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November 30, 2017

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Brent J. Fields
Secretary
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20549-1090

Re: Request for Extension of Exemptive Order Pursuant to Rule 612(c) of Regulation NMS – NYSE Arca Retail Liquidity Program

Dear Mr. Fields:

NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca” or the “Exchange”) respectfully requests that the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) approve a six-month extension of the exemption from Rule 612 of Regulation NMS (“Sub-Penny Exemption”) previously granted by the Commission on December 23, 2013, for the Exchange’s Retail Liquidity Program (the “Program”).¹ The exemption operates coterminous with the pilot period of the Program. The

¹ The Sub-Penny Exemption was originally granted by the Commission concurrently with the approval of the Program. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 71176 (December 23, 2013), 78 FR 79524 (December 30, 2013) (SR-NYSEArca-2013-107) (“RLP Approval Order”). On March 19, 2015, the Exchange requested an extension of the exemption for the Program. *See* letter from Martha Redding, Senior Counsel and Assistant Secretary, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Commission, dated March 19, 2015. The pilot period for the Program was extended until September 30, 2015. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74572 (March 24, 2015), 80 FR 16705 (March 30, 2015) (SR-NYSEArca-2015-22). On September 17, 2015, the Exchange requested an extension of the exemption for the Program. *See* letter from Martha Redding, Senior Counsel and Assistant Secretary, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Commission, dated September 17, 2015. The pilot period for the Program was extended until March 31, 2016. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 75994 (September 28, 2015), 80 FR 59834 (October 2, 2015) (SR-NYSEArca-2015-84) and 77236 (Feb. 25, 2016), 81 FR 10943 (Mar. 2, 2016) (SR-NYSEArca-2016-30). On March 17, 2016, the Exchange requested another extension of the exemption for the Program. *See* letter from Martha Redding, Senior Counsel and Assistant Secretary, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Commission, dated March 17, 2016. The pilot period for the Program was extended until August 31, 2016. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No.

pilot period is set to expire on December 31, 2017, and the exemption would expire on the same date.²

The Program was established on a pilot basis to attract retail order flow to the Exchange for NYSE Arca-listed securities as well securities traded pursuant to unlisted trading privileges, other than securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange LLC. The Program allows such order flow to receive potential price improvement. The Program is currently limited to trades occurring at prices equal to or greater than \$1.00 per share. Under the Program, Retail Liquidity Providers (“RLPs”) are able to provide potential price improvement in the form of a non-displayed order that is priced better than the Exchange’s best protected bid or offer (“PBBO”), called a Retail Price Improvement Order (“RPI”). When there is an RPI in a particular security, the Exchange disseminates an indicator, known as the Retail Liquidity Identifier, indicating such interest exists. Retail Member Organizations (“RMOs”) can submit a Retail Order to the Exchange, which would interact, to the extent possible, with available contra-side RPIs.

As stated in the Exchange’s previous letters requesting relief,³ the Exchange believes that the quality of our market and accuracy of price discovery depends on the interaction among a diverse set of market participants, including short-term, long-term, retail, and institutional investors. As was the case when the Commission granted the Sub-Penny Exemption, the vast majority of marketable retail order flow today is executed pursuant to bilateral agreements that

77425 (March 23, 2016), 81 FR 17523 (March 29, 2016) (SR-NYSEArca-2016-47). On August 8, 2016, the Exchange requested another extension of the exemption for the Program. *See* Letter from Martha Redding, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, dated August 8, 2016. The pilot period for the Program was extended until December 31, 2016. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78601 (August 17, 2016), 81 FR 57632 (August 23, 2016) (SR-NYSEArca-2016-113). On November 28, 2016, the Exchange requested another extension of the exemption for the program. *See* Letter from Martha Redding, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, dated November 28, 2016. The pilot period for the Program was extended until June 30, 2017. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79495 (December 7, 2016), 81 FR 90033 (December 13, 2016) (SR-NYSEArca-2016-157). On May 23, 2017, the Exchange requested another extension of the exemption for the program. *See* Letter from Martha Redding, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, dated May 23, 2017. The pilot period for the Program was extended until December 31, 2017. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 80851 (June 2, 2017), 82 FR 26722 (June 8, 2017) (SR-NYSEArca-2017-63).

² Along with this exemption request, the Exchange is proposing to extend the pilot period for the Program.

³ *See* Letter from Janet McGinness, EVP and Corporate Secretary, NYSE Euronext, to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Commission, dated October 11, 2013; *see also* letters from Martha Redding, Senior Counsel and Assistant Secretary, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Commission, dated March 19, 2015, September 17, 2015, March 17, 2016, August 8, 2016, November 28, 2016 and May 23, 2017.

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are not exposed to the enhanced price competition and transparency occurring on exchanges. The Program continues to offer the potential to enhance the level of order interaction and price competition experienced by retail orders through market center competition. By extending the Sub-Penny Exemption, the Commission would allow exchanges to compete for retail orders in the same manner that OTC market makers have long done--by offering sub-penny prices. At the same time, the reasonable design and limited nature of the Program avoid any risk of quote flickering because sub-penny prices are not disseminated. In addition, the Program does not undermine the incentive of market participants to display orders because the marketable retail orders that are routed to the Program would not otherwise be exposed to price competition, but, rather, executed pursuant to bilateral internalization arrangements.

As participation has been increasing more recently with additional RLPs, extending the exemptions for the Program would provide additional opportunities for greater participation in the Program and assessment of the results of such participation. Accordingly, the Exchange requests that the previously provided exemptions be extended to June 30, 2018, because the Program serves the public interest and otherwise protects investors.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'BJF' or similar, written in a cursive style.