

May 11, 2018

Josephine J. Tao  
Assistant Director  
Division of Trading and Markets  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20549

Re: Request of First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VI for Exemptive, Interpretive and/or No-Action Relief from Rule 10b-17 and Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for an Index-Based ETF of ETFs

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Dear Ms. Tao:

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

I am writing on behalf of First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VI (the “*Trust*”), an open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “*1940 Act*”), with respect to the First Trust Dorsey Wright DALI 1 ETF (the “*Fund*”), a series of the Trust described herein. The Trust, on behalf of itself, the Fund, or any national securities exchange on or through which shares of the Fund (“*Shares*”)<sup>1</sup> are listed (each, a “*Listing Exchange*”) and/or may subsequently trade (with each such market referred to herein as a “*Market*”)<sup>2</sup>, First Trust Portfolios L.P. (the “*Distributor*”) and other persons or entities engaging in transactions in Shares, including APs (as defined below), hereby requests, as applicable, from the staff of the Division of Trading and Markets (the “*Staff*”) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “*Commission*”), or from the Commission, exemptions,

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<sup>1</sup> The Trust intends to list the Shares of the Fund described herein on The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“*Nasdaq*”).

<sup>2</sup> In the future, the Trust may determine to list Shares on a Market other than the Listing Exchange. If the Trust lists Shares on a Market other than the Listing Exchange, Shares will be listed in accordance with exchange listing standards that are, or will become, effective pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “*Exchange Act*”). If the Shares also trade on a Market pursuant to unlisted trading privileges, such trading will be conducted pursuant to self-regulatory organization rules that have become effective pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act.

# Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018

Page 2

interpretive advice or no-action advice, as applicable, regarding Rule 10b-17, and Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M, under the Exchange Act.

The Trust will issue Shares of the Fund. The Fund is an exchange-traded fund (“ETF”) organized as a series of the Trust. The Fund will seek to track the performance of an underlying index developed by Nasdaq, Inc. (the “Index Provider”). In doing so, the Fund will seek to track the performance of its underlying index, under normal conditions,<sup>3</sup> by investing at least 90%<sup>4</sup> of its net assets<sup>5</sup> in the equity securities that comprise the underlying index.<sup>6</sup> The underlying index evaluates four broad asset classes (U.S. equity securities, international equity securities, fixed income securities and commodities) and seeks to determine which of the four is most likely to experience the best investment performance until the next index evaluation date (generally the second and fourth Friday of each month). For the purpose of comparing the asset classes, each asset class is represented by a roster of indices and/or one or more ETFs that principally track or invest in the securities that comprise each asset class, and collectively provide diversified exposure to each asset class. Index eligibility is limited to ETFs, and the ETFs that are included in the underlying index from time to time are referred to as the “Underlying ETFs.” In light of the composition of the underlying index, the Fund intends to operate as an “ETF of ETFs.” Except for the fact that the Fund will operate as an ETF of ETFs, the Fund will operate in a manner substantially identical to the Underlying ETFs.

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<sup>3</sup> The term “under normal conditions” includes, but is not limited to, the absence of adverse market, economic, political, or other conditions, including extreme volatility or trading halts in the securities markets or the financial markets generally; operational issues causing dissemination of inaccurate market information; or force majeure type events, such as systems failure, natural or man-made disaster, act of God, armed conflict, act of terrorism, riot or labor disruption, or any similar intervening circumstance.

<sup>4</sup> As disclosed in the prospectus, the Fund may invest the remainder of its assets in securities with maturities of less than one year or cash equivalents, or it may hold cash. The percentage of the Fund invested in such holdings will vary and will depend on several factors, including market conditions. For temporary defensive purposes and during periods of high cash inflows or outflows, the Fund may depart from its principal investment strategies and invest part or all of its assets in securities with maturities of less than one year or cash equivalents, or it may hold cash. During such periods, the Fund may not be able to achieve its investment objective. The Fund may adopt a defensive strategy when its portfolio management team believes securities in which the Fund normally invests have elevated risks due to political or economic factors and in other extraordinary circumstances.

<sup>5</sup> The Fund’s “net assets” consist of its total assets, less all of its liabilities.

<sup>6</sup> Regardless of the representation that the Fund generally will invest at least 90% of its net assets in the securities that comprise the underlying index, the Fund will seek to have a tracking error of less than five percent in any given month over a one-year period.

May 11, 2018

Page 3

The Staff has issued in the past relief substantially identical to that requested herein to index-based and actively managed ETFs operating as ETFs of ETFs (the “*Prior ETFs of ETFs*”).<sup>7</sup> The Staff has previously issued substantially similar relief to index-based ETFs<sup>8</sup> and actively

