SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-83936; File No. SR-NYSEArca-2018-60)

August 24, 2018

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to List and Trade Shares of the First Trust Long Duration Opportunities ETF under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E

Pursuant to Section $19(b)(1)^1$ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")² and

Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that, on August 17, 2018, NYSE Arca, Inc. (the

"Exchange" or "NYSE Arca") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the

"Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have

been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to

solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule</u> Change

The Exchange proposes to list and trade shares of the First Trust Long Duration

Opportunities ETF under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E ("Managed Fund Shares"). The proposed change is available on the Exchange's website at <u>www.nyse.com</u>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places

¹ 15 U.S.C.78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

- A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change
 - 1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to list and trade shares ("Shares") of First Trust Long Duration

Opportunities ETF (the "Fund") which under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E, which governs the

listing and trading of Managed Fund Shares on the Exchange.⁴

The Shares are offered by First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund IV (the "Trust"), which is

registered with the Commission as an open-end management investment company.⁵ The Fund is

a series of the Trust.

First Trust Advisors L.P. is the investment adviser ("First Trust" or "Adviser") to the

Fund. First Trust Portfolios L.P. is the distributor ("Distributor") for the Fund's Shares. The

Bank of New York Mellon acts as the administrator, custodian and transfer agent ("Custodian"

or "Transfer Agent") for the Fund.

⁴ A Managed Fund Share is a security that represents an interest in an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1) ("1940 Act") organized as an open-end investment company or similar entity that invests in a portfolio of securities selected by its investment adviser consistent with its investment objectives and policies. In contrast, an open-end investment company that issues Investment Company Units, listed and traded on the Exchange under NYSE Arca Rule 5.2-E(j)(3), seeks to provide investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance of a specific foreign or domestic stock index, fixed income securities index or combination thereof.

⁵ The Trust is registered under the 1940 Act. On June 12, 2018, the Trust filed with the Commission its registration statement on Form N-1A under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a), and under the 1940 Act relating to the Fund (File Nos. 333-174332 and 811-22559) ("Registration Statement"). The description of the operation of the Trust and the Fund herein is based, in part, on the Registration Statement. In addition, the Commission has issued an order upon which the Trust may rely, granting certain exemptive relief under the 1940 Act. <u>See</u> Investment Company Act Release No. 30029 (April 10, 2012) (File No. 812-13795).

Commentary .06 to Rule 8.600-E provides that, if the investment adviser to the investment company issuing Managed Fund Shares is affiliated with a broker-dealer, such investment adviser shall erect and maintain a "fire wall" between the investment adviser and the broker-dealer with respect to access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to such investment company portfolio.⁶ In addition, Commentary .06 further requires that personnel who make decisions on the open-end fund's portfolio composition must be subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material nonpublic information regarding the open-end fund's portfolios L.P., a broker-dealer, and has implemented and will maintain a fire wall with respect to its broker-dealer affiliate regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio. In the event (a) the Adviser becomes registered as a broker-dealer or newly affiliated with a broker-dealer, or (b) any new adviser or sub-adviser is a registered broker-dealer or becomes affiliated with a broker-dealer, it will implement and maintain a fire wall with respect to its relevant personnel or its broker-dealer

⁶ An investment adviser to an open-end fund is required to be registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act"). As a result, the Adviser and its related personnel are subject to the provisions of Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act relating to codes of ethics. This Rule requires investment advisers to adopt a code of ethics that reflects the fiduciary nature of the relationship to clients as well as compliance with other applicable securities laws. Accordingly, procedures designed to prevent the communication and misuse of non-public information by an investment adviser must be consistent with Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act. In addition, Rule 206(4)-7 under the Advisers Act makes it unlawful for an investment adviser to provide investment advice to clients unless such investment adviser has (i) adopted and implemented written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violation, by the investment adviser and its supervised persons, of the Advisers Act and the Commission rules adopted thereunder; (ii) implemented, at a minimum, an annual review regarding the adequacy of the policies and procedures established pursuant to subparagraph (i) above and the effectiveness of their implementation; and (iii) designated an individual (who is a supervised person) responsible for administering the policies and procedures adopted under subparagraph (i) above.

affiliate regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio, and will be subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information regarding such portfolio.

First Trust Long Duration Opportunities ETF

Principal Investments

According to the Registration Statement, the investment objective of the Fund is to generate current income with a focus on preservation of capital. Under normal market conditions,⁷ the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets in a portfolio of "Fixed Income Securities" (described below), which may be represented by derivatives relating to such securities. The term Fixed Income Securities means:

- Debt securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or government-sponsored entities ("GSE" or "U.S. Government Entities"), other than "Agency Mortgage-Related Investments" as referenced below;⁸
- mortgage-related debt securities and other mortgage-related instruments issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government and U.S. Government Entities (collectively,

⁷ The term "normal market conditions" is defined in NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E(c)(5). On a temporary basis, including for defensive purposes, during the initial invest-up period (<u>i.e.</u>, the six-week period following the commencement of trading of Shares on the Exchange) and during periods of high cash inflows or outflows (<u>i.e.</u>, rolling periods of seven calendar days during which inflows or outflows of cash, in the aggregate, exceed 10% of the Fund's net assets as of the opening of business on the first day of such periods), the Fund may depart from its principal investment strategies; for example, it may hold a higher than normal proportion of its assets in cash. The Fund may adopt a defensive strategy when the Adviser believes securities in which the Fund normally invests have elevated risks due to political or economic factors and in other extraordinary circumstances.

