunity Trust and Rocky Mountain Private Wealth Management L.L.C., Investment Company Act Release No. 34964 (July 24, 2023) (Notice) and No. 34986 (August 21, 2023) (Order) (the “RM Opportunity Order”); ~~See also:~~ Advisors Series Trust and Semper Capital Management, L.P., Investment Company Act Release No. 34500 (February 9, 2022) (Notice) and No. 34528 (March 8, 2022) (Order) (the “Advisors Trust Order”); ~~See also:~~ New Age Alpha Trust and New Age Alpha Advisors, LLC, Investment Company Act Rel. No. 34322 (July 6, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34348 (August 3, 2021) (Order) (the “New Age Alpha Trust Order”); ~~See also:~~ Listed Funds Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Rel. No. 34293 (June 2, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34321 (June 29, 2021) (Order) (“LFT Order”); ~~See also:~~ Azzad Funds, et al., Investment Company Act Rel. No. 34241 (April 5, 2021) and No. 34261 (April 30, 2021) (“Azzad Order”); ~~See also:~~ ETF Series Solutions and Distillate Capital Partners LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34169 (January 11, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34190

described in this Application would extend to any Subadviser that is an “affiliated person” (as such term is defined in Section 2(a)(3) of the 1940 Act) of a Fund or the Adviser for reasons other than serving as investment subadviser to one or more Funds (an “Affiliated Subadviser”).<sup>4</sup>

Applicants request that the relief sought herein apply to Applicants, as well as to any existing or future registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that intends to rely on the requested order in the future and (i) is advised by the Adviser; (ii) uses the multi-manager structure described in this Application; and (iii) complies with the terms and conditions set forth herein (each, and together with any Fund that ~~currently uses~~will use the multi-manager structure described in this Application, a “Subadvised Fund” and collectively, the “Subadvised Funds”).<sup>5</sup>

Applicants are seeking this exemption primarily to enhance the ability of the Adviser and the Board to obtain for a Subadvised Fund the services of one or more Subadvisers believed by the Adviser and the Board to be particularly well suited for all or a portion of the assets of the Subadvised Fund, and to make material amendments to Subadvisory Agreements believed by the Adviser and the Board to be appropriate, without the delay and expense of convening special meetings of shareholders to approve the Subadvisory Agreements. Under this structure, the Adviser, in its capacity as investment adviser, would evaluate, allocate assets to and oversee the Subadvisers, and make recommendations about their hiring, termination and replacement to the Board, at all times subject to the authority of the Board. This structure is commonly referred to as a “multi-manager” structure. In addition, Applicants are seeking relief from certain disclosure requirements concerning fees paid to Subadvisers.

For purposes of this Application, the term “Subadviser” will also apply to any Subadviser to any wholly-owned subsidiary of a Subadvised Fund (each, a “Subsidiary” and collectively, the “Subsidiaries”). The Adviser will serve as investment adviser to each Subsidiary and may retain one or more Subadvisers to manage the assets of a Subsidiary. Applicants also request relief with respect to any Subadvisers who serve as Subadvisers to a Subsidiary. Where appropriate, Subsidiaries are also included in the term “Subadvised Funds.”

For the reasons discussed below, Applicants believe that the requested relief is appropriate, in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the Subadvised Funds would be negatively impacted without the requested relief because of delays in hiring or replacing Subadvisers and costs associated with the proxy solicitation to approve new or amended Subadvisory Agreements.

## II. BACKGROUND

### A. ~~THE TRUST~~The Trust

The Trust is registered under the 1940 Act as an open-end management investment company organized as a Delaware statutory trust. The Adviser ~~serves or~~ will serve as “investment adviser,” as defined in Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act, to each Fund. The Trust intends to operate one or more Funds under a multi-manager structure,~~–~~ and

(February 8, 2021) (Order) (the “Distillate Capital Order”); Esoterica Thematic Trust and Esoterica Capital LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34161 (January 4, 2021) (Notice) and No. 34185 (February 1, 2021) (Order) (the “Esoterica Order”); ETF Series Solutions and Clearshares LLC, Investment Company Act Release No. 34144 (December 21, 2020) (Notice) and No. 34174 (January 19, 2021) (Order) (the “Clearshares Order”); OSI ETF Trust, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 33678 (October 29, 2019) (Notice) and No. 33705 (November 26, 2019) (Order) (the “OSI ETF Order”); and Investment Managers Series Trust II, et al., Investment Company Act Release No. 34075 (October 27, 2020) (Notice) and No. 34104 (November 23, 2020) (Order) (the “Investment Managers Order”).

<sup>4</sup> Section 2(a)(3) of the 1940 Act defines “affiliated person” as follows: “Affiliated person” of another person means (A) any person directly or indirectly owning, controlling, or holding with power to vote, 5 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of such other person; (B) any person 5 per centum or more of whose outstanding voting securities are directly or indirectly owned, controlled, or held with power to vote, by such other person; (C) any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, such other person; (D) any officer, director, partner, copartner, or employee of such other person; (E) if such other person is an investment company, any investment adviser thereof or any member of an advisory board thereof; and (F) if such other person is an unincorporated investment company not having a board of directors, the depositor thereof.

<sup>5</sup> All registered open-end investment companies that currently intend to rely on the requested order are named as Applicants. ~~All Funds that The Trust does not~~ currently ~~are, or that currently intend to be,~~have any Subadvised Funds ~~are identified in this Application~~but intends to launch such funds in the future. Any entity that relies on the requested order will do so only in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this Application.

which will be offered and sold pursuant to a registration statement on Form N-1A. The Board consists of ten (10) trustees, eight (8) ~~trustees, six (6)~~ of whom ~~serve as an~~ are Independent ~~Trustee~~ Trustees.

The Trust has filed a registration statement on Form N-1A to register shares of the First Eagle US Equity ETF and the First Eagle Mid Cap Equity ETF (the “Initial Funds”). The registration statement is not effective as of the date of this filing. The Trust intends to offer shares of multiple series, each with its own distinct investment objectives, policies, and restrictions. The Adviser ~~has retained~~ will retain a Subadviser to provide investment advisory services to one or more Funds.<sup>6</sup>

B. ~~THE ADVISER~~ The Adviser

First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, with its business address at 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105, is a Delaware limited liability company registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “Advisers Act”), and ~~serves or will serve as investment adviser to the Funds. The Adviser serves or~~ will serve as investment adviser to each Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with ~~that~~ the Fund (each, an “Investment Advisory Agreement” and, together, the “Investment Advisory Agreements”). Any future Adviser also will be registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act.

