

U.S. OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

Model Qualified Diversified Trust Provisions
[For use in the case of multiple fiduciaries]

The model qualified diversified trust agreement contained in this memorandum is made available by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics to attorneys for their use in drafting proposed trust agreements to be submitted for certification pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 13104(f)(4)(B) and subpart D of 5 C.F.R. Part 2634. Under the statutory scheme, a trust agreement is not permitted to be recognized as creating an efficacious blind trust arrangement for any purpose under Federal law unless it had been certified by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics prior to its execution. Proposed trust drafts submitted to the U.S. Office of Government Ethics for consideration must adhere to the language of the model except to the extent, as agreed to by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, that variations are required by the unusual circumstances of a particular case. The fiduciaries' certificates of independence must be executed in the exact form indicated.

It is strongly recommended in any case in which the use of a blind trust is contemplated that the U.S. Office of Government Ethics be consulted as early as possible. Prospective trustees or their representatives should schedule an appointment with the staff of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics for an orientation to the specialized procedures and requirements which have been established by law with respect to blind trust administration prior to the certification of the trust. As a condition of approval by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, prospective trustees must exhibit a familiarity with and commitment to the specialized nature of blind trust administration.

For further information, contact the U.S. Office of Government Ethics directly:
telephone 202-482-9300, email ContactOGE@oge.gov.

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TRUST AGREEMENT

THIS TRUST AGREEMENT is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, _____, between _____, whose mailing address is _____, hereinafter called the Settlor; _____ [financial institution], whose business address is _____, hereinafter called the Trustee; and _____ [financial institution], whose business address is _____, hereinafter called the Investment Manager; such Trustee and Investment Manager hereinafter collectively called the Fiduciaries.

WITNESSETH

SETTLOR has been appointed by the _____ to the position of _____ of the _____ [department or agency], with respect to which appointment the _____ has given its advice and consent. To avoid any conflict of interest, or appearance of any such conflict, which may arise from his duties and powers in such office and any other office to which he may subsequently be appointed to the extent provided for by 5 U.S.C. § 13104(f)(4), Settlor hereby creates a trust which shall become effective on the date this agreement bears.

The Trustee is an eligible entity as specified in paragraph (a) of 5 C.F.R. § 2634.405, that meets the requirements of paragraph (c) of that section. The existence of any other banking or client relationship between any interested party and the Trustee is disclosed in annexed Schedule A, and no other such relationship shall be instituted without the prior written approval of the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

1 The Investment Manager is an eligible person as specified in paragraph (a) of 5 C.F.R.
2 § 2634.405 that meets the requirements of paragraph (c) of such section. The existence of any
3 other banking or client relationship between any interested party and the Investment Manager is
4 disclosed in annexed Schedule A, and no other such relationship shall be instituted without the
5 prior written approval of the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

6
7 Settlor, therefore, hereby delivers to the Trustee, and the Trustee hereby acknowledges
8 receipt of, the property listed in annexed Schedule B, subject to the provisions of this Trust and
9 Chapter 131, title 5 of the United States Code, and regulations promulgated thereunder, and other
10 applicable Federal laws, Executive orders, and regulations.

11
12 The primary purpose of this Trust is to confer on the Fiduciaries the sole responsibility to
13 administer the trust and to manage trust assets without the participation by, or the knowledge of,
14 any interested party or any representative of an interested party. This includes the duty to decide
15 when and to what extent the original assets of the trust are to be sold or disposed of and in what
16 investments the proceeds of sale are to be reinvested. Accordingly, the Settlor and the
17 Fiduciaries agree as follows:

18
19 FIRST: (A) This Trust shall terminate upon the first to occur of the following –
20 (1) Settlor's ceasing for any reason to serve as _____