⁸ Government-sponsored entities include, for example, the Government National Mortgage Association, the Federal National Mortgage Association, and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

"Agency Mortgage-Related Investments"); and

• debentures related to securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government and U.S. Government Entities.

The Fund may invest in the following derivative instruments: options, futures contracts and swap agreements. According to the Registration Statement, the use of these derivative transactions may allow the Fund to obtain net long or short exposures to selected interest rates or durations. The Fund may also utilize derivatives to enhance return, to hedge some of the risks of its investments in securities, as a substitute for a position in the underlying asset, to reduce transaction costs, to maintain full market exposure (which means to adjust the characteristics of its investments to more closely approximate those of the markets in which it invests), to manage cash flows or to preserve capital

The Fund may invest in exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") that invest in Fixed Income Securities.⁹ Such ETFs will count towards the Fund's 80% investment requirement described above.

The Fund may enter into mortgage dollar rolls.

The Fund may invest in to-be-announced transactions ("TBA").

Cash earmarked or otherwise held as collateral for settling mortgage dollar rolls, TBA transactions, and other delayed-delivery transactions will count towards the Fund's 80% investment requirement described above.

The Fund may enter into short sales of any securities in which the Fund may invest.

⁹ For purposes of this filing, the term "ETFs" includes Investment Company Units (as described in NYSE Arca Rule 5.2-E(j)(3)); Portfolio Depositary Receipts (as described in NYSE Arca Rule 8.100-E); and Managed Fund Shares (as described in NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E). All ETFs will be listed and traded in the U.S. on a national securities exchange. While the Fund may invest in inverse ETFs, the Fund will not invest in leveraged (e.g., 2X, -2X, 3X or -3X) ETFs.

Other Investments

While, under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of the Fund's net assets in the securities and financial instruments described above under "Principal Investments", the Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in the securities and financial instruments described below.

The Fund may invest in cash and cash equivalents.¹⁰ In addition, the Fund may hold the following short-term instruments with maturities of three months or more: certificates of deposit; bankers' acceptances; repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements; bank time deposits; and commercial paper.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in other fixed income securities, including asset-backed securities ("ABS") and mortgage-related debt securities and other mortgage-related instruments not issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or U.S. Government Entities ("Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments").¹¹

The Fund may invest in non-exchange-traded investment company securities (<u>i.e.</u>, mutual funds).

The Fund will not invest in securities or other financial instruments that have not been described in this proposed rule change.

¹⁰ For purposes of this filing, cash equivalents are the short-term instruments enumerated in Commentary .01(c) to Rule 8.600-E.

¹¹ For purposes of this filing, Agency Mortgage-Related Investments and Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments consist of: (1) residential mortgage-backed securities ("RMBS"); (2) commercial mortgage-backed securities ("CMBS"); (3) stripped mortgage-backed securities ("SMBS"), which are mortgage-backed securities where mortgage payments are divided up between paying the loan's principal and paying the loan's interest; and (4) collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOS") and real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs") where they are divided into multiple classes with each class being entitled to a different share of the principal and/or interest payments received from the pool of underlying assets.

Other Restrictions

The Fund's investments, including derivatives, will be consistent with the Fund's investment objective and will not be used to enhance leverage (although certain derivatives and other investments may result in leverage). That is, the Fund's investments will not be used to seek performance that is the multiple or inverse multiple (e.g., 2X or -3X) of the Fund's primary broad-based securities benchmark index (as defined in Form N-1A).¹²

Use of Derivatives by the Fund

The Fund may invest in the types of derivatives described in the "Other Investments" section above for the purposes described in that section. Investments in derivative instruments will be made in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

To limit the potential risk associated with such transactions, the Fund will enter into offsetting transactions or segregate or "earmark" assets determined to be liquid by the Adviser in accordance with procedures established by the Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Board"). In addition, the Fund has included appropriate risk disclosure in its offering documents, including leveraging risk. Leveraging risk is the risk that certain transactions of the Fund, including the Fund's use of derivatives, may give rise to leverage, causing the Fund to be more volatile than if it had not been leveraged.

Impact on Arbitrage Mechanism

The Adviser believes there will be minimal, if any, impact to the arbitrage mechanism as a result of the Fund's use of derivatives. The Adviser understands that market makers and participants should be able to value derivatives as long as the positions are disclosed with

¹² The Fund's broad-based securities benchmark index will be identified in a future amendment to the Registration Statement following the Fund's first full calendar year of performance.

relevant information. The Adviser believes that the price at which Shares of the Fund trade will continue to be disciplined by arbitrage opportunities created by the ability to purchase or redeem Shares of the Fund at their net asset value ("NAV"), which should ensure that Shares of the Fund will not trade at a material discount or premium in relation to their NAV.

The Adviser does not believe there will be any significant impacts to the settlement or operational aspects of the Fund's arbitrage mechanism due to the use of derivatives.