Consistent with the terms of a Subadvised Fund’s Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser may, subject to the approval of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and the shareholders of the applicable Subadvised Fund (if required by applicable law), delegate portfolio management responsibilities of all or a portion of the assets of a Subadvised Fund to a Subadviser. The Adviser retains overall responsibility for the management and investment of the assets of the Subadvised Fund. With respect to each Subadvised Fund, the Adviser’s responsibilities include, for example, recommending the removal or replacement of Subadvisers, and allocating the portion of that Subadvised Fund’s assets to any given Subadviser and reallocating those assets as necessary from time to time. The Adviser evaluates, selects and recommends Subadvisers for the Subadvised Fund, and monitors and reviews each Subadviser and its performance and its compliance with the applicable Subadvised Fund’s investment policies and restrictions.

Each Investment Advisory Agreement ~~has been or~~ will be approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and by the shareholders of the relevant Fund in the manner required by Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act. The terms of the Investment Advisory Agreements comply or will comply with Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Applicants are not seeking an exemption from the provisions of the 1940 Act with respect to the Investment Advisory Agreements. Pursuant to the terms of each Investment Advisory Agreement, the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board, has agreed or will agree to provide for the overall management of the Subadvised Funds including (i) the provision of a continuous investment program for each Subadvised Fund, including investment research and management with respect to all securities, investments, cash and cash equivalents in each Subadvised Fund, (ii) the determination from time to time of the securities and other investments to be purchased, retained, or sold by the Trust for each Subadvised Fund, (iii) the placement from time to time of orders for all purchases and sales made for each Subadvised Fund, (iv) in connection with its management of each Subadvised Fund, monitoring and assistance with anticipated purchases and redemptions of creation units by shareholders and new investors, (v) the determination of the amount of the cash component, the identity and number of shares of the securities to be accepted in exchange for “Creation Units” for each Subadvised Fund and the securities that will be applicable that day to redemption requests received for each Subadvised Fund (and may give directions to the Trust’s custodian with respect to such designations), (vi) the coordination of each Subadvised

<sup>6</sup> Each Subadvised Fund ~~discloses or~~ will disclose in its registration statement that it intends to operate pursuant to the order ~~as~~ requested in this Application, if granted. The prospectus for a Subadvised Fund will continue to include the disclosure required by Condition 2 below at all times subsequent to the approval required by Condition 1 below. If a Subadvised Fund has obtained shareholder approval to operate under the multi-manager structure described herein prior to the issuance of an order as requested in this Application, the prospectus for the Subadvised Fund will at all times following such shareholder approval contain appropriate disclosure that the Subadvised Fund has applied for exemptive relief to operate under the multi-manager structure described herein, including the ability to hire new Subadvisers and materially amend an existing Subadvisory Agreement without soliciting further shareholder vote.

Fund's compliance with rules of the applicable securities exchange, and (vii) the establishment, monitoring and keeping up-to-date of each Subadvised Fund's website to comply with applicable law.

Each Investment Advisory Agreement permits or will permit the Adviser to enter into Subadvisory Agreements with one or more Subadvisers. Pursuant to its authority under the Investment Advisory Agreements, the Adviser has entered or will enter into Subadvisory Agreements as described below under "The Subadvisers and the Subadvised Funds." If the name of any Subadvised Fund contains the name of a subadviser, the name of the Adviser that serves as the primary adviser to the Subadvised Fund, or a trademark or trade name that is owned by or publicly used to identify that Adviser, will precede the name of the subadviser.

For its services to each Fund, the Adviser receives or will receive an investment advisory fee from that Fund as specified in the applicable Investment Advisory Agreement. The investment advisory fees are calculated based on the average daily net assets of the particular Fund, calculated daily as of the close of business on each business day during the month.

C. ~~THE SUBADVISERS AND THE SUBADVISED FUNDS~~ The Subadvisers and Subadvised Funds

Pursuant to the authority under the Investment Advisory Agreements, the Adviser may enter into Subadvisory Agreements with various Subadvisers on behalf of a Fund. ~~The Initial Adviser has entered into a Subadvisory Agreement with Exchange Traded Concepts, LLC ("Exchange Traded Concepts"), which serves as the Subadviser to the First Eagle Global Equity ETF and the First Eagle Overseas Equity ETF. Exchange Traded Concepts is considered a Non-Affiliated Subadviser (as defined below). The Adviser also may, in the future, enter into Subadvisory Agreements with other Subadvisers on behalf of the First Eagle Global Equity ETF, the First Eagle Overseas Equity ETF and other Subadvised Funds.<sup>7</sup>~~

With respect to any future Subadviser that is wholly owned by the Adviser or the Adviser's parent company, the Adviser will have overall responsibility for the affairs of such Subadviser, and generally will approve certain actions by that Subadviser that could materially affect the operations of the Adviser and its subsidiaries as a group. ~~Exchange Traded Concepts has, and any~~ Any future Subadviser will have, ~~their~~ its own employees who would provide investment services to a Subadvised Fund.

~~The Subadviser is, and any~~ Any future Subadvisers will be, "investment advisers" to the Subadvised Funds within the meaning of Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act and ~~provide, or~~ will provide, investment management services to the Subadvised Funds subject to, without limitation, the requirements of Sections 15(c) and 36(b) of the 1940 Act. In addition, ~~the Subadviser is, and~~ any future Subadvisers will be, registered with the Commission as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act or not subject to such registration. The Adviser selects Subadvisers based on the Adviser's evaluation of the Subadvisers' skills in managing assets pursuant to particular investment styles, and recommends their hiring to the Board. ~~In~~ The Adviser may in the future, ~~the Adviser may~~ employ multiple Subadvisers for one or more of any Subadvised Funds. In those instances, the Adviser would allocate and, as appropriate, reallocate a Subadvised Fund's assets among the Subadvisers.

The Adviser ~~engages or~~ will engage in an ongoing analysis of the continued advisability of retaining a Subadviser and ~~makes or~~ will make recommendations to the Board as needed. The Adviser ~~also negotiates and renegotiates, or~~ will negotiate and renegotiate, the terms of the Subadvisory Agreements with a Subadviser, including the fees paid to the Subadvisers, and ~~makes or~~ will make recommendations to the Board as needed.

The Subadvisers, subject to the oversight of the Adviser and the Board, ~~determine or~~ will determine the securities and other instruments to be purchased, sold or entered into by a Subadvised Fund's portfolio or a portion thereof,

<sup>7</sup>~~The Trust has filed Amendments to Form N-1A with respect to the First Eagle Global Equity ETF and the First Eagle Overseas Equity ETF; each of which has not yet commenced operations and currently intends to be a Subadvised Fund. The Adviser also may, in the future, enter into Subadvisory Agreements with other Subadvisers on behalf of the foregoing Funds.~~

and ~~place or~~ will place orders with brokers or dealers that they select.<sup>87</sup> The Subadvisers ~~keep or~~ will keep certain records required by the 1940 Act and the Advisers Act to be maintained on behalf of the relevant Subadvised Fund, and ~~assist or~~ will assist the Adviser to maintain the Subadvised Fund's compliance with the relevant requirements of the 1940 Act. The Subadvisers ~~monitor or~~ will monitor the respective Subadvised Fund's investments and ~~provide or~~ will provide periodic reports to the Board and the Adviser. The Subadvisers also ~~make or~~ will make their officers and employees available to the Adviser and the Board to review the investment performance and investment policies of the Subadvised Fund.