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<sup>7</sup> See Release No. 34-82360, dated December 19, 2017 (with respect to Innovator ETFs Trust); Release No. 34-82029, dated November 7, 2017 (with respect to Vanguard Total Corporate Bond ETF); Release No. 34-80567, dated May 1, 2017 (with respect to Alpha Architect ETF Trust); Release No. 34-78882, dated September 20, 2016 (with respect to Amplify ETF Trust); Release No. 34-77942, dated May 27, 2016 (with respect to SPDR Series Trust); Release No. 34-77779, dated May 6, 2016 (with respect to IndexIQ ETF Trust); Release No. 34-77380, dated March 16, 2016 (with respect to First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VI); Release No. 34-76494, dated November 20, 2015 (with respect to FlexShares<sup>®</sup> Trust); Release No. 34-76397, dated November 9, 2015 (with respect to FlexShares<sup>®</sup> Trust); Release No. 34-76193, dated October 19, 2015 (with respect to DBX ETF Trust); Release No. 34-76117, dated October 8, 2015 (with respect to PowerShares Exchange-Traded Fund Trust II); Release No. 34-73398, dated October 21, 2014 (with respect to Global X Funds); Release No. 34-72655, dated July 22, 2014 (with respect to First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VI); Release No. 34-71652, dated March 5, 2014, and Letter from Josephine J. Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to Suzanne M. Russell, Chapman and Cutler LLP, dated January 15, 2015 (with respect to First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VI); Release No. 34-69831, dated June 21, 2013 (with respect to ALPS ETF Trust); Release No. 34-68459, dated December 18, 2012 (with respect to ALPS ETF Trust); Letter from Josephine J. Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to Kathleen H. Moriarty, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, dated March 25, 2009 (revised April 12, 2009) (with respect to IndexIQ index-based ETFs of ETFs); Letter from Josephine J. Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to W. John McGuire, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, dated September 14, 2009 (with respect to AdvisorShares Trust actively managed ETFs of ETFs); Letter from Josephine J. Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to Richard F. Morris, WisdomTree Asset Management, Inc., dated December 23, 2009 (with respect to WisdomTree Trust index-based ETF of ETFs); Letters to W. John McGuire, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, from Josephine J. Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, dated July 2, 2010 (with respect to AdvisorShares Mars Hill ETF), and from James A. Brigagliano, Deputy Director, Division of Trading and Markets, dated May 4, 2010 (with respect to U.S. One Trust ETF).

<sup>8</sup> See Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Jack P. Drogin of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, dated August 4, 2005 (with respect to the iShares MSCI EAFE Growth Index Fund and iShares MSCI EAFE Value Index Fund); Letter from James Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Jack P. Drogin, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, dated October 14, 2004 (with respect to the iShares FTSE/Xinhua China 25 Index Fund); Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Stuart Strauss, Mayer, Brown Rowe & Maw, dated October 21, 2002 (with respect to the Fresco Index Shares Fund); Letters from James A. Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to W. John McGuire, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, dated July 25, 2002, to Mary Joan Hoene, Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, dated December 1, 2000, and September 5, 2000, and to Kathleen H. Moriarty, Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, dated May 16, 2000 (with respect to various series of iShares Trust); Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Associate Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Kathleen Moriarty, Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, dated May 21, 2001 (with respect to Vanguard Index Funds); Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Barry A. Mendelson, The Vanguard Group, dated October 20, 2004 (with respect to Vanguard Index Funds); and Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Kathleen Moriarty, Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, dated March 9, 2005 (with respect to Vanguard Index Funds).

May 11, 2018

Page 4

managed ETFs<sup>9</sup> that invest directly in securities, as well as substantially similar relief to various exchange-traded products<sup>10</sup> (collectively, the “*Prior ETFs*”). The only ETFs in which the Fund will invest will be organized in the United States, registered under the 1940 Act, and listed on a Market. The Fund will operate in a manner substantially identical to the Prior ETFs of ETFs. Except for the fact that it will operate as an ETF of ETFs, the Fund will operate in a manner substantially identical to the Prior ETFs. For example, the Fund will disclose its portfolio holdings on a daily basis and information about the prices of the securities and other instruments held by the Fund will be readily available from a variety of sources.

The Trust does not believe the Fund raises any significant new regulatory issues that have not already been addressed by the Commission and Staff. Nevertheless, because the Fund will operate as an ETF of ETFs, the Trust is concerned that the “ETF Class Relief” previously issued by the Staff with respect to certain types of ETFs may not extend to the Fund.<sup>11</sup> Specifically, the

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<sup>9</sup> See Letter from Josephine Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to PIMCO ETF Trust Actively Managed Fixed Income Exchange Traded Fund, dated November 10, 2009; Letter from Josephine Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to Grail Advisors ETF Trust, dated April 30, 2009, as revised May 6, 2009; Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Associate Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to Clifford Chance US LLP regarding PowerShares Actively Managed Exchange Traded Fund Trust, dated April 4, 2008; and Letter from Josephine J. Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to Foley & Lardner LLP regarding Bear Stearns Active ETF Trust, dated March 24, 2008.

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Michael Schmidtberger, Esq., Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, dated January 19, 2006 (with respect to DB Commodity Index Tracking Fund and DB Commodity Services LLC); Letter from Brian A. Bussey, Assistant Chief Counsel, Division of Market Regulation, to Kathleen H. Moriarty, Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, dated December 12, 2005 (with respect to the streetTRACKS Gold Trust); and Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Kathleen H. Moriarty, Carter, Ledyard & Milburn LLP, dated November 17, 2004 (with respect to the streetTRACKS Gold Trust).

<sup>11</sup> See Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Esq., Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Claire P. McGrath, Esq., Vice President and Special Counsel, The American Stock Exchange, dated August 17, 2001 (re: exemptive relief for exchange-traded index funds) (“*2001 Class Letter*”); Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Esq., Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Ira Hammerman, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Securities Industry Association, dated January 3, 2005 (re: no-action relief from Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO); Letter from Catherine McGuire, Esq., Chief Counsel, Division of Market Regulation, to the Securities Industry Association Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005 (re: expanded class relief for ETFs with respect to Section 11(d)(1) of the Exchange Act and Rules 10b-10, 11d1-2, 15c1-5, and 15c1-6 under the Exchange Act) (“*SIA Letter*”); Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Acting Associate Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Stuart M. Strauss, Esq., Clifford Chance US LLP, dated October 24, 2006 (re: ETFs comprised of equity securities and incorporating relief from certain prior letters) (“*Equity ETF Class Relief Letter*”); Letter from James A. Brigagliano, Associate Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Benjamin Haskin, Esq., Willkie, Farr & Gallagher LLP, dated April 9, 2007 (“*Fixed Income ETF Class Relief Letter*”); and Letter from Josephine Tao, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, to Domenick Pugliese, Esq., Paul, Hastings, Janofsky and Walker LLP, dated June 27, 2007 (re: ETFs that are comprised of both equity and fixed-income

# Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018  
Page 5

ETF Class Relief does not appear to extend to the Fund since the Fund does not generally expect to meet the terms of Condition 2, and may not, at times, meet the terms of Condition 3, of the Equity ETF Class Relief Letter as discussed more fully in Part III herein. In particular, the Fund does not generally expect to hold twenty (20) or more “Component Securities” and may, at times, hold Underlying ETFs in excess of 25% of its total portfolio value. Moreover, as discussed further in Part III.B below, in light of the Underlying ETFs that are eligible for inclusion in the Underlying Index (as defined below), the Fund may not meet the applicable minimum public float and minimum average daily trading volume thresholds. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Trust represents that all Underlying ETFs in which the Fund invests will either meet all conditions set forth in one or more of the ETF Class Relief Letters or the ETV Class Relief Letter<sup>12</sup>, respectively, will have received individual relief from the Commission, will be able to rely on individual relief even though they are not named parties, or will be able to rely on applicable class relief for actively managed ETFs.<sup>13</sup>

The Trust hereby requests, as applicable, exemptions, interpretive or no-action advice regarding Rule 10b-17, and Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M, under the Exchange Act.

This Letter is divided into five parts. Part I is a description of the Trust and the Fund. Part II contains a discussion of the dissemination of information regarding Shares. Part III contains a discussion of the ETF Class Relief. Part IV contains the requests for relief and Part V is the conclusion.

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securities) (“*Combination ETF Class Relief Letter*”) (collectively, “*ETF Class Relief*” or “*ETF Class Relief Letters*”).

<sup>12</sup> Letter from Racquel L. Russell, Branch Chief, Office of Trading Practices and Processes, Division of Market Regulation, to George T. Simon, Esq., Foley & Lardner LLP, dated June 21, 2006 (“*ETV Class Relief Letter*”).

<sup>13</sup> With respect to Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M, such relief is set forth in the Division of Market Regulation Staff Legal Bulletin No. 9, as revised on September 10, 2010 (“*SLB 9*”), which stated that, subject to certain conditions, actively managed exchange traded funds (“*Active ETFs*”) could rely on the exceptions in Rules 101(c)(4) and 102(d)(4) of Regulation M under the Exchange Act which are only available to open-end investment companies, notwithstanding the fact that shares of Active ETFs are redeemable only in creation units. With respect to Rule 10b-17, such relief is set forth in Release No. 34-67215, dated June 19, 2012. The foregoing relief is referred to collectively as the “*Active ETF Relief*.”

## **PART I**

### **A. *The Trust and the Fund***

The Trust is an investment company currently consisting of 27 separate ETFs (including the Fund). The Fund is named the First Trust Dorsey Wright DALI 1 ETF and will seek investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield (before the Fund's fees and expenses) of the Nasdaq Dorsey Wright DALI 1 Index (the "*Underlying Index*"). First Trust Advisors L.P. (the "*Advisor*") will act as investment adviser to the Fund. The Fund intends to qualify annually and to elect to be treated as a regulated investment company ("*RIC*") under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "*Code*").

As indicated above, the Underlying Index evaluates four broad asset classes (U.S. equity securities, international equity securities, fixed income securities and commodities) and seeks to determine which of the four is most likely to experience the best investment performance until the next Underlying Index evaluation date (generally the second and fourth Friday of each month). The Underlying Index has been designed based upon the principle that the asset class exhibiting the highest levels of "relative strength," based on current prices, will be the asset class with the best performance over the near term. A relative strength calculation is an objective method of comparing two investment options to determine which of the two is exhibiting greater forward price momentum.

For the purpose of comparing the asset classes, each asset class is represented by a roster of indices and/or one or more ETFs that principally track or invest in the securities that comprise each asset class, and collectively provide diversified exposure to each asset class. To determine which of the four asset classes is exhibiting the greatest price momentum, the Underlying Index compares the relative strength of each component (ETF or index) of each asset class against each component of each of the other three asset classes. To make this comparison, the closing price of the two ETFs/indices being compared are divided against each other and then multiplied by 100. This number is then charted. When the same calculation is run the next day, if the number increases for a given asset class, it is charted as an "X." If it decreases, it is charted as an "O." This is known as "point and figure" charting. The Underlying Index utilizes this technique by comparing each component of each asset class against the components of each of the other three asset classes and aggregating the information. The asset class with the greatest number of "Xs" is the asset class exhibiting the greatest relative strength and is therefore the asset class chosen for inclusion in the Underlying Index. The Underlying Index provides exposure to a single asset class at a time.

May 11, 2018

Page 7

The point and figure relative strength comparison is generally used to determine the highest scoring asset class. The Underlying Index, and thus the Fund, will reconstitute and rebalance to reflect the asset class exhibiting the highest levels of relative strength. Once the asset class exhibiting the highest relative strength has been determined, the Underlying Index will be constituted and weighted pursuant to the individual methodology of the selected asset class, as set forth below. The point and figure relative strength comparison is generally used to determine the highest scoring asset class on a bi-weekly basis (*i.e.*, the second and fourth Friday of each month other than December, in which case it is only the second Friday); however, for purposes of determining whether the international equity securities asset class will be selected for inclusion in the Underlying Index or replaced with another asset class, certain Fridays will be omitted (*i.e.*, the second Friday of January, April, July and October and, if the First Trust India NIFTY 50 Equal Weight ETF (NFTY) is a component of the Dorsey Wright International Focus Five Index, the fourth Friday of March, June, September and December). The 65% and 35% target weight allocations (indicated below) within the U.S. equity securities, international equity securities and fixed income securities asset allocations are rebalanced quarterly ("*Quarterly Rebalance*"). The component weight allocations of the Underlying ETFs comprising the Dorsey Wright Focus Five Index, Dorsey Wright International Focus Five Index and Dorsey Wright Fixed Income Model (each referenced below) rebalance periodically in conjunction with the methodology for each such index or model, as applicable. The Dorsey Wright Focus Five Index and Dorsey Wright International Focus Five Index are reviewed bi-weekly while the Dorsey Wright Fixed Income Model is reviewed monthly.