Creation and Redemption of Shares

The Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at NAV¹³ only in large blocks of Shares ("Creation Units") in transactions with authorized participants, generally including broker-dealers and large institutional investors ("Authorized Participants"). Creation Units generally will consist of 50,000 Shares. The size of a Creation Unit is subject to change. As described in the Registration Statement, the Fund will issue and redeem Creation Units in exchange for an in-kind portfolio of instruments and/or cash in lieu of such instruments (the "Creation Basket").¹⁴ In addition, if there is a difference between the NAV attributable to a Creation Unit and the market value of the Creation Basket exchanged for the Creation Unit, the party conveying instruments (which may include cash-in-lieu amounts) with the lower value will pay to the other an amount in cash equal to the difference (referred to as the "Cash Component").

Creations and redemptions must be made by or through an Authorized Participant that has executed an agreement that has been agreed to by the Distributor and the Transfer Agent

¹³ The NAV of the Fund's Shares generally will be calculated once daily Monday through Friday as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time ("E.T."). NAV per Share will be calculated by dividing the Fund's net assets by the number of Fund Shares outstanding.

¹⁴ It is expected that the Fund will typically issue and redeem Creation Units on a cash basis; however, at times, the Fund may issue and redeem Creation Units on an in-kind (or partially in-kind) (or partially cash) basis.

with respect to creations and redemptions of Creation Units. All standard orders to create Creation Units must be received by the Transfer Agent no later than the closing time of the regular trading session on the NYSE (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., E.T.) (the "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 as next determined on such date after receipt of the order in proper form. Shares may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt not later than the Closing Time of a redemption request in proper form by the Fund through the Transfer Agent and only on a business day. The Custodian, through the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC"), will make available on each business day, prior to the opening of business of the Exchange, the list of the names and quantities of the instruments comprising the Creation Basket, as well as the estimated Cash Component (if any), for that day. The published Creation Basket will apply until a new Creation Basket is announced on the following business day prior to commencement of trading in the Shares.

Application of Generic Listing Requirements

The Exchange is submitting this proposed rule change because the portfolio for the Fund will not meet all of the "generic" listing requirements of Commentary .01 to NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E applicable to the listing of Managed Fund Shares. The Fund's portfolio will meet all such requirements except for those set forth in Commentary $.01(a)(1)^{15}$, (b)(1), and (b)(5), as described below.

¹⁵ Commentary .01(a)(1) to NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E provides that the component stocks of the equity portion of a portfolio that are U.S. Component Stocks shall meet the following criteria initially and on a continuing basis: (A) Component stocks (excluding Derivative Securities Products and Index-Linked Securities) that in the aggregate account for at least 90% of the equity weight of the portfolio (excluding such Derivative Securities Products and Index-Linked Securities) each shall have a minimum market value of at least \$75 million; (B) Component stocks (excluding Derivative Securities

The Fund will not comply with the requirements set forth in Commentary (b)(1) and (b)(5) to NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E with respect to the Fund's investments in Fixed Income Securities.

The Fund will not comply with the requirement in Commentary .01(b)(1) to Rule 8.600-E that components that in the aggregate account for at least 75% of the fixed income weight of the portfolio each shall have a minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$100 million or more.¹⁶ Instead, the Exchange proposes that, except for periods of high cash inflows or outflows,¹⁷ components that in the aggregate account for at least 30% of the fixed income weight

Products and Index-Linked Securities) that in the aggregate account for at least 70% of the equity weight of the portfolio (excluding such Derivative Securities Products and Index-Linked Securities) each shall have a minimum monthly trading volume of 250,000 shares, or minimum notional volume traded per month of \$25,000,000, averaged over the last six months; (C) The most heavily weighted component stock (excluding Derivative Securities Products and Index-Linked Securities) shall not exceed 30% of the equity weight of the portfolio, and, to the extent applicable, the five most heavily weighted component stocks (excluding Derivative Securities Products and Index-Linked Securities) shall not exceed 65% of the equity weight of the portfolio; (D) Where the equity portion of the portfolio does not include Non-U.S. Component Stocks, the equity portion of the portfolio shall include a minimum of 13 component stocks; provided, however, that there shall be no minimum number of component stocks if (i) one or more series of Derivative Securities Products or Index-Linked Securities constitute, at least in part, components underlying a series of Managed Fund Shares, or (ii) one or more series of Derivative Securities Products or Index-Linked Securities account for 100% of the equity weight of the portfolio of a series of Managed Fund Shares; (E) Except as provided herein, equity securities in the portfolio shall be U.S. Component Stocks listed on a national securities exchange and shall be NMS Stocks as defined in Rule 600 of Regulation NMS under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and (F) American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") in a portfolio may be exchange-traded or non- exchangetraded. However, no more than 10% of the equity weight of a portfolio shall consist of non-exchange-traded ADRs.

¹⁶ Commentary .01(b)(1) to Rule 8.600-E provides that components that in the aggregate account for at least 75% of the fixed income weight of the portfolio each shall have a minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$100 million or more.

¹⁷ <u>See note 7, supra.</u>

of the portfolio each shall have a minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$50 million or more.