The Subadvisory Agreements ~~were or~~ will be approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, in accordance with Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act.

The terms of each Subadvisory Agreement ~~comply or~~ will comply fully with the requirements of Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Each Subadvisory Agreement will set forth the duties of the Subadviser and precisely describe the compensation paid to the Subadviser.

After an initial two-year period, the terms of the Subadvisory Agreements will be reviewed and renewed on an annual basis by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees in accordance with Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act. The Board ~~dedicates or~~ will dedicate substantial time to review contract matters, including matters relating to Investment Advisory Agreements and Subadvisory Agreements. With respect to each Subadvised Fund, the Board ~~reviews or~~ will review comprehensive materials received from the Adviser, the Subadviser, independent third parties and independent counsel. Applicants will continue this annual review and renewal process for Subadvisory Agreements in accordance with the 1940 Act if the relief requested herein is granted by the Commission.

The Board ~~reviews or~~ will review information provided by the Adviser and Subadvisers when it is asked to approve or renew Subadvisory Agreements. Each Subadvised Fund ~~discloses or~~ will disclose in its statutory prospectus that a discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval and renewal of the Investment Advisory Agreements and any applicable Subadvisory Agreements is available in the Subadvised Fund's ~~annual or semi-annual report to shareholders~~ reports filed on Form N-CSR for the relevant period in accordance with Item 10(a)(1)(iii) of Form N-1A. The information provided to the Board ~~is or~~ will be maintained as part of the records of the respective Subadvised Fund pursuant to Rule 31a-1(b)(4) and Rule 31a-2 under the 1940 Act.

Pursuant to each Subadvisory Agreement, the Adviser ~~has agreed or~~ will agree to pay each Subadviser a fee, based on ~~the a~~ percentage of the assets of a Subadvised Fund, from the fee received by the Adviser from ~~at the~~ Subadvised Fund under the Investment Advisory Agreement.<sup>98</sup> Each Subadviser will bear its own expenses of providing investment management services to a Subadvised Fund.

### III. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTIVE RELIEF

Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security, or transaction or any class or classes of persons, securities, or transactions from any provisions of the 1940 Act, or any rule thereunder, if such relief is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the requested relief described in this Application meets this standard.

### IV. APPLICABLE LAW AND DISCUSSION

#### A. ~~SHAREHOLDER VOTE~~ Shareholder Vote

<sup>87</sup> For the purposes of this Application, a "Subadviser" also includes an investment subadviser that ~~provides or~~ will provide the Adviser with a model portfolio reflecting a specific strategy, style or focus with respect to the investment of all or a portion of a Subadvised Fund's assets. The Adviser ~~or another Subadviser~~ may use the model portfolio to determine the securities and other instruments to be purchased, sold, or entered into by a Subadvised Fund's portfolio or a portion thereof, and place orders with brokers or dealers that it selects.

<sup>98</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

## 1. *Regulatory Background*

Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act states, in part, that it is unlawful for any person to act as an investment adviser to a registered investment company “except pursuant to a written contract, which contract, whether with such registered company or with an investment adviser of such registered company, has been approved by the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of such registered company.”

Section 2(a)(20) of the 1940 Act defines an “investment adviser” as any person who, pursuant to an agreement with such registered investment company or with an investment adviser of such registered investment company, is empowered to determine what securities or other property shall be purchased or sold by such registered investment company. Consequently, the Subadvisers are deemed to be within the definition of an “investment adviser” and, therefore, the Subadvisory Agreements are each subject to Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act to the same extent as the Investment Advisory Agreements.

Therefore, Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act requires a majority of the outstanding voting securities of a Subadvised Fund to approve Subadvisory Agreements whenever the Adviser proposes to the Board to hire new Subadvisers for a Subadvised Fund. This provision would also require shareholder approval by a majority vote for any material amendment to Subadvisory Agreements.

~~The Each Subadvisory Agreements are~~ Agreement is required to terminate automatically and immediately upon ~~their~~ its “assignment,” which could occur upon a change in control of the ~~Subadvisers.~~<sup>10</sup> applicable Subadviser.<sup>9</sup>

Rule 2a-6 under the 1940 Act provides that certain transactions that do not result in a “change in actual control or management of the investment adviser” to a registered investment company are not assignments for purposes of Section 15(a)(4) of the 1940 Act, thereby effectively providing an exemption from the shareholder voting requirements in Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Applicants do not believe that Rule 2a-6 under the 1940 Act provides a safe harbor to recommend, hire and terminate Subadvisers. Each Subadviser is expected to run its own day-to-day operations and each will have its own investment personnel. Therefore, in certain instances appointing certain Subadvisers could be viewed as a change in management and, as a result, an “assignment” within the meaning of the 1940 Act.

## 2. *Requested Relief*

Applicants seek relief to (i) select Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, for all or a portion of the assets of a Subadvised Fund and enter into Subadvisory Agreements and (ii) materially amend Subadvisory Agreements with such Subadvisers, each subject to the approval of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, without obtaining shareholder approval required under Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Such relief would include, without limitation, the replacement or reinstatement of any Subadviser with respect to which a Subadvisory Agreement has automatically terminated as a result of an “assignment,” within the meaning of Section 2(a)(4) of the 1940 Act. Applicants believe that the relief sought should be granted by the Commission because (1) the Adviser either will operate a Subadvised Fund, or may operate ~~the~~ a Subadvised Fund, in a manner that is different from conventional investment companies; (2) the relief will benefit shareholders by enabling ~~the~~ a Subadvised Fund to operate in a less costly and more efficient manner; and (3) Applicants will consent to a number of conditions that adequately address the policy concerns of Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act, including conditions designed to ensure that shareholder interests are adequately protected through Board oversight.

### ~~(a)~~ Operations of the Trust

<sup>10</sup> ~~See Section 15(a)(4) of the 1940 Act. Section 2(a)(4) of the 1940 Act defines “assignment” as any direct or indirect transfer or hypothecation of a contract.~~

<sup>9</sup> See Section 15(a)(4) of the 1940 Act. Section 2(a)(4) of the 1940 Act defines “assignment” as any direct or indirect transfer or hypothecation of a contract.

Section 15(a) was designed to protect the interests and expectations of a registered investment company's shareholders by requiring they approve investment advisory contracts, including subadvisory contracts.<sup>110</sup> Section 15(a) is predicated on the belief that if a registered investment company is to be managed by an investment adviser different from the investment adviser selected by shareholders at the time of the investment, the new investment adviser should be approved by shareholders.<sup>111</sup> The relief sought in this Application is consistent with this public policy.

In the case of a traditional investment company, the investment adviser is a single entity that employs one or more individuals as portfolio managers to make the day-to-day investment decisions. The investment adviser may terminate or hire portfolio managers without board or shareholder approval and has sole discretion to set the compensation it pays to the portfolio managers. Alternatively, for subadvised funds, the investment adviser is not normally responsible for the day-to-day investment decisions and instead, the investment adviser selects, oversees, and evaluates subadvisers who ultimately are responsible for the day-to-day investment decisions.

