

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENCE

Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act defines who is an “interested person” and therefore not independent under the Act:

Sec. 2(a)(19): "Interested person" of another person means -

A. when used with respect to an investment company -

- i. any affiliated person of such company,
- ii. any member of the immediate family of any natural person who is an affiliated person of such company,
- iii. any interested person of any investment adviser of or principal underwriter for such company,
- iv. any person or partner or employee of any person who at any time since the beginning of the last two completed fiscal years of such company has acted as legal counsel for such company,
- v. any broker or dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any affiliated person of such a broker or dealer, and
- vi. any natural person whom the Commission by order shall have determined to be an interested person by reason of having had, at any time since the beginning of the last two completed fiscal years of such company, a material business or professional relationship with such company or with the principal executive officer of such company or with any other investment company having the same investment adviser or principal underwriter or with the principal executive officer of such other investment company: Provided, That no person shall be deemed to be an interested person of an investment company solely by reason of (aa) his being a member of its board of directors or advisory board or an owner of its securities, or (bb) his membership in the immediate family of any person specified in clause (aa) of this proviso; and

- B. when used with respect to an investment adviser of or principal underwriter for any investment company -
- i. any affiliated person of such investment adviser or principal underwriter,
 - ii. any member of the immediate family of any natural person who is an affiliated person of such investment adviser or principal underwriter,
 - iii. any person who knowingly has any direct or indirect beneficial interest in, or who is designated as trustee, executor, or guardian of any legal interest in, any security issued either by such investment adviser of principal underwriter or by a controlling person or such investment adviser or principal underwriter,
 - iv. any person or partner or employee of any person who at any time since the beginning of the last two completed fiscal years of such investment company has acted as legal counsel for such investment adviser or principal underwriter,
 - v. any broker or dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any affiliated person of such a broker or dealer, and
 - vi. any natural person whom the Commission by order shall have determined to be an interested person by reason of having had at any time since the beginning of the last two completed fiscal years of such investment company a material business or professional relationship with such investment adviser or principal underwriter or with the principal executive officer or any controlling person of such investment adviser or principal underwriter.

For the purposes of this subparagraph 19, "member of the spouse of a child, spouse immediate family" means any parent, spouse of a parent, child, , brother, or sister, and includes step and adoptive relationships. The Commission may modify or revoke any order issued under clause (vi) of subparagraph A or B of this paragraph whenever it finds that such order is no longer consistent with the facts. No order issued pursuant to clause (vi) of subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph shall become effective until at least sixty days after the entry thereof, and no such order shall affect the status of any person for the purposes of this Title or for any other purpose for any period prior to the effective date of such order.