

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT**  
**For the Paperwork Reduction Act Information Collection Submission for**  
**FORM N-2**

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

**1. Necessity for the Information Collection**

Form N-2 (17 CFR 239.14 and 274.11a-1) is the form used by closed-end management investment companies (“closed-end funds”) to register as investment companies under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.) (“Investment Company Act”) and to register their securities under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.) (“Securities Act”). Section 5 of the Securities Act (15 U.S.C. 77e) requires the filing of a registration statement prior to the offer of securities to the public and that the statement be effective before any securities are sold. The primary purpose of the registration process is to provide disclosure of financial and other information to current and potential investors for the purpose of evaluating an investment in a security. Section 5(b) of the Securities Act requires that investors be provided with a prospectus containing the information required in a registration statement prior to the sale, or at the time of confirmation or delivery, of the securities.

A closed-end fund is required to register as an investment company under Section 8(a) of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-8(a)). Form N-2 permits a closed-end fund to provide investors with a prospectus covering essential information about the fund when the fund makes an initial or additional offering of its securities. More detailed information is provided to interested investors in the Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”). The SAI is provided to investors upon request and without charge.

## **2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection**

The purpose of Form N-2 is to meet the filing and disclosure requirements of the Securities Act and the Investment Company Act and to enable funds to provide investors with information necessary to evaluate an investment in a fund. This information collection differs significantly from many other federal information collections, which are primarily for the use and benefit of the collecting agency. The information required to be filed with the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability and dissemination of the information.

## **3. Consideration Given to Information Technology**

The Commission's electronic filing system, EDGAR, is designed to automate the filing, processing, and dissemination of all disclosure filings. The system permits publicly held companies to transmit their filings to the Commission electronically. This automation has increased the speed, accuracy, and availability of information, generating benefits to investors and financial markets. All registered investment companies filing Form N-2 with the Commission are required to use EDGAR.

## **4. Duplication**

The Form N-2 registration statement is the principal disclosure document used by closed-end funds. In general, to avoid duplication a fund may incorporate by reference, in answer or partial answer to any item in Form N-2 not required to be included in the prospectus, any information contained elsewhere in the registration statement or any information contained in other statements, applications, or reports filed with the Commission.

**5. Effect on Small Entities**

Form N-2 must be filed by all closed-end funds, regardless of size. It would not be in the best interest of investors to reduce the reporting and recordkeeping requirements for small entities.

**6. Consequences of Not Conducting Collection**

In the absence of the disclosure requirements in Form N-2, investors in closed-end funds may not receive information necessary to make informed investment decisions, and consumer confidence in the securities industry could be adversely affected. Form N-2 also satisfies the Investment Company Act requirement that investment companies register with the Commission before they conduct business. In the absence of a Form N-2 registration statement, closed-end funds would not be able to comply with the filing requirements of the Investment Company Act.

A closed-end fund must file its registration statement on Form N-2 only when making initial or additional offerings of securities or when amending its registration statement. Less frequent collection would mean that information current to a particular offering would not be available to fund investors and the Commission would not have current information to perform its regulatory functions.

**7. Inconsistencies with Guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2)**

Not applicable.

**8. Consultation Outside the Agency**

Form N-2 has previously been amended through rulemaking actions pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. Comments are generally received from registrants,

trade associations, the legal and accounting professions, and other interested parties. In addition, the Commission and staff of the Commission's Division of Investment Management participate in an ongoing dialogue with representatives of the investment company industry through public conferences, meetings, and informal exchanges. The Commission requested public comment on the collection of information requirements in Form N-2 before it submitted this request for extension and approval to the Office of Management and Budget. The Commission received no comments in response to its request.

**9. Payment or Gift**

Not applicable.

**10. Confidentiality**

Not applicable.

**11. Sensitive Questions**

Form N-2 collects Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Records include information on officers, directors, principal shareholders, and certain other persons having a relationship with or transaction with a registrant. The records describe the individual's relationship to a registrant and other relevant material business information about the individual. The records do not include Social Security Numbers. A System of Records Notice has been published in the Federal Register at 4 FR 4550 and can also be found at <https://www.sec.gov/about/privacy/sorn/secorn1.pdf>

## 12. Burden of Information Collection

The estimate of the annual number of registration statements filed on Form N-2 is based on the average annual number of filings received by the Commission over the past three years. The hour burden estimates for preparing and filing Form N-2 are based on the Commission's experience with the contents of the form, as well as Commission staff's discussions with industry representatives. The number of burden hours may vary depending on, among other things, the complexity of the filing and whether preparation of the form is performed by fund staff or outside counsel. The estimated average burden hours are made solely for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act and are not derived from a quantitative, comprehensive, or even representative survey or study of the burdens associated with Commission rules and forms.