Primary responsibility for management of a Subadvised Fund's assets, including the selection and oversight of the Subadvisers, is vested in the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board.

Applicants believe that it is consistent with the protection of investors to vest the selection and oversight of the Subadvisers in the Adviser in light of Applicants' multi-manager structure, as well as the shareholders' expectation that the Adviser is in possession of information necessary to select the most capable Subadvisers. The Adviser has the requisite expertise to evaluate, select and oversee the Subadvisers. The Adviser will not normally make day-to-day investment decisions for a Subadvised Fund.<sup>112</sup>

From the perspective of the shareholder, the role of the Subadvisers is substantially equivalent to the role of the individual portfolio managers employed by an investment adviser to a traditional investment company. The individual portfolio managers and the Subadvisers are each charged with the selection of portfolio investments in accordance with a Subadvised Fund's investment objectives and policies and have no broad supervisory or management or administrative responsibilities with respect to a Subadvised Fund. Shareholders expect the Adviser, subject to review and approval of the Board, to select a Subadviser who is in the best position to achieve a Subadvised Fund's investment objective. Shareholders also rely on the Adviser for the overall management of a Subadvised Fund and a Subadvised Fund's total investment performance.

Whenever required by Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act, the Board will request and the Adviser and each Subadviser will furnish such information as may be reasonably necessary for the Board to evaluate the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreements and the Subadvisory Agreements. The information that is provided to the Board will be maintained as part of the records of the Subadvised Funds in accordance with the applicable recordkeeping requirements under the 1940 Act and made available to the Commission in the manner prescribed by the 1940 Act.

In addition, the Adviser and the Board will consider the reasonableness of the Subadviser's compensation with respect to each Subadvised Fund for which the Subadviser will provide portfolio management services. Although only the Adviser's fee is payable directly by a Subadvised Fund, and the Subadviser's fee is payable by the Adviser,<sup>113</sup> the Subadviser's fee directly bears on the amount and reasonableness of the Adviser's fee payable by a Subadvised Fund. Accordingly, the Adviser and the Board will analyze the fees paid to Subadvisers in evaluating the reasonableness of the overall arrangements.

With respect to oversight, Applicants note that the Adviser performs and will perform substantially identical oversight of all Subadvisers, regardless of whether they are affiliated with the Adviser. Such oversight is similar in many respects to how the Adviser would oversee its own internal portfolio management teams.

<sup>110</sup> See Section 1(b)(6) of the 1940 Act.

<sup>111</sup> Hearings on S. 3580 before a Subcomm. of the Senate Comm. on Banking and Currency, 76th Cong., 3d Sess. 253 (1940) (statement of David Schenker).

<sup>112</sup> Although the Adviser will not normally make such day-to-day investment decisions, it may manage all or a portion of a Subadvised Fund.

<sup>113</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

~~(b)~~      *Lack of Economic Incentives*

In allocating the management of Subadvised Fund assets between itself and one or more Subadvisers, Applicants acknowledge that the Adviser has an incentive to consider the benefit it will receive, directly or indirectly, from the fee paid for the management of those assets. However, Applicants believe that the protections afforded by the conditions set forth in this Application would prevent the Adviser from acting to the detriment of a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders. Applicants assert that the proposed conditions are designed to provide the Board with sufficient independence and the resources and information it needs to monitor and address conflicts of interest. In particular, the Adviser will provide the Board with any information that may be relevant to the Board's evaluation of material conflicts of interest present in any subadvisory arrangement when the Board is considering, with respect to a Subadvised Fund, a change in ~~Subadviser~~Subadvisers or an existing Subadvisory Agreement as part of its annual review process. The Board will also have to make a separate finding, reflected in the Board minutes, that any change in ~~Subadvisers~~Subadviser or any renewal of an existing Subadvisory Agreement is in the best interests of the Subadvised Fund and its shareholders and, based on the information provided to it, does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser, a Subadviser, or any officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund or any officer or board member of the Adviser derives an inappropriate advantage.

Applicants note that the relief they are requesting would not be subject to two conditions that have been customary in previous exemptive orders for similar relief, including (i) restrictions on the ownership of interest in Subadvisers by trustees and officers of the Subadvised Funds and the Adviser, and (ii) a requirement that the Adviser provide the Board with profitability reports each quarter. Applicants believe eliminating these conditions is appropriate with respect to the requested relief. As to the condition on ownership, Applicants assert that restricting ownership of interests in a Subadviser by trustees and officers would not be meaningful where the Adviser may itself own an interest in the Subadviser and the Subadviser may be selected for a Subadvised Fund under the requested relief.<sup>15</sup>14 As to the condition requiring quarterly profitability reports, Applicants note that the Board reviews and will continue to review profitability information at the time of any proposed Subadviser change (see condition 7) and as part of its annual review of each Subadvisory Agreement pursuant to Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has granted the requested relief solely with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief has been premised on the fact that such a Subadviser serves in the same limited capacity as an individual portfolio manager. Applicants believe this same rationale supports extending the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers. Moreover, Applicants note that, while the Adviser's judgment in recommending a Subadviser can be affected by certain conflicts of interest or economic incentives, they do not warrant denying the extension of the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers. For one, the Adviser faces those conflicts and incentives in allocating fund assets between itself and a Subadviser, and across Subadvisers, as it has an interest in considering the benefit it will receive, directly or indirectly, from the fee the fund pays for the management of those assets. Moreover, the Adviser has employed and will continue to employ the same methodology to evaluate potential conflicts of interest, regardless of the affiliation between the Adviser and Subadviser. While the selection and retention of Affiliated Subadvisers by the Adviser potentially presents different or additional conflicts of interest than may be the case with Non-Affiliated or Wholly-Owned Subadvisers, the proposed terms and conditions of the requested relief are designed to address the potential conflicts of interest with respect to both those common to all types of Subadvisers and specific to Affiliated Subadvisers. In particular, Applicants believe that the proposed conditions are protective of shareholder interests by ensuring the Board's independence and providing the Board with the appropriate resources and information to monitor and address conflicts.

~~(c)~~      *Benefits to Shareholders*

Without the requested relief, when a new ~~Affiliated~~ Subadviser is retained by the Adviser on behalf of a Subadvised Fund, the shareholders of the Subadvised Fund are required to approve the Subadvisory Agreement. Similarly, if an existing Subadvisory Agreement with ~~an Affiliated~~a Subadviser is amended in any material respect,

<sup>15</sup>14 Any Trustee of the Board that has an ownership interest in a Subadviser would not be deemed an Independent Trustee under Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act.

approval by the shareholders of the affected Subadvised Fund is required. Moreover, if a Subadvisory Agreement with ~~an Affiliated~~ Subadviser is “assigned” as a result of a change in control of the Subadviser, the shareholders of the affected Subadvised Fund will be required to approve retaining the existing Subadviser. In all these instances the need for shareholder approval requires a Subadvised Fund to call and hold a shareholder meeting, create and distribute proxy materials, and solicit votes from shareholders on behalf of the Subadvised Fund, and generally necessitates the retention of a proxy solicitor. This process is time-intensive, expensive and slow, and, in the case of a poorly performing Subadviser or one whose management team has parted ways with the Subadviser, potentially harmful to a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders.