As noted above in "Principal Investments", under normal market conditions, the Fund's principal holdings will include Agency Mortgage-Related Investments (as defined above), securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government and U.S. Government Entities other than Agency Mortgage-Related Investments, and debentures related to securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government and U.S. Government Entities. The Adviser represents that the Agency Mortgage-Related Investments market is extremely large and liquid¹⁸; however, individual bond sizes in Agency Mortgage-Related Investments tend to be slightly smaller on average than standard corporate obligation deal issuances. For example, as of March 31, 2018 there were approximately \$3.06 trillion in Fannie Mae outstanding; however, that amount is comprised of tens of thousands of individual pools with a range of individual pool specific issue sizes. While an individual tranche may be less than \$100 million, it may have been issued as part of a deal in excess of \$100 million. The Adviser represents that, except for periods of high cash inflows or outflows, at least 30% (based on dollar amount invested) of the fixed income weight of the securities in which the Fund invests would have a minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$50 million or more. The Adviser represents that these criteria are appropriate, based on the size and liquidity of the market in which agency mortgage securities generally trade and the anticipated availability of Agency Mortgage-Related Investments that would satisfy the Fund's investment parameters.

¹⁸ The approximate average daily trading volume in agency mortgage-backed securities ("MBS") from 2003-2017 was \$249 billion. The average daily trading volume in agency MBS for June 2018 was approximately \$223.2 billion. As of March 31, 2018, approximately \$6.99 trillion in agency MBS was outstanding. (Source: Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)).

As noted above, the Fund will not comply with the requirement in Commentary .01(b)(5) that investments in non-agency, non-government sponsored entity and privately issued mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities (i.e., Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments) not account, in the aggregate, for more than 20% of the weight of the fixed income portion of the portfolio. ¹⁹ Instead, Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments will, in the aggregate, not exceed more than 20% of the total assets of the Fund.

This alternative requirement is appropriate because the Fund's investment in Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments is expected to provide the Fund with benefits associated with increased diversification, as Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments tend to be less correlated to interest rates than many other fixed income securities. The Adviser represents that the Fund's investment in Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments will be subject to the Fund's liquidity procedures as adopted by the Board, and the Adviser does not expect that investments in Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments of up to 20% of the total assets of the Fund will have any material impact on the liquidity of the Fund's investments. The Exchange notes that the Commission has previously approved the listing of actively managed ETFs that can invest 20% of their total assets in non-U.S. Government, non-agency, non-GSE and other privately issued ABS and MBS.²⁰ Thus, it is appropriate to allow an exception to the Fund's

¹⁹ Commentary .01(b)(5) to NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E provides that non-agency, non-GSE and privately-issued mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities components of a portfolio shall not account, in the aggregate, for more than 20% of the weight of the fixed income portion of the portfolio.

See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 80946 (June 15, 2017) 82 FR 28126 (June 20, 2017) (SR-NASDAQ-2017-039) (permitting the Guggenheim Limited Duration ETF to invest up to 20% of its total assets in privately-issued, non-agency and non-GSE ABS and MBS); 76412 (November 10, 2015), 80 FR 71880 (November 17, 2015) (SR-NYSEArca-2015-111) (permitting the RiverFront Strategic Income Fund to invest up to 20% of its assets in privately-issued, non-GSE ABS and MBS); 74814 (April 27, 2015), 80 FR 24986 (May 1, 2015) (SR-NYSEArca-2014-017) (permitting the

investments in Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments set forth in Commentary .01(b)(5) of the generic listing standards.

As noted above, the Fund may invest in equity securities that are non-exchange-traded open-end investment company securities (i.e., mutual funds). The Exchange believes that it is appropriate and in the public interest to approve listing and trading of Shares of the Fund on the Exchange notwithstanding that the Fund would not meet the requirements of Commentary .01(a)(1)(A) through (E) to Rule 8.600-E with respect to the Fund's investments in non-exchange-traded open-end investment company securities.²¹ Investments in non-exchange-traded open-end investment company securities will not be principal investments of the Fund.²² Such investments, which may include mutual funds that invest, for example, principally in fixed income securities, would be utilized to help the Fund meet its investment objective and to equitize cash in the short term.

With respect to investments by the Fund in non-exchange-traded investment company

Guggenheim Enhanced Short Duration ETF to invest up to 20% of its assets in privatelyissued, non-agency and non-GSE ABS and MBS); 74109 (January 21, 2015), 80 FR 4327 (January 27, 2015) (SR-NYSEArca-2014-134) (permitting the IQ Wilshire Alternative Strategies ETF to invest up to 20% of its total assets in MBS and other ABS, without any limit on the type of such MBS and ABS); 83319 (May 24, 2018) (SR-NYSEArca-2018-15) (Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1 Thereto, to Continue Listing and Trading Shares of the PGIM Ultra Short Bond ETF Under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E).

²¹ Commentary .01 (a) to Rule 8.600-E specifies the equity securities accommodated by the generic criteria in Commentary .01(a), namely, U.S. Component Stocks (as described in Rule 5.2-E(j)(3)); Non-U.S. Component Stocks (as described in Rule 5.2-E(j)(3)); Derivative Securities Products (i.e., Investment Company Units and securities described in Section 2 of Rule 8-E); and Index-Linked Securities that qualify for Exchange listing and trading under Rule 5.2-E(j)(6).