### *U.S. Equity Securities*

- 65% of the Fund's assets will be comprised of the constituents of the Dorsey Wright Focus Five Index (an index of ETFs designed to select the five sector or industry based First Trust ETFs exhibiting the greatest relative strength), and weighted in accordance with such index.
- 35% of the Fund's assets will be equally weighted (as of the Quarterly Rebalance) between a First Trust ETF that invests principally in the equity securities of large capitalization U.S. issuers and a First Trust ETF that invests principally in the equity securities of small capitalization U.S. issuers.

### *International Equity Securities*

- 65% of the Fund's assets will be comprised of the constituents of the Dorsey Wright International Focus Five Index (an index of ETFs designed to select the five First Trust country and region-based ETFs exhibiting the greatest relative strength), and weighted in accordance with such index.
- 35% of the Fund's assets will be equally weighted (as of the Quarterly Rebalance) between a First Trust ETF that invests principally in the equity securities of issuers operating in

# Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018

Page 8

emerging market countries and a First Trust ETF that invests principally in the equity securities of issuers operating in developed market countries (excluding the United States).

## *Fixed Income Securities*

- 65% of the Fund's assets will be equally weighted (as of the Quarterly Rebalance) among three ETFs that each seeks broad exposure to the U.S. investment grade fixed income securities market.
- 35% of the Fund's assets will be comprised of the four constituents of the Dorsey Wright Fixed Income Model (a model that seeks to select the four ETFs that invest principally in fixed income securities exhibiting the greatest relative strength), and weighted in accordance with such model.

## *Commodities*

- 100% of the Fund's assets will be invested in the First Trust Global Tactical Commodity Strategy Fund.

The Underlying ETFs to be initially included in the Underlying Index are set forth in Appendix A hereto.

The Shares are expected to be listed on Nasdaq and will trade at market prices that may differ to some degree from the net asset value ("NAV") of the Shares. Unlike conventional mutual funds, as described further below, the Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis, at NAV, only in large specified blocks of 50,000 Shares, each of which is called a "Creation Unit."

## *B. The Advisor, Distributor and APs*

### *1. Advisor*

The Advisor will act as the Fund's investment adviser pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with the Trust, on behalf of the Fund (the "Advisory Agreement"). The Advisor, located at 120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, is registered with the Commission as an investment adviser. Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor will manage the investment and reinvestment of the Fund's assets and administer the affairs of the Fund to the extent requested by, and subject to the supervision of, the Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board").

# Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018

Page 9

## 2. Distributor and APs

The Board has appointed the Distributor, a broker-dealer registered under the Exchange Act and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“*FINRA*”), to act as the distributor and principal underwriter of the Creation Units of Shares. The Distributor will distribute Shares on an agency basis. The Board may appoint a different distributor in the future. Entities that have entered into an agreement (an “*AP Agreement*”) with the Distributor and the Fund’s transfer agent (“*Transfer Agent*”) to become “authorized participants” (“*APs*”) may place orders with the Distributor to purchase or redeem Creation Units, as described below.

### C. Shares

As described in subparts I.D. through I.F. below, the Fund will issue and redeem its Shares in Creation Units. Shares will not be individually redeemable. The Trust intends that the initial NAV of Shares will be established at a level convenient for trading purposes. Purchasers of Creation Units will be able to unbundle the Creation Units into the individual Shares comprising such Creation Unit.

### D. Purchasing Shares

The Trust will issue Shares at NAV only in Creation Units. Creation Unit transactions to purchase Shares will typically be conducted in exchange for the deposit or delivery of an in-kind basket of securities in which the Fund invests and/or cash.

Individual Shares of the Fund may only be purchased and sold in secondary market transactions through brokers. Shares of the Fund are expected to be listed for trading on Nasdaq and, because Shares will trade at market prices rather than NAV, Shares of the Fund may trade at a price greater than or less than NAV.

### E. Procedures Applicable to Purchases of the Fund

The consideration for purchase of Creation Units of the Fund may consist of (i) a designated portfolio of securities (the “*Deposit Securities*”) per each Creation Unit and/or (ii) cash in lieu of all or a portion of the Deposit Securities together with, in each case, an amount of cash—the “*Deposit Balancing Amount*”—computed as described below. Together, the Deposit Securities (including the cash in lieu amount) and the Deposit Balancing Amount constitute the “*Fund Deposit*,” which represents the minimum initial and subsequent investment amount for a Creation Unit of the Fund.

The Deposit Balancing Amount serves the function of compensating for any differences between the NAV per Creation Unit and the Deposit Amount (as defined below). The Deposit

# Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018

Page 10

Balancing Amount is an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of Shares (per Creation Unit) and the market value of the Deposit Securities and/or cash in lieu of all or a portion of the Deposit Securities (the "*Deposit Amount*"). If the Deposit Balancing Amount is a positive number (*i.e.*, the NAV per Creation Unit exceeds the Deposit Amount), the creator will deliver the Deposit Balancing Amount. If the Deposit Balancing Amount is a negative number (*i.e.*, the NAV per Creation Unit is less than the Deposit Amount), the creator will receive the Deposit Balancing Amount.

The Fund's custodian ("*Custodian*"), through the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("*NSCC*"), will make available on each business day, prior to the opening of business of the Listing Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time), the list of the names and the required number of shares of each Deposit Security to be included in the current Fund Deposit.