As noted above, shareholders investing in a Fund that has a Subadviser are effectively hiring the Adviser to manage a Subadvised Fund’s assets by overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the Subadviser rather than by the Adviser hiring its own employees to oversee the Subadvised Fund. Applicants believe that permitting the Adviser to perform the duties for which the shareholders of a Subadvised Fund are paying the Adviser — the selection, oversight and evaluation of Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers — without incurring unnecessary delays or expenses is appropriate and in the interest of a Subadvised Fund’s shareholders and will allow such Subadvised Fund to operate more efficiently. Within this structure, the Adviser is in the better position to make an informed selection and evaluation of a Subadviser than are individual shareholders. Without the delay inherent in holding shareholder meetings (and the attendant difficulty in obtaining the necessary quorums), a Subadvised Fund will be able to hire or replace ~~Affiliated~~ Subadvisers more quickly and at less cost, when the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and the Adviser believe that a change would benefit a Subadvised Fund and its shareholders.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has previously granted the requested relief solely with respect to certain Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief ~~has permitted~~ would permit Subadvised Funds to avoid the ~~time-intensive~~ time intensive and expensive shareholder solicitation process with respect to hiring or making a material amendment to a Subadvisory Agreement with respect to such subadvisers. As discussed above, Applicants believe the same rationale supports extending the requested relief to Affiliated Subadvisers as well, and while Affiliated Subadvisers may give rise to different or additional conflicts of interests, the proposed terms and conditions, including the enhanced oversight by the Board, address such potential conflicts. Moreover, treating all Subadvisers equally under the requested relief might help avoid the selection of Subadvisers potentially being influenced by considerations regarding the applicable regulatory requirements (i.e., whether a shareholder vote is required) and the associated costs and delays.<sup>1615</sup>

If the relief requested is granted, each Investment Advisory Agreement will continue to be fully subject to Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act. Moreover, the relevant Board will consider the Investment Advisory Agreements and Subadvisory Agreements in connection with its annual contract renewal process under Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act, and the standards of Section 36(b) of the 1940 Act will be applied to the fees paid to each Subadviser.

### 3. *Shareholder Notification*

With the exception of the relief requested in connection with Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below), the prospectus and statement of additional information for each Subadvised Fund will include all information required by Form ~~N-1A~~ N-1A concerning the Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, if the requested relief is granted. If a new Subadviser is retained, an existing Subadviser is terminated, or a Subadvisory Agreement is materially amended, a Subadvised Fund’s prospectus and statement of additional information will be supplemented promptly pursuant to Rule 497(e) under the Securities Act.

If new Subadvisers are hired, the Subadvised Funds will inform shareholders of the hiring of a new Subadviser pursuant to the following procedures (“Modified Notice and Access Procedures”): (a) within 90 days after a new Subadviser is hired for any Subadvised Fund, that Subadvised Fund will send its shareholders either a Multi-manager Notice or a Multi-manager Notice and Multi-manager Information Statement;<sup>1716</sup> and (b) a

<sup>1615</sup> The Adviser is responsible for selecting Subadvisers in the best interests of a Subadvised Fund, regardless of the costs or timing constraints that may be associated with the process of seeking shareholder approval of Subadvisory Agreements and material amendments thereto.

<sup>1716</sup> A “Multi-manager Notice” will be modeled on a Notice of Internet Availability as defined in Rule 14a-16 under the Exchange Act, and specifically will, among other things: (a) summarize the relevant information regarding the new Subadviser (except as modified to permit

Subadvised Fund will make the Multi-manager Information Statement available on the website identified in the Multi-manager Notice no later than when the Multi-manager Notice (or Multi-manager Notice and Multi-manager Information Statement) is first sent to shareholders, and will maintain it on that website for at least 90 days. Under the requested relief, a Subadvised Fund would not furnish a Multi-manager Information Statement to shareholders when an existing Subadvisory Agreement is materially modified. In the circumstances described in this Application, a proxy solicitation to approve the appointment of new Subadvisers provides no more meaningful information to shareholders than the proposed Multi-manager Information Statement. Moreover, as indicated above, the Board would comply with the requirements of Sections 15(a) and 15(c) of the 1940 Act before entering into or amending Subadvisory Agreements.

Prior to any Subadvised Fund relying on the requested relief in this Application, the Board, including its Independent Trustees, will have approved its operations as described herein. Additionally, the shareholders of the applicable Subadvised Fund ~~have approved, or will approve,~~ its operation as described herein by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities, within the meaning of the 1940 Act, or by the sole shareholder prior to a Subadvised Fund offering its shares.<sup>18</sup>17

B. ~~FEE DISCLOSURE~~Fee Disclosure

1. *Regulatory Background*

Form N-1A is the registration statement used by open-end investment companies. Item 19(a)(3) of Form ~~N-1A~~N-1A requires a registered investment company to disclose in its statement of additional information the method of computing the “advisory fee payable” by the investment company with respect to each investment adviser, including the total dollar amounts that the investment company “paid to the adviser (aggregated with amounts paid to affiliated advisers, if any), and any advisers who are not affiliated persons of the adviser, under the investment advisory contract for the last three fiscal years.”

Rule 20a-1 under the 1940 Act requires proxies solicited with respect to a registered investment company to comply with Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act. Item 22 of Schedule 14A sets forth the information that must be included in a registered investment company’s proxy statement. Item 22(c)(1)(ii) requires a proxy statement for a shareholder meeting at which action will be taken on an investment advisory agreement to describe the terms of the advisory contract, “including the rate of compensation of the investment adviser.” Item 22(c)(1)(iii) requires a description of the “aggregate amount of the investment adviser’s fees and the amount and purpose of any other material payments” by the investment company to the investment adviser, or any affiliated person of the investment adviser during the fiscal year. Item 22(c)(8) requires a description of “the terms of the contract to be acted upon, and, if the action is an amendment to, or a replacement of, an investment advisory contract, the material differences between the current and proposed contract.” Finally, Item 22(c)(9) requires a proxy statement for a shareholder meeting at which a change in the advisory fee will be sought to state (i) the aggregate amount of the investment adviser’s fee during the last year; (ii) the amount that the adviser would have received had the proposed fee been in

specifically will, among other things: (a) summarize the relevant information regarding the new Subadviser (except as modified to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure as defined in this Application); (b) inform shareholders that the Multi-manager Information Statement is available on a website; (c) provide the website address; (d) state the time period during which the Multi-manager Information Statement will remain available on that website; (e) provide instructions for accessing and printing the Multi-manager Information Statement; and (f) instruct the shareholder that a paper or email copy of the Multi-manager Information Statement may be obtained, without charge, by contacting ~~at~~the applicable Subadvised Fund.