²² For purposes of this section of the filing, non-exchange-traded securities of other registered investment companies do not include money market funds, which are cash equivalents under Commentary .01(c) to Rule 8.600-E and for which there is no limitation in the percentage of the portfolio invested in such securities.

securities, because such securities have a net asset value based on the value of securities and financial assets the investment company holds, the Exchange believes it is both unnecessary and inappropriate to apply to such investment company securities the criteria in Commentary .01(a)(1).

The Exchange notes that Commentary .01(A) through (D) to Rule 8.600-E exclude application of those provisions to certain "Derivative Securities Products" that are exchangetraded investment company securities, including Investment Company Units (as described in NYSE Arca Rule 5.2-E(j)(3)), Portfolio Depositary Receipts (as described in NYSE Arca Rule 8.100-E) and Managed Fund Shares (as described in NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E).²³ In its 2008 Approval Order approving amendments to Commentary .01(a) to Rule 5.2(j)(3) that exclude Derivative Securities Products from certain provisions of Commentary .01(a) (which exclusions are similar to those in Commentary .01(a)(1) to Rule 8.600-E), the Commission stated that "based on the trading characteristics of Derivative Securities Products, it may be difficult for

²³ The Commission initially approved the Exchange's proposed rule change to exclude "Derivative Securities Products" (i.e., Investment Company Units and securities described in Section 2 of Rule 8) and "Index-Linked Securities (as described in Rule 5.2-E(j)(6) from Commentary .01(a)(A) (1) through (4) to Rule 5.2-E(j)(3 in Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57751 (May 1, 2008), 73 FR 25818 (May 7, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2008-29) (Order Granting Approval of a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1 Thereto, to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Components of an Index Underlying Investment Company Units) ("2008 Approval Order"). See also, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57561 (March 26, 2008), 73 FR 17390 (April 1, 2008) (Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Components of an Index Underlying Investment Company Units). The Commission subsequently approved generic criteria applicable to listing and trading of Managed Fund Shares, including exclusions for Derivative Securities Products and Index-Linked Securities in Commentary .01(a)(1)(A) through (D), in Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78397 (July 22, 2016), 81 FR 49320 (July 27, 2016) (Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 7 Thereto, Amending NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600 To Adopt Generic Listing Standards for Managed Fund Shares). See also, Amendment No. 7 to SR-NYSEArca-2015-110, available at https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-nysearca-2015-110/nysearca2015110-9.pdf.

component Derivative Securities Products to satisfy certain quantitative index criteria, such as the minimum market value and trading volume limitations." The Exchange notes that it would be difficult or impossible to apply to non-exchange-traded investment company securities the generic quantitative criteria (e.g., market capitalization, trading volume, or portfolio criteria) in Commentary .01 (A) through (D) applicable to U.S. Component Stocks. For example, the requirement for U.S. Component Stocks in Commentary .01(a)(1)(B) that there be minimum monthly trading volume of 250,000 shares, or minimum notional volume traded per month of \$25,000,000, averaged over the last six months is tailored to exchange-traded securities (e.g., U.S. Component Stocks) and not to mutual fund shares, which do not trade in the secondary market. Moreover, application of such criteria would not serve the purpose served with respect to U.S. Component Stocks, namely, to establish minimum liquidity and diversification criteria for U.S. Component Stocks held by series of Managed Fund Shares.

The Exchange notes that the Commission has previously approved listing and trading of an issue of Managed Fund Shares that may invest in equity securities that are non-exchangetraded open-end investment company securities notwithstanding that the fund would not meet the requirements of Commentary .01(a)(1)(A) through (E) to Rule 8.600-E with respect to such fund's investments in such securities.²⁴ Thus, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate to permit the Fund to invest in non-exchange-traded open-end management investment company securities, as described above.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83319 (May 24, 2018) (SR-NYSEArca-2018-15) (Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1 Thereto, to Continue Listing and Trading Shares of the PGIM Ultra Short Bond ETF Under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E).

The Exchange notes that, other than Commentary .01(a)(1), (b)(1), and (b)(5) to Rule 8.600-E, as described above, the Fund's portfolio will meet all other requirements of Rule 8.600-E.

Availability of Information

The Fund's website (<u>www.ftportfolios.com</u>) will include the prospectus for the Fund that may be downloaded. The Fund's website will include additional quantitative information updated on a daily basis including, for the Fund, (1) daily trading volume, the prior business day's reported closing price, NAV and midpoint of the bid/ask spread at the time of calculation of such NAV (the "Bid/ Ask Price"),²⁵ and a calculation of the premium and discount of the Bid/Ask Price against the NAV, and (2) data in chart format displaying the frequency distribution of discounts and premiums of the daily Bid/Ask Price against the NAV, within appropriate ranges, for each of the four previous calendar quarters. On each business day, before commencement of trading in Shares in the Core Trading Session on the Exchange, the Fund will disclose on its website the Disclosed Portfolio as defined in NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E(c)(2) that forms the basis for the Fund's calculation of NAV at the end of the business day.²⁶

On a daily basis, the Fund will disclose the information required under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E(c)(2) to the extent applicable. The website information will be publicly available at no charge.