In order to be eligible to place orders with the Distributor and to create a Creation Unit of the Fund, an entity must be (i) a "Participating Party," *i.e.*, a broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process through the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC (the "*Clearing Process*"), a clearing agency that is registered with the Commission; or (ii) a participant that uses the facilities of The Depository Trust Company ("*DTC*," and such participant, a "*DTC Participant*").

All orders to create Creation Units, whether through the Clearing Process (through a Participating Party) or outside the Clearing Process (through DTC facilities or otherwise), must be received on behalf of the Fund no later than the closing time of the regular trading session on the New York Stock Exchange ("*NYSE*") (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) ("*Closing Time*"), in each case on the date such order is placed in order for the creation of Creation Units to be effected based on the NAV of Shares of the Fund as next determined on such date after receipt of the order in proper form. In the case of custom orders, the order must be received no later than 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

A creation transaction fee (the "*Creation Transaction Fee*") is applicable to each purchase transaction regardless of the number of Creation Units purchased in the transaction. When an AP is permitted to substitute cash in lieu of depositing one or more of the requisite Deposit Securities, the AP may also be assessed an amount to cover the cost of purchasing the Deposit Securities, including operational processing and brokerage costs, transfer fees, stamp taxes, and part or all of the spread between the expected bid and offer side of the market related to such Deposit Securities.

To the extent contemplated in the applicable AP Agreement, Shares of the Fund may be issued in advance of receipt of Deposit Securities subject to various conditions, including an undertaking by the AP to deliver the missing Deposit Securities as soon as possible, which undertaking will be secured by the delivery and maintenance of collateral.

May 11, 2018

Page 11

F. *Procedures Applicable to Redemptions of the Fund*

Shares may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by the Fund through the Transfer Agent and only on a business day. The Custodian, through the NSCC, will make available prior to the opening of business on the Listing Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time) on each business day, the identity of the Redemption Securities (as defined below) that will be applicable to redemption requests received in proper form on that day.

Unless cash redemptions are available or specified for the Fund,<sup>14</sup> the redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit generally consist of a portfolio of securities (“*Redemption Securities*”)—as announced on the business day of the request for redemption received in proper form—plus or minus cash in an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the Shares being redeemed, as next determined after a receipt of a request in proper form, and the value of the Redemption Securities (the “*Redemption Balancing Amount*”), less the applicable Redemption Transaction Fee (defined below) and, if applicable, any operational processing and brokerage costs, transfer fees or stamp taxes. In the event that the Redemption Securities have a value greater than the NAV of the Shares, a compensating cash payment equal to the difference plus the applicable Redemption Transaction Fee and, if applicable, any operational processing and brokerage costs, transfer fees or stamp taxes, is required to be made by or through an AP by the redeeming shareholder.

Orders to redeem Creation Units must be delivered through an AP that has executed an AP Agreement. Investors other than APs are responsible for making arrangements for a redemption request to be made through an AP. An order to redeem Creation Units of the Fund is deemed received by the Trust on a particular date (the “*Transmittal Date*”) if: (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Closing Time on the Transmittal Date; (ii) such order is accompanied or followed by the requisite number of Shares of the Fund specified in such order, which delivery must be made through DTC to the Transfer Agent; and (iii) all other procedures set forth in the AP Agreement are properly followed.

A redemption transaction fee (the “*Redemption Transaction Fee*”) is applicable to each redemption transaction regardless of the number of Creation Units redeemed in the transaction. Investors will also bear the costs of transferring the Redemption Securities from the Trust to their account or on their order.

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<sup>14</sup> Redemption payments may be made in cash, in-kind, or a combination of both.

# Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018  
Page 12

## PART II

### A. Dissemination of Information about Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities

As discussed above, the names and required number of shares the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities to be tendered in connection with the issuance or redemption, respectively, of Shares of Creation Units will be made available on each business day prior to the opening of trading.

### B. Dissemination of Information about the Fund's Portfolio Securities

The prices of the Fund's portfolio securities ("*Portfolio Securities*") will be readily available from, as applicable, the relevant listing Market, other Markets, automated quotation systems, and other sources, such as independent pricing services.

### C. Dissemination of Information about Shares

In order to provide current Share pricing information for the Fund for use by investors, professionals and persons wishing to create or redeem Shares, (i) the Listing Exchange will disseminate continuously throughout the trading day, through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association, the market value of a Share and (ii) the Listing Exchange, market data vendors or other information providers will disseminate, every 15 seconds throughout the trading day, a calculation of the intraday indicative value of a Share. Comparing these two figures will allow an investor to determine whether, and to what extent, Shares are selling at a premium or a discount to NAV.

The Distributor's website (the "*Website*") will also contain the following information on a per Share basis for the Fund: the prior business day's NAV; the closing market price; the mid-point of the bid/ask spread at the time of calculation of the NAV (the "*Bid/Ask Price*"), and a calculation of the premium or discount of the Bid/Ask against such NAV. The Website will also display the Fund's Prospectus and certain additional information that is updated on a daily basis.

## PART III

### A. Comparison of the Fund to the Other ETFs Which Have Sought Similar Commission Action and Received Similar Relief

The Trust believes that the relief requested herein is substantially identical to the relief granted by the Commission to the Prior ETFs of ETFs and substantially similar to the relief granted by the Commission to the Prior ETFs.