A “Multi-manager Information Statement” will meet the requirements of Regulation 14C, Schedule 14C and Item 22 of Schedule 14A under the Exchange Act for an information statement, except as modified by the requested order to permit Aggregate Fee Disclosure. Multi-manager Information Statements will be filed with the Commission via the EDGAR system.

<sup>18</sup>17 If a Subadvised Fund has obtained shareholder approval to operate pursuant to an exemptive order that would permit it to operate in a multi-manager structure where the Adviser would enter into or amend Subadvisory Agreements only with respect to ~~Wholly Owned~~Wholly Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers subject to Board approval but without obtaining shareholder approval and has met all other terms and conditions of the requested order, the Subadvised Fund may rely on the applicable part of the order requested in this Application (i.e., hiring, amending Subadvisory Agreements with, and including Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below) in response to the disclosure requirements discussed herein with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers).

effect; and (iii) the difference between (i) and (ii) stated as a percentage of the amount in (i). Together, these provisions may require a Subadvised Fund to disclose the fees paid to a Subadviser in connection with shareholder action with respect to entering into, or materially amending, an advisory agreement or establishing, or increasing, advisory fees.

Regulation S-X sets forth the requirements for financial statements required to be included as part of a registered investment company's registration statement and shareholder reports filed with the Commission. Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X require a registered investment company to include in its financial statement information about the investment advisory fees. These provisions could require a Subadvised Fund's financial statements to disclose information concerning fees paid to a Subadviser. The exemption from Regulation S-X requested below would permit a Subadvised Fund to include only the Aggregate Fee Disclosure (as defined below); all other items required by Sections 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X will be disclosed.

## 2. Requested Relief

Applicants seek relief to permit each Subadvised Fund to disclose (as a dollar amount and a percentage of the Subadvised Fund's net assets) (a) the aggregate fees paid to the Adviser and any Wholly-Owned Subadvisers; and (b) the aggregate fees paid to Affiliated and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers (collectively, the "Aggregate Fee Disclosure"<sup>18</sup>) in lieu of disclosing the fees that may be required by Item 19(a)(3) of Form ~~N-1A~~N-1A, Items 22(c)(1)(ii), 22(c)(1)(iii), 22(c)(8) and 22(c)(9) of Schedule 14A, and Section 6-07(2)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation S-X.<sup>19</sup><sup>18</sup> The Aggregate Fee Disclosure would be presented as both a dollar amount and as a percentage of the Subadvised Fund's net assets. Applicants believe that the relief sought in this Application should be granted because the Adviser intends to operate the Subadvised Funds under a multi-manager structure. As a result, disclosure of the individual fees that the Adviser pays to the Subadvisers would not serve any meaningful purpose.

As noted above, the Adviser may operate a Subadvised Fund in a manner different from a traditional investment company. By investing in a Subadvised Fund, shareholders are hiring the Adviser to manage the Subadvised Fund's assets by overseeing, evaluating, monitoring, and recommending Subadvisers rather than by hiring its own employees to manage the assets directly. The Adviser, under the oversight of the Board, is responsible for overseeing the Subadvisers and recommending their hiring and replacement. In return, the Adviser receives an advisory fee from each Subadvised Fund. Pursuant to each Subadvisory Agreement, the Adviser ~~has agreed or will~~ agree to pay each Subadviser a fee, based on ~~the~~a percentage of ~~the~~ assets of a Subadvised Fund, from the fee received by the Adviser from a Subadvised Fund under the Investment Advisory Agreement.<sup>19</sup> Each Subadviser will bear its own expenses of providing investment management services to a Subadvised Fund.<sup>20</sup> Disclosure of the individual fees that the Adviser would pay to the Subadvisers does not serve any meaningful purpose since investors pay the Adviser to oversee, monitor, evaluate and compensate the Subadvisers. Applicants contend that the primary reasons for requiring disclosure of individual fees paid to Subadvisers are to inform shareholders of expenses to be charged by a particular Subadvised Fund and to enable shareholders to compare the fees to those of other comparable investment companies. Applicants believe that the requested relief satisfies these objectives because ~~the~~each Subadvised Fund's overall advisory fee will be fully disclosed and, therefore, shareholders will know what a Subadvised Fund's fees and expenses are and will be able to compare the advisory fees a Subadvised Fund is charged to those of other investment companies.

Indeed, in a more conventional arrangement, requiring the Subadvised Funds to disclose the fees negotiated between the Adviser and the Subadvisers would be the functional equivalent of requiring single adviser investment companies

<sup>18</sup> As used herein, a "Wholly-Owned Subadviser" is any investment adviser that is (1) an indirect or direct "wholly-owned subsidiary" (as such term is defined in Section 2(a)(43) of the 1940 Act) of the Adviser, (2) a "sister company" of the Adviser that is an indirect or direct "wholly-owned subsidiary" of the same company that indirectly or directly wholly owns the Adviser (the Adviser's "parent company"), or (3) a parent company of the Adviser. A "Non-Affiliated Subadviser" is any investment adviser that is not an "affiliated person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of a Fund or the Adviser, except to the extent that an affiliation arises solely because the Subadviser serves as a subadviser to one or more Funds. Section 2(a)(43) of the 1940 Act defines "wholly-owned subsidiary" of a person as a company 95 per centum or more of the outstanding voting securities of which are, directly or indirectly, owned by such a person.

<sup>19</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.

~~<sup>20</sup> A Subadvised Fund also may pay advisory fees directly to a Subadviser.~~

to disclose the salaries of individual portfolio managers employed by that investment adviser. In the case of a traditional investment company, disclosure is made of the compensation paid to the investment adviser, but shareholders are not told or asked to vote on the salary paid by the investment adviser to individual portfolio managers. Similarly, in the case of the Subadvised Funds, the shareholders will have chosen to employ the Adviser and to rely upon the Adviser's expertise in monitoring the Subadvisers, recommending the Subadvisers' selection and termination (if necessary), and negotiating the compensation of the Subadvisers. There are no policy reasons that require shareholders of the Subadvised Funds to be informed of the individual Subadviser's fees any more than shareholders of a traditional investment company (single investment adviser) would be informed of the particular investment adviser's portfolio managers' salaries.<sup>21</sup>20

The requested relief would benefit shareholders of the Subadvised Funds because it would improve the Adviser's ability to negotiate the fees paid to Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers. The Adviser's ability to negotiate with the various Subadvisers would be adversely affected by public disclosure of fees paid to each Subadviser. If the Adviser is not required to disclose the Subadvisers' fees to the public, the Adviser may be able to negotiate rates that are below a Subadviser's "posted" amounts as the rate would not be disclosed to the Subadviser's other clients. Moreover, if one Subadviser is aware of the advisory fee paid to another Subadviser, the Subadviser would likely take it into account in negotiating its own fee.