In addition, a basket composition file, which includes the security names and share

²⁵ The Bid/Ask Price of the Fund's Shares will be determined using the mid-point of the highest bid and the lowest offer on the Exchange as of the time of calculation of the Fund's NAV. The records relating to Bid/Ask Prices will be retained by the Fund and its service providers.

²⁶ Under accounting procedures followed by the Fund, trades made on the prior business day ("T") will be booked and reflected in NAV on the current business day ("T+1"). Accordingly, the Fund will be able to disclose at the beginning of the business day the portfolio that will form the basis for the NAV calculation at the end of the business day.

quantities, if applicable, required to be delivered in exchange for the Fund's Shares, together with estimates and actual cash components, will be publicly disseminated daily prior to the opening of the Exchange via the NSCC. The basket represents one Creation Unit of the Fund. Authorized Participants may refer to the basket composition file for information regarding Fixed Income Securities, and any other instrument that may comprise the Fund's basket on a given day.

Investors can also obtain the Trust's Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), the Fund's Shareholder Reports, and the Fund's Form N-CSR, filed twice a year. The Fund's SAI and Shareholder Reports will be available free upon request from the Trust, and those documents and the Forms N-CSR and N-PX may be viewed on-screen or downloaded from the Commission's website at <u>www.sec.gov</u>.

Intra-day and closing price information regarding futures and exchange-traded options will be available from the exchange on which such instruments are traded. Intra-day and closing price information regarding fixed income securities will be available from major market data vendors. Price information relating to OTC options and swaps will be available from major market data vendors. Intra-day price information for exchange-traded derivative instruments will be available from the applicable exchange and from major market data vendors. For exchangelisted securities, intraday price quotations will generally be available from broker-dealers and trading platforms (as applicable). Intraday and other price information for the fixed income securities in which the Fund will invest will be available through subscription services, such as Bloomberg, Markit and Thomson Reuters, which can be accessed by Authorized Participants and other market participants. Additionally, the Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine ("TRACE") of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") will be a source of price information for certain Fixed Income Securities, including Agency Mortgage-Related

Investments and Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments, to the extent transactions in such securities are reported to TRACE.²⁷ Non-exchange-traded open-end investment company securities are typically priced once each business day and their prices will be available through the applicable fund's website or from major market data vendors. Price information regarding U.S. government securities, GSEs, debentures, cash equivalents and other short-term instruments generally may be obtained from brokers and dealers who make markets in such securities or through nationally recognized pricing services through subscription agreements.

Information regarding market price and trading volume of the Shares and ETFs will be continually available on a real-time basis throughout the day on brokers' computer screens and other electronic services. Information regarding the previous day's closing price and trading volume information for the Shares will be published daily in the financial section of newspapers.

Quotation and last sale information for the Shares and ETFs will be available via the Consolidated Tape Association ("CTA") high-speed line. Exchange-traded options quotation and last sale information for options cleared via the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") are available via the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA"). In addition, the Portfolio Indicative Value ("PIV"), as defined in NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E(c)(3), will be widely disseminated by one or more major market data vendors at least every 15 seconds during the Core Trading Session.

Trading Halts

²⁷ Broker-dealers that are FINRA member firms have an obligation to report transactions in specified debt securities to TRACE to the extent required under applicable FINRA rules. Generally, such debt securities will have at issuance a maturity that exceeds one calendar year. For fixed income securities that are not reported to TRACE, (i) intraday price quotations will generally be available from broker-dealers and trading platforms (as applicable) and (ii) price information will be available from feeds from market data vendors, published or other public sources, or online information services, as described above.

With respect to trading halts, the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt or suspend trading in the Shares of the Fund.²⁸ Trading in Shares of the Fund will be halted if the circuit breaker parameters in NYSE Arca Rule 7.12-E have been reached. Trading also may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. Trading in the Fund's Shares also will be subject to Rule 8.600-E(d)(2)(D) ("Trading Halts").

Trading Rules

The Exchange deems the Shares to be equity securities, thus rendering trading in the Shares subject to the Exchange's existing rules governing the trading of equity securities. Shares will trade on the NYSE Arca Marketplace from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., E.T. in accordance with NYSE Arca Rule 7.34-E (Early, Core, and Late Trading Sessions). The Exchange has appropriate rules to facilitate transactions in the Shares during all trading sessions. As provided in NYSE Arca Rule 7.6-E, the minimum price variation ("MPV") for quoting and entry of orders in equity securities traded on the NYSE Arca Marketplace is \$0.01, with the exception of securities that are priced less than \$1.00 for which the MPV for order entry is \$0.0001.

With the exception of the requirements of Commentary .01(a)(1), (b)(5), and (e) to Rule 8.600-E as described above in "Application of Generic Listing Requirements," the Shares of the Fund will conform to the initial and continued listing criteria under NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E. Consistent with NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E(d)(2)(B)(ii), the Adviser will implement and maintain, or be subject to, procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information regarding the actual components of the Fund's portfolio. The Exchange represents

See NYSE Arca Rule 7.12-E.

that, for initial and continued listing, the Fund will be in compliance with Rule 10A-3²⁹ under the Act, as provided by NYSE Arca Rule 5.3-E. The Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of the Shares that the NAV per Share will be calculated daily and that the NAV and the Disclosed Portfolio will be made available to all market participants at the same time. The Fund's investments will be consistent with its investment goal and will not be used to provide multiple returns of a benchmark or to produce leveraged returns.