*B. Applicability of the ETF Class Relief to the Fund*

The ETF Class Relief provides exemptive and/or no-action or interpretive relief with respect to Rule 10b-17, as well as Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M, to any ETF that meets the criteria set forth in the Equity ETF Class Relief Letter. The Equity ETF Class Relief Letter sets forth five criteria that an ETF must meet in order to rely upon the ETF Class Relief. These are:

- “1. The ETF Shares are issued by an open-end investment company or unit investment trust registered with the Commission under the [1940] Act;
2. The ETF consists of a basket of twenty or more Component Securities,<sup>15</sup> with no one Component Security constituting more than 25% of the total value of the ETF;<sup>16</sup>
3. At least 70% of the ETF must be comprised of Component Securities that meet the minimum public float and minimum average daily trading volume thresholds under the ‘actively-traded securities’ definition found in Regulation M for excepted securities during each of the previous two months of trading prior to the formation of the relevant ETF; provided, however, that if the ETF has 200 or more Component Securities then 50% of the Component Securities must meet the actively-traded securities thresholds;
4. ETF shares are to be issued and redeemed in Creation Unit aggregations of 50,000 shares or such other amount where the value of a Creation Unit is at least \$1 million at the time of issuance; and
5. The ETF must be managed to track a particular index all the components of which have publicly available last sale trade information. The intra-day proxy value of the ETF per share and the

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<sup>15</sup> For purposes of the Commission’s response, “Component Securities” are defined as individual securities that comprise the ETF basket, *e.g.*, securities that are assembled to replicate the particular index that the ETF tracks.

<sup>16</sup> For purposes of the Commission’s response, whether any one Component Security constitutes more than 25% of the total value of the ETF shall be determined as of the most recent rebalancing of the ETF’s reference securities index.

May 11, 2018

Page 14

value of the ‘benchmark’ index must be publicly disseminated by a major market data vendor throughout the trading day.”<sup>17</sup>

The Fund will meet all of the criteria of the Equity ETF Class Relief Letter set forth above, with the exception of Conditions 2 and 3. With respect to Condition 2, the Fund does not generally expect to hold “a basket of twenty or more Component Securities” and may hold Underlying ETFs in excess of 25% of the total value of its portfolio. With respect to Condition 3, in light of the Underlying ETFs that are eligible for inclusion in the Underlying Index, the Fund may not meet the applicable thresholds described therein.<sup>18</sup> All Underlying ETFs in which the Fund invests, however, will either meet all conditions set forth in one or more of the ETF Class Relief Letters or the ETV Class Relief Letter, respectively, will have received individual relief from the Commission, will be able to rely on individual relief even though they are not named parties, or will be able to rely on the Active ETF Relief. Further, the Trust hereby represents that: (a) the arbitrage mechanism will be facilitated by the transparency of the Fund’s portfolio and the availability of the intra-day indicative value, the liquidity of securities held by the Fund and the ability to acquire such securities, as well as the arbitrageurs’ ability to create workable hedges; (b) the Fund will invest solely in liquid securities; (c) the Fund will invest in securities that will facilitate an effective and efficient arbitrage mechanism and the ability to create workable hedges; (d) the Trust believes that arbitrageurs are expected to take advantage of price variations between the Fund’s market price and its NAV; (e) a close alignment between the market price of Shares and the Fund’s NAV is expected; and (f) the secondary market price of the Shares should not vary substantially from the NAV of the Shares. Therefore, the Trust hereby requests that the Commission grant exemptive, interpretive or no-action relief from Rule 10b-17 and Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M as discussed below. As noted above, this relief is substantially identical to the relief granted to the Prior ETFs of ETFs.

## **PART IV**

### **A. *Requests for Relief—Introduction***

The Trust, on behalf of itself, the Fund, the Listing Exchange, other Markets, the Distributor, APs and other persons or entities engaging in transactions in the Shares, requests that

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<sup>17</sup> See Equity ETF Class Relief Letter at 2.

<sup>18</sup> As of May 10, 2018, the U.S. equity securities asset class would be selected for inclusion in the Underlying Index and, based on the Underlying ETFs set forth on Appendix A, Condition 3 would be met. Based on currently available information, however, if, as of May 10, 2018, the international equity securities asset class was selected for inclusion in the Underlying Index, Condition 3 would not be met. In addition, based on currently available information, in the future, the Underlying Index could include various ETFs, both within and outside the international equity securities asset class, that would not meet the thresholds described in Condition 3.

May 11, 2018

Page 15

the Commission grant exemptions, interpretive or no-action advice regarding Rules 10b-17, and Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M, under the Exchange Act.

## 1. Rule 10b-17

Rule 10b-17 requires an issuer of a class of publicly-traded securities to give notice of certain specified actions (*e.g.*, dividends, stock splits, rights offerings) relating to such class of securities in accordance with Rule 10b-17(b). Specifically, Rule 10b-17(b)(1)(v)(A-B) require such advance notice to specify (a) for cash distributions, the amount of cash to be paid or distributed per share<sup>19</sup>, and (b) for in-kind distributions, the amount of the security outstanding immediately prior to and immediately following the dividend or distribution and the rate of such dividend or distribution. Paragraph (c) of the Rule, however, states that the Rule shall not apply to redeemable securities issued by open-end investment companies and unit investment trusts registered under the 1940 Act. Except for the fact that Shares must be redeemed in Creation Units, the Trust is intended to function like any other open-end fund continuously offering its shares. It is in recognition of the foregoing that the Division of Investment Management issued an order upon which the Trust may rely permitting the Trust to issue shares with limited redeemability while still treating the Trust like any other open-end investment company.

In addition, compliance with Rule 10b-17(b)(1)(v)(A-B) would be impractical in light of the nature of the Fund. This is because it is not possible for the Fund to accurately project ten days in advance what dividend, if any, would be paid on a particular record date. Because of this inability to project the amount of any dividend ten days in advance of a record date, applying the timing requirements of Rule 10b-17(b)(1)(v)(A-B) to the Fund would increase the chances that the Fund would mis-estimate the amount of any such dividend.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> The Rule permits a reasonable approximation of the per share distribution to be provided if exact amounts cannot be given because of existing conversion rights which may be exercised during the notice period and may affect the per share cash distribution, as long as the actual per share distribution is subsequently provided on the record date.