Form N-2 generally imposes two types of reporting burdens on investment companies: (1) the burden of preparing and filing the initial registration statement; and (2) the burden of preparing and filing post-effective amendments to a previously effective registration statement. The Commission estimates that the burden hours that will be imposed by Form N-2 are as follows:

### **Calculation of Hour Burden of Initial Form N-2 Filings**

Number of initial Form N-2 filings annually	136
Average number of portfolios per filing	1
Number of portfolios referenced in initial Form N-2 filings annually	136
Current hour burden per portfolio for initial Form N-2 filing	515
Total annual hour burden for initial Form N-2 filings (136 x 515)	70,040

**Calculation of Hour Burden of Post-Effective Amendments**

Number of post-effective amendments filed annually	30
Average number of portfolios per filing	1
Number of portfolios in post-effective amendments to Form N-2 filings annually	30
Current hour burden per portfolio for preparing post-effective amendments	107
Total annual hour burden to prepare post-effective amendments (30 x 107)	3,210

**Total Annual Hour Burden**

Annual hours for post effective amendments + annual hours for initial Form N-2 filings (70,040 + 3,210)	73,250
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Based on the estimated wage rate, the total cost to the fund industry of the hour burden for complying with Form N-2 is approximately \$24.9 million.<sup>1</sup>

**13. Cost to Respondents**

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<sup>1</sup> The cost to the industry is calculated by multiplying the total annual hour burden (73,250 hours) by the estimated hourly wage rate of \$340. The estimated wage figure is based on published rates for attorneys, paralegals, and assistant general counsels, modified to account for an 1800-hour work-year and multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits and overhead, yielding effective hourly rates of \$386, \$202, and \$433, respectively, adjusted for inflation. See SIFMA's Report on Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2013 (Oct. 2013). The estimated wage rate was further based on the estimate that attorneys, paralegals, and assistant general counsels would divide time equally, resulting in a weighted wage rate of \$340 (((\$386 + \$202 + \$433)/3).

Cost burden is the cost of goods and services purchased to prepare and update Form N-2, such as for the services of independent auditors and outside counsel. The cost burden does not include the hour burden discussed in Item 12. Estimates are based on the Commission's experience with the filing of registration forms, as well as Commission staff's discussions with industry representatives.

The current estimated cost burden for preparing an initial Form N-2 is \$28,449 per portfolio and for preparing a post-effective amendment to a previously effective registration statement is \$10,135 per portfolio. The Commission estimates that, on an annual basis, 136 portfolios will be referenced in initial filings on Form N-2 and 30 portfolios will be referenced in post-effective amendments of Form N-2 filings. Thus, the total cost burden allocated to Form N-2 would be as follows:

**Cost Burden of Preparing and Filing Initial Form N-2**

Cost burden per portfolio for initial Form N-2 filings	\$31,941
Number of portfolios referenced in initial Form N-2 filings annually	136
Cost burden of initial Form N-2 filings (136 x \$31,941)	\$4,343,976

**Cost Burden of Preparing and Filing Post-Effective Amendments**

Cost burden per portfolio of post-effective amendments Form N-2 filings	\$10,814
Number of portfolios referenced in post-effective amendments to Form N-2 filings annually	30
Cost burden of post-effective amendments to Form N-2 filings (30 x \$10,814)	\$324,420

**Total Cost Burden for Form N-2**

Initial Form N-2 filings + post-effective amendments (\$4,343,976 + \$324,420)	\$4,668,396
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**14. Cost to the Federal Government**

The annual cost of reviewing and processing new registration statements, post-effective amendments, proxy statements, and shareholder reports of investment companies amounted to approximately \$19.5 million in fiscal year 2015, based on the Commission's computation of the value of staff time devoted to this activity and related overhead.

**15. Change in Burden**

Currently, the approved annual hour burden for preparing and filing registration statements on Form N-2 is 86,533 hours based on the previous estimate of 191 responses. The new estimate of the total hour burden is 73,250 hours based on the new estimated total number of responses of 166. The decrease in the total annual hour burden is 13,283 hours. This decrease is attributable to a decrease in the number of Form N-2 filings.

**16. Information Collection Planned for Statistical Purposes**

Not Applicable.



**17. Approval to Omit OMB Expiration Date**

We request authorization to omit the expiration date on the electronic version of the form. Including the expiration date on the electronic version of the form will result in increased costs, because the need to make changes to the form may not follow the application's scheduled version release dates. The OMB control number will be displayed.

**18. Exceptions to Certification Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission**

Not Applicable.

**B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

Not Applicable.