Surveillance

The Exchange represents that trading in the Shares will be subject to the existing trading surveillances, administered by FINRA on behalf of the Exchange, or by regulatory staff of the Exchange, which are designed to detect violations of Exchange rules and applicable federal securities laws. The Exchange represents that these procedures are adequate to properly monitor Exchange trading of the Shares in all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and federal securities laws applicable to trading on the Exchange.³⁰

The surveillances referred to above generally focus on detecting securities trading outside their normal patterns, which could be indicative of manipulative or other violative activity. When such situations are detected, surveillance analysis follows and investigations are opened, where appropriate, to review the behavior of all relevant parties for all relevant trading violations.

²⁹ 17 CFR 240.10A-3.

³⁰ FINRA conducts cross-market surveillances on behalf of the Exchange pursuant to a regulatory services agreement. The Exchange is responsible for FINRA's performance under this regulatory services agreement.

The Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, will communicate as needed regarding trading in the Shares, certain exchange-traded options and certain exchange-traded futures, and ETFs with other markets and other entities that are members of the Intermarket Surveillance Group ("ISG"), and the Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, may obtain trading information regarding trading in such securities and financial instruments from such markets and other entities.³¹ In addition, the Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in such securities and financial instruments from markets of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a CSSA. In addition, FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, is able to access, as needed, trade information for certain fixed income securities held by the Fund reported to FINRA's TRACE.

In addition, the Exchange also has a general policy prohibiting the distribution of material, non-public information by its employees.

All statements and representations made in this filing regarding (a) the description of the portfolio or reference asset, (b) limitations on portfolio holdings or reference assets, or (c) the applicability of Exchange listing rules specified in this rule filing shall constitute continued listing requirements for listing the Shares of the Fund on the Exchange.

The issuer must notify the Exchange of any failure by the Fund to comply with the continued listing requirements, and, pursuant to its obligations under Section 19(g)(1) of the Act, the Exchange will monitor for compliance with the continued listing requirements. If the Fund is not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures under NYSE Arca Rule 5.5-E (m).

³¹ For a list of the current members of ISG, <u>see www.isgportal.org</u>. The Exchange notes that not all components of the Disclosed Portfolio may trade on markets that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement ("CSSA").

Information Bulletin

The Exchange will inform its Equity Trading Permit Holders in an Information Bulletin ("Bulletin") of the special characteristics and risks associated with trading the Shares. Specifically, the Bulletin will discuss the following: (1) the procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Unit aggregations (and that Shares are not individually redeemable); (2) NYSE Arca Rule 9.2-E(a), which imposes a duty of due diligence on its Equity Trading Permit Holders to learn the essential facts relating to every customer prior to trading the Shares; (3) the risks involved in trading the Shares during the Early and Late Trading Sessions when an updated PIV will not be calculated or publicly disseminated; (4) how information regarding the PIV and the Disclosed Portfolio is disseminated; (5) the requirement that Equity Trading Permit Holders deliver a prospectus to investors purchasing newly issued Shares prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction; and (6) trading information.

In addition, the Bulletin will reference that the Fund is subject to various fees and expenses described in the Registration Statement. The Bulletin will discuss any exemptive, noaction, and interpretive relief granted by the Commission from any rules under the Act. The Bulletin will also disclose that the NAV for the Shares will be calculated after 4:00 p.m., E.T. each trading day.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The basis under the Act for this proposed rule change is the requirement under Section $6(b)(5)^{32}$ that an exchange have rules that are designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices in that the Shares are listed and traded on the Exchange pursuant to the initial and continued listing criteria in NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E. The Exchange has in place surveillance procedures that are adequate to properly monitor trading in the Shares in all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and applicable federal securities laws. The Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, will communicate as needed regarding trading in the Shares, certain exchange-traded options and certain exchange-traded futures, and ETFs with other markets and other entities that are members of the ISG, and the Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, may obtain trading information regarding trading in such securities and financial instruments from such markets and other entities. The Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in such securities and financial instruments from markets and other entities that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a CSSA. In addition, FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, is able to access, as needed, trade information for certain fixed income securities held by the Fund reported to TRACE. The Adviser is not registered as a broker-dealer. The Adviser is affiliated with First Trust Portfolios L.P., a broker-dealer and has implemented and will

³² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

maintain a fire wall with respect to its broker-dealer affiliate regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio.

The Exchange notes that, other than Commentary .01(a)(1), (b)(5), and (e) to Rule 8.600-E, as described above, the Fund's portfolio will meet all other requirements of Rule 8.600-E.