<sup>20</sup> As a RIC, the Fund is required by the Code to distribute at least 98% of its ordinary income and 98.2% of its capital gains during the calendar year. If the Trust, with respect to the Fund, declares too small a dividend, it will be charged an excise tax. If it declares too large a dividend, the excess could be considered a return of capital to investors. To avoid an over- or under-distribution of ordinary income, RICs, including the Fund, must estimate: (i) the amount of ordinary income to be earned during the period from the date the dividend is declared to December 31; and (ii) the number of shares that will be outstanding as of the record date. Requiring the Trust to declare the amount of a dividend ten days in advance of the record date would increase the period for estimating ordinary income and the number of outstanding shares, and thus increase the risk of an over- or under-distribution. Requiring the Trust to declare the amount of a dividend ten days in advance of the record date also would increase the chance that the Fund would over- or under-distribute capital gains. Further, unlike ordinary income, the Fund does not have the problem of estimating the aggregate amount of capital gains it will earn between the declaration date and year-end, but as noted above, requiring the Trust to declare the amount of a dividend ten days in advance of the record date would increase the chance that the

May 11, 2018

Page 16

The Trust represents that it will comply with the requirements of Rule 10b-17 (other than paragraphs (b)(1)(v)(A-B) thereof). The Trust further represents that, as soon as practicable following the end of trading on the Listing Exchange on the day prior to the ex-date (but not later than the last time at which the Listing Exchange accepts such information on such date) with respect to any distribution to be made by the Fund, the Trust will provide notice to the Listing Exchange containing the information required in Rule 10b-17(b)(1)(v)(A-B).

In the proposing release for Rule 10b-17 (the “*Proposing Release*”)<sup>21</sup>, in discussing the rights to receive dividends and other rights, which accrue to holders of record of securities as of a record date, the Commission stated:

It has been the experience of the Commission and the securities industry that the failure of a publicly held company to provide a timely announcement of the record date with respect to these types of rights has had a misleading and deceptive effect on both the broker-dealer community and the investing public. As a direct result of such failure, purchasers and their brokers may have entered into and settled securities transactions without knowledge of the accrual of such rights and were thus unable to take necessary steps to protect their interests. Further, sellers who have received the benefits of such rights as recordholders on the specified record date after having disposed of their securities, have also disposed of the cash or stock dividends or other rights received as such recordholders without knowledge of possible claims of purchasers of the underlying security to those rights. . . . In many instances, innocent buyers and sellers have suffered losses. In addition, some issuers have made belated declarations of stock splits or dividends with the apparent knowledge that this action would have a manipulative effect on the market for their securities.

The Trust respectfully submits that none of these concerns raised by the Commission in the *Proposing Release*<sup>22</sup> will be implicated if the requested relief is granted. As set forth above, the Trust will comply with the requirements of Rule 10b-17 except for the timing requirements for notification of the actual amounts of the distributions under Rule 10b-17(b)(1)(v)(A-B).

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Trust would mis-estimate the number of outstanding shares. This, in turn, would increase the chance that the Trust would mis-estimate the per share amount of capital gains that the Fund must distribute.

<sup>21</sup> Exchange Act Release No. 9076 (February 17, 1971).

<sup>22</sup> The foregoing concerns were largely reiterated by the Commission in the release adopting Rule 10b-17. See Exchange Act Release No. 9192 (June 7, 1971) (the “*Adopting Release*”).

May 11, 2018  
Page 17

Accordingly, market participants will receive timely notification of the existence and timing of a pending distribution, and will be able to plan their transactions in Shares accordingly. As a result, there should be no confusion or opportunity for manipulation regarding parties' rights to receive distributions, which concerns inspired the Commission to propose and adopt Rule 10b-17. Therefore, the requested relief concerning the timing requirements of Rule 10b-17(b)(1)(v)(A-B) is consistent with the purposes underlying the adoption of Rule 10b-17 as outlined in the Proposing Release and Adopting Release. The exemption under paragraph (c) of Rule 10b-17, which covers open-end investment companies with fully redeemable shares, thus should be applicable to the Trust with respect to the timing requirements of Rule 10b-17(b)(1)(v)(A-B).

## 2. Rule 101 of Regulation M<sup>23</sup>

The Trust respectfully requests that the Commission grant interpretive relief from Rule 101, as discussed below, to permit persons participating in a distribution of Shares of the Fund to bid for or purchase, redeem or engage in other secondary market transactions in such Shares. Alternatively, the Trust requests that the Commission grant an exemption under paragraph (d) of Rule 101 to such effect.

Generally, Rule 101 of Regulation M is an anti-manipulation regulation that, subject to certain exemptions, prohibits any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase, any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of Rule 101 apply to underwriters and prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in such distribution.

We understand that while broker-dealers that: (i) tender Fund Deposits to the Trust in return for Shares of the Fund in Creation Units; or (ii) redeem Shares of the Fund in Creation Units for receipt of Redemption Securities and cash (or cash only) held by the Fund generally will not be part of a syndicate or selling group, and while no broker-dealer will receive fees, commissions or other remuneration from the Trust for the sale of Shares of the Fund in Creation Units, under certain circumstances such broker-dealers could be deemed to be "underwriters" or "distribution participants" as such terms are defined in Rule 100(b).