Until the Carillon Order, the Commission has previously granted the requested relief solely with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers through numerous exemptive orders. That relief only permitted the disclosure of aggregate fees paid to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers and required disclosure of individual fees paid to Affiliated Subadvisers. If the requested relief under Section 15(a) of the 1940 Act is granted to extend to Affiliated Subadvisers, Applicants believe it is appropriate to permit each Subadvised Fund to disclose only aggregate fees paid to Affiliated Subadvisers for the same reasons that similar relief has been granted to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers, as discussed above.

C. ~~PRECEDENT~~Precedent

Applicants note that substantially identical relief was granted by the Commission in the ~~Roundhill ETF~~Carillon Order and more recently in the Morgan Stanley Order, the Wedbush Order, the Adviser Series Trust Order, the BondBloxx ETF Trust Order, Venerable Order, the RBB Order, the Roundhill Order, the BondBloxx Order, the Liberty Order, the RM Opportunity Order, the Advisors Trust Order, the Carillon Order, the New Age Alpha Trust Order, the LFT Order, the Azzad Order, the Distillate Capital Order, the Esoterica Order, the Clearshares Order, the OSI ETF Order, and the Investment Managers Order. Applicants note that substantially the same exemptions requested herein with respect to relief from Section 15(a) and relief from the disclosure requirements of the rules and forms discussed herein for Subadvisers, including Affiliated Subadvisers, have been granted previously by the Commission with respect to Wholly-Owned and Non-Affiliated Subadvisers. See, e.g., Natixis Funds Trust I, et al., Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33265 (October 5, 2018) (notice) and 33287 (October 31, 2018) (order); Advisors Asset Management, Inc. and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33169 (July 24, 2018) (notice) and 33207 (August 21, 2018) (order); TriLine Index Solutions, LLC and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33159 (July 11, 2018) (notice) and 33192 (August 6, 2018) (order); SL Advisors, LLC and ETF Series Solutions, Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33158 (July 11, 2018) (notice) and 33193 (August 6, 2018) (order); DMS ETF Trust I, et al., Investment Company Act Release Nos. 33156 (July 10, 2018) (notice) and 33196 (August 7, 2018) (order).

<sup>21</sup>20 The relief would be consistent with the Commission's disclosure requirements applicable to fund portfolio managers that were previously adopted. See Investment Company Act Release No. 26533 (Aug. 23, 2004). Under these disclosure requirements, a fund is required to include in its statement of additional information, among other matters, a description of the structure of and the method used to determine the compensation structure of its "portfolio managers." Applicants state that with respect to each Subadvised Fund, the statement of additional information will describe the structure of, and method used to determine, the compensation received by each portfolio manager employed by any Subadviser. In addition to this disclosure with respect to portfolio managers, Applicants state that with respect to each Subadvised Fund, the statement of additional information will describe the structure of, and method used to determine, the compensation received by each Subadviser.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe that the relief sought would be appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

## V. CONDITIONS

Applicants agree that reliance on any order of the Commission granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Before a Subadvised Fund may rely on the order requested herein, the operation of the Subadvised Fund in the manner described in this Application will be, ~~or has been,~~ approved by a majority of the Subadvised Fund's outstanding voting securities as defined in the 1940 Act, or, in the case of a Subadvised Fund whose public shareholders purchase shares on the basis of a prospectus containing the disclosure contemplated by condition 2 below, by the initial shareholder before such Subadvised Fund's shares are offered to the public.

(2) The prospectus for each Subadvised Fund will disclose the existence, substance and effect of any order granted pursuant to the Application. In addition, each Subadvised Fund will hold itself out to the public as employing the multi-manager structure described in this Application. The prospectus will prominently disclose that the Adviser has the ultimate responsibility, subject to oversight by the Board, to oversee the Subadvisers and recommend their hiring, termination, and replacement.

(3) The Adviser will provide general management services to each Subadvised Fund, including overall supervisory responsibility for the general management and investment of the Subadvised Fund's assets, and subject to review and oversight of the Board, will (i) set the Subadvised Fund's overall investment strategies, (ii) evaluate, select, and recommend Subadvisers for all or a portion of the Subadvised Fund's assets, (iii) allocate and, when appropriate, reallocate the Subadvised Fund's assets among Subadvisers, (iv) monitor and evaluate the Subadvisers' performance, and (v) implement procedures reasonably designed to ensure that Subadvisers comply with the Subadvised Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions.

(4) Subadvised Funds will inform shareholders of the hiring of a new Subadviser within 90 days after the hiring of the new Subadviser pursuant to the Modified Notice and Access Procedures.

(5) At all times, at least a majority of the Board will be Independent Trustees, and the selection and nomination of new or additional Independent Trustees will be placed within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

(6) Independent Legal Counsel, as defined in Rule 0-1(a)(6) under the 1940 Act, will be engaged to represent the Independent Trustees. The selection of such counsel will be within the discretion of the then-existing Independent Trustees.

(7) Whenever a Subadviser is hired or terminated, the Adviser will provide the Board with information showing the expected impact on the profitability of the Adviser.

(8) The Board must evaluate any material conflicts that may be present in a subadvisory arrangement. Specifically, whenever a subadviser change is proposed for a Subadvised Fund ("Subadviser Change") or the Board considers an existing Subadvisory Agreement as part of its annual review process ("Subadviser Review"):

(a) the Adviser will provide the Board, to the extent not already being provided pursuant to Section 15(c) of the 1940 Act, with all relevant information concerning:

(i) any material interest in the proposed new Subadviser, in the case of a Subadviser Change, or the Subadviser in the case of a Subadviser Review, held directly or indirectly by the Adviser or a parent or sister company of the Adviser, and any material impact the proposed Subadvisory Agreement may have on that interest;

(ii) any arrangement or understanding in which the Adviser or any parent or sister company of the Adviser is a participant that (A) may have had a material effect on the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review, or (B) may be materially affected by the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review;

(iii) any material interest in a Subadviser held directly or indirectly by an officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund, or an officer or board member of the Adviser (other than through a pooled investment vehicle not controlled by such person); and

(iv) any other information that may be relevant to the Board in evaluating any potential material conflicts of interest in the proposed Subadviser Change or Subadviser Review.

(b) the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, will make a separate finding, reflected in the Board minutes, that the Subadviser Change or continuation after Subadviser Review is in the best interests of the Subadvised Fund and its shareholders and, based on the information provided to the Board, does not involve a conflict of interest from which the Adviser, a Subadviser, any officer or Trustee of the Subadvised Fund, or any officer or board member of the Adviser derives an inappropriate advantage.

(9) Each Subadvised Fund will disclose in its registration statement the Aggregate Fee Disclosure.

(10) In the event that the Commission adopts a rule under the 1940 Act providing substantially similar relief to that in the order requested in the Application, the requested order will expire on the effective date of that rule.