The proposed rule change is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade and to protect investors and the public interest in that the Exchange will obtain a representation from the issuer of the Shares that the NAV per Share will be calculated daily and that the NAV and the Disclosed Portfolio will be made available to all market participants at the same time. In addition, a large amount of information will be publicly available regarding the Fund and the Shares, thereby promoting market transparency. Quotation and last sale information for the Shares and ETFs will be available via the CTA high-speed line, and from the national securities exchanges on which they are listed. The Exchange will inform its Equity Trading Permit Holders in an Information Bulletin of the special characteristics and risks associated with trading the Shares. Trading in Shares of the Fund will be halted if the circuit breaker parameters in NYSE Arca Rule 7.12-E have been reached or because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. Trading in the Shares will be subject to NYSE Arca Rule 8.600-E (d)(2)(D), which sets forth circumstances under which Shares of the Fund may be halted. In addition, as noted above, investors will have ready access to information regarding the Fund's holdings, NAV, the PIV, the Disclosed Portfolio, and quotation and last sale information for the Shares.

The proposed rule change is designed to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest in that it will facilitate the listing and trading of an additional type of actively-managed exchange-traded product that principally will

hold fixed income securities and that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace. As noted above, the Exchange has in place surveillance procedures relating to trading in the Shares and may obtain information via ISG from other exchanges that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has entered into a CSSA. In addition, as noted above, investors will have ready access to information regarding the Fund's holdings, NAV, Disclosed Portfolio, and quotation and last sale information for the Shares.

Deviations from the generic requirements, as described above, are necessary for the Fund to achieve its investment objective in a manner that is cost-effective and that maximizes investors' returns. Further, the proposed alternative requirements are narrowly tailored to allow the Fund to achieve its investment objective in a manner that is consistent with the principles of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act. As a result, it is in the public interest to approve listing and trading of Shares of the Fund on the Exchange pursuant to the requirements set forth herein.

As noted above, the Fund will not comply with the requirement in Commentary .01(b)(1) to Rule 8.600-E that components that in the aggregate account for at least 75% of the fixed income weight of the portfolio each shall have a minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$100 million or more. Instead, the Exchange proposes that components that in the aggregate account for at least 30% of the fixed income weight of the portfolio each shall have a minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$50 million or more. The Adviser represents that the Agency Mortgage-Related Investments market is extremely large and liquid;³³ however, individual bond sizes in Agency Mortgage-Related Investments tend to be slightly smaller on average than standard corporate obligation deal issuances. The Adviser

³³ <u>See note 18, supra.</u>

represents that, except for periods of high cash inflows or outflows, at least 30% (based on dollar amount invested) of the fixed income weight of the securities in which the Fund invests would have a minimum original principal amount outstanding of \$50 million or more. The Adviser represents that these criteria are appropriate, based on the size and liquidity of the market in which agency mortgage securities generally trade and the anticipated availability of Agency Mortgage-Related Investments that would satisfy the Fund's investment parameters.

As noted above, the Fund will not comply with the requirement in Commentary .01(b)(5) that investments in non-agency, non-government sponsored entity and privately issued mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities (i.e., Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments and ABS) not account, in the aggregate, for more than 20% of the weight of the fixed income portion of the portfolio. Instead, Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments will, in the aggregate, not exceed more than 20% of the total assets of the Fund.

This alternative requirement is appropriate because the Fund's investment in Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments is expected to provide the Fund with benefits associated with increased diversification, as Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments tend to be less correlated to interest rates than many other fixed income securities. The Adviser represents that the Fund's investment in Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments will be subject to the Fund's liquidity procedures as adopted by the Board, and the Adviser does not expect that investments in Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments of up to 20% of the total assets of the Fund will have any material impact on the liquidity of the Fund's investments. The Exchange notes that the Commission has previously approved the listing of actively managed ETFs that can invest 20% of their total assets in non-U.S. Government, non-agency, non-GSE

and other privately issued ABS and MBS.³⁴ Thus, it is appropriate to expand the limit on the Fund's investments in Non-Agency Mortgage-Related Investments set forth in Commentary .01(b)(5) of the generic listing standards.

As noted above, the Fund's portfolio will not meet the requirements of Commentary .01(a)(1)(A) through (E) to Rule 8.600-E with respect to the Fund's investments in non-exchange-traded open-end investment company securities. The Exchange believes that it is appropriate and in the public interest to approve listing and trading of Shares of the Fund on the Exchange notwithstanding that the Fund would not meet the requirements of Commentary .01(a)(1)(A) through (E) to Rule 8.600-E with respect to the Fund's investments in non-exchange-traded open-end investment company securities. Investments in non-exchange-traded open-end investment company securities will not be principal investments of the Fund. Such investments, which may include mutual funds that invest, for example, principally in fixed income securities, would be utilized to help the Fund meet its investment objective and to equitize cash in the short term.

The proposed rule change is designed to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and , in general, to protect investors and the public interest in that it will facilitate the listing and trading of shares of an additional type of actively-managed exchange-traded product that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

 $[\]frac{34}{\text{See note 20, supra.}}$

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purpose of the Act. The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change will facilitate the listing and trading of an additional type of actively-managed exchange-traded product that principally will hold fixed income securities and that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule</u> <u>Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the selfregulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

• Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or

Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NYSEArca-2018-60 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEArca-2018-60. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All

submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEArca-2018-60, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.³⁵

Eduardo A. Aleman Assistant Secretary

³⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).