Paragraph (c)(4) of Rule 101 exempts from its application, *inter alia*, redeemable securities issued by an open-end management investment company (as such terms are used in the 1940 Act). The Trust is registered as an open-end management investment company under the 1940 Act. However, as discussed above, individual Shares are not redeemable except in Creation Units. Due to the redeemability of the Shares in Creation Units, there should be little disparity between the

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<sup>23</sup> The relief being requested is analytically consistent with SLB 9.

# Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018

Page 18

Shares' market price and their NAV per Share. Accordingly, the rationale for exempting redeemable securities of open-end management investment companies from the application of Rule 101 is equally applicable to the Shares. Although redemption is subject to the condition of tendering the appropriate number of Shares of Creation Units, the Trust otherwise will continue to function as an open-end fund continuously offering its Shares.

It is in recognition of the special nature of such offerings that open-end management investment company and unit investment trust securities are exempted under paragraph (c)(4). Without such an exemption, they could not operate as intended. In view of the foregoing, the Trust requests that the Commission confirm that as a result of registration of the Trust as an open-end management investment company and the redeemable nature of the Shares in Creation Units, transactions in the Shares would be exempted from Rule 101 on the basis of the exception contained in paragraph (c)(4) of such Rule.

The purpose of Rule 101 is to prevent persons from conditioning the market to facilitate a distribution. Creation Units of Shares may be created and redeemed, in-kind (and/or in cash in certain cases) at NAV, on any business day. Holders of Shares also have the benefit of intra-day secondary market liquidity by virtue of their Market listing. Thus, the secondary market price of Shares should not vary substantially from the NAV of such Shares. Because of the redeemability of Shares in Creation Units, coupled with the open-end nature of the Trust, any significant disparity between the market price of the Shares and their NAV should be eliminated by arbitrage activity. Because the NAV of Shares is largely based on the market value of the relevant Fund holdings, transactions involving Shares (creations from and redemptions with the Trust, as well as purchases and sales in the secondary market) will not affect NAV. Similarly, such transactions should not have a significant effect on the market price of Shares.

The Trust requests that the Commission clarify that the tender of the Shares to the Fund for redemption and the receipt of Redemption Securities upon redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of such securities, or an "attempt to induce any person to bid for or purchase a covered security, during the applicable restricted period" for the purposes of Rule 101. Redemption entails no separate bid for any of the Redemption Securities. As described above, following notice of redemption, the Fund will deliver the specified Redemption Securities after the redemption request is received in proper form, except in those cases where redemption proceeds are paid partially or entirely in cash. Absent unusual circumstances, the Fund will not purchase Redemption Securities in the secondary market to fulfill a redemption request. Therefore, redemptions of Shares cannot be expected to affect the market price of the Redemption Securities. The Distributor will not engage in any secondary market transactions in Shares, either for its own account or for investors.

In view of the lack of any special financial incentive to create Creation Units of Shares, combined with a predictable lack of any meaningful potential for the issuance and the secondary

May 11, 2018

Page 19

market trading of Shares to affect significantly Shares pricing, application of Rule 101 to a broker-dealer or other person who may be participating in a distribution of Shares or securities held by the Fund is unnecessary and inappropriate, and could unnecessarily hinder broker-dealers or other persons in their creation and redemption activities, in their day-to-day ordinary business of buying and selling Shares and thus undermine the potential beneficial market effects of Shares trading discussed throughout this letter.

3. Rule 102 of Regulation M

The Trust respectfully requests that the Commission confirm that, as a result of registration of the Trust as an open-end management investment company and the redeemable nature of the Shares in Creation Units, for the reasons previously stated under our request for relief under Rule 101(c)(4), transactions in Shares would be exempted from Rule 102 on the basis of the exception contained in paragraph (d)(4) of such Rule. Application of Rule 102 in this context would not further the anti-manipulative purposes of the Rule. Alternatively, the Trust requests that the Commission grant an exemption under paragraph (e) of Rule 102 to such effect. Application of Rule 102 in this context would not further the anti-manipulative purpose of this Rule.

The purpose of Rule 102 is to prevent persons from manipulating the price of a security during a distribution and to protect the integrity of the offering process by prohibiting activities that could artificially influence the market for that particular security.

For the reasons described in connection with the requested Rule 101 relief, redemption transactions and secondary market transactions in the Shares are not viable means to manipulate the price of a Portfolio Security held by the Fund during a distribution of such security. The Trust will redeem the Creation Units of Shares at the NAV of the Shares. Although Shares are traded on the secondary market, Shares may only be redeemed in Creation Units. Thus, the Trust believes that the redemption by the Trust of the Shares of the Fund at NAV in consideration principally for Portfolio Securities held by the Fund does not involve the abuses that Rule 102 was intended to prevent.

**PART V**

A. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the Trust respectfully requests that the Commission and the Division of Trading and Markets grant the relief requested herein. The forms of relief requested are virtually identical to those actions which the Commission and the Division of Trading and Markets have taken in similar circumstances.

Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018  
Page 20

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (312) 845-3446.

Very truly yours,

CHAPMAN AND CUTLER LLP

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne M. Russell

# Chapman and Cutler LLP

May 11, 2018

Page 21

## **APPENDIX A**

The Underlying ETFs to be initially included in the Underlying Index are set forth below:\*

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TICKER SYMBOL</b>
First Trust Nasdaq Bank ETF	FTXO
First Trust Industrials/Producer Durables AlphaDEX <sup>®</sup> Fund	FXR
First Trust Dow Jones Internet Index Fund	FDN
First Trust Technology AlphaDEX <sup>®</sup> Fund	FXL
First Trust NASDAQ-100-Technology Sector Index Fund	QTEC
First Trust Large Cap Growth AlphaDEX <sup>®</sup> Fund	FTC
First Trust Small Cap Growth AlphaDEX <sup>®</sup> Fund	FYC

\*Information is as of May 10, 2018.