(11) Any new Subadvisory Agreement or any amendment to an existing Investment Advisory Agreement or Subadvisory Agreement that directly or indirectly results in an increase in the aggregate advisory fee rate payable by ~~the~~ Subadvised Fund will be submitted to the Subadvised Fund's shareholders for approval.

## VI. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

All of the requirements for execution and filing of this Application on behalf of Applicants have been complied with in accordance with the applicable organizational documents of Applicants, and the undersigned officers of Applicants are fully authorized to execute this Application and any amendments hereto. The ~~resolutions of the Board~~ authorizations to file are attached as ~~Exhibit~~ Exhibits A-1 and A-2 to this Application in accordance with the requirements of Rule 0-2(c)(1) under the 1940 Act and the verifications required by Rule 0-2(d) under the 1940 Act are attached as Exhibits B-1 and B-2 to this Application. Marked copies of the Application are included as Exhibits C-1 and C-~~2-3~~ to this Application in accordance with the requirements of Rule 0-5(e) under the 1940 Act.

Pursuant to Rule 0-2(f) under the 1940 Act, the Trust states that its address is ~~615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-5207~~ and 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105 and the Adviser states that its address is 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105, and that all written communications regarding this Application should be directed to the individuals and addresses indicated on the first page of this Application.

Applicants desire that the Commission issue the requested order pursuant to Rule 0-5 under the 1940 Act without conducting a hearing.

## VII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Commission issue an order under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act granting the relief requested in the Application.

Applicants submit that the requested exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, consistent with the protection of investors and consistent with the purpose fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the 1940 Act.

|

[Signature Page Follows]

Respectfully submitted,

~~THE RBB FUND~~ FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

By: /s/ ~~Steven Plump~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Name: ~~Name: Steven Plump~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Title: ~~Title: President~~ Secretary and Deputy General Counsel

FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: /s/ Sheelyn Michael  
Name: ~~Name:~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Title: ~~Title:~~ Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director

October 23, 2025

~~December 18, 2024~~

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit Index

<del>Authorizing Resolutions of The RBB Fund</del> <u>Authorization of First Eagle ETF Trust</u>	Exhibit A-1
<u>Authorization of First Eagle Investment Management, LLC</u>	<u>Exhibit A-2</u>
Verification of <del>The RBB Fund</del> <u>First Eagle ETF Trust</u> <del>Pursuant to Rule 0-2(d)</del>	Exhibit B-1
Verification of First Eagle Investment Management, LLC <del>Pursuant to Rule 0-2(d)</del>	Exhibit B-2
Marked Copies of the Application Pursuant to Rule 0-5(e)	Exhibits C-1 <del>and</del> , C-2 <u>and C-3</u>

EXHIBIT A-1

~~THE RBB FUND~~ FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

AUTHORIZATION TO FILE EXEMPTIVE ORDER  
APPLICATION ~~RELATING TO THE FUNDS~~

The undersigned, ~~James G. Shaw~~ Sheelyn Michael, hereby certifies that ~~heshe~~ is the duly appointed Secretary of ~~The RBB Fund~~ First Eagle ETF Trust (the "Trust"); that, with respect to the attached application for exemption from the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act"), the rules and forms thereunder and any amendments thereto (such application along with any ~~future~~ amendments, the "Application"), all actions necessary to authorize the execution and filing of the Application under the ~~Amended and Restated Agreement and~~ Declaration of Trust and By-Laws of the Trust have been taken and the person signing and filing the Application on behalf of the Trust is fully authorized to do so; and that the following is a complete, true and correct copy of the resolutions duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Trust on ~~September 11-12, 2024~~ October 22, 2025, and that such resolutions have not been revoked, modified, rescinded, or amended and are in full force and effect:

**RESOLVED**, that the officers of ~~The RBB Fund~~ First Eagle ETF Trust (the "Trust") be, and each hereby is, authorized to prepare or cause to be prepared, execute, and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, an application, and any amendments thereto, for an order pursuant to Sections 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), for exemptions from various sections of the 1940 Act, including, but not limited to, Sections 15(a) of the 1940 Act, to permit its series advised by First Eagle Investment Management, LLC, subject to the Board of Trustees of the Trust's approval, to enter into and materially amend investment sub-advisory agreements without obtaining shareholder approval; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the officers of the Trust be, and each hereby is, authorized to take any and all actions that each of them, in his or her sole discretion, deems necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent and accomplish the purpose of the foregoing resolution.

By: /s/ James G. Shaw Sheelyn Michael  
Name: ~~James G. Shaw~~ Sheelyn Michael  
Title: Secretary  
October 23, 2025

EXHIBIT A-2

FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

AUTHORIZATION TO FILE EXEMPTIVE APPLICATION

The undersigned, Sheelyn Michael, hereby certifies that she is the Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director of First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (“FEIM”); that, with respect to the attached application for exemption from the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, rules and forms thereunder and any amendments thereto (such application along with any amendments, the “Application”), all actions necessary to authorize the execution and filing of the Application under the governing documents of FEIM have been taken; and that the person signing and filing the Application by FEIM is fully authorized to do so.

~~Dated~~By: ~~December 18, 2024~~/s/ Sheelyn Michael

Name: Sheelyn Michael

Title: Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director

October 23, 2025

EXHIBIT B-1

~~THE RBB FUND~~ FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 0-2(d)

The undersigned states ~~he~~she has duly executed the attached Application dated October 23, 2025, for and on behalf of ~~The RBB Fund~~First Eagle ETF Trust; that ~~he is President~~she is the Secretary and Deputy General Counsel of such trust; and that all action by shareholders, trustees and other bodies necessary to authorize the undersigned to execute and file such instrument has been taken. The undersigned further says that ~~he~~she is familiar with such instrument, and the contents thereof, and that the facts therein set forth are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

<u>FIRST EAGLE ETF TRUST</u>		=
By:	<u>/s/ <del>Steven Plump</del>Sheelyn Michael</u>	=
Name:	<u><del>Steven Plump</del>Sheelyn Michael</u>	=
Title:	<u><del>President</del>Secretary and Deputy General Counsel</u>	=
<u>October 23, 2025</u>		=

**EXHIBIT B-2**

**FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC**

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE 0-2(d)

The undersigned states Sheelyn Michael has duly executed the attached Application dated October 23, 2025, for and on behalf of First Eagle Investment Management, LLC; that Sheelyn Michael is ~~at~~the Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director of such company; and that all action by stockholders, officers, directors and other bodies necessary to authorize the undersigned to execute and file such instrument has been taken. The undersigned further says that Sheelyn Michael is familiar with such instrument, and the contents thereof, and that the facts therein set forth are true to the best of her knowledge, information and belief.

~~First Eagle Investment Management~~ FIRST EAGLE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: /s/ Sheelyn Michael  
Name: Sheelyn Michael  
Title: Deputy General Counsel and Managing Director  
October 23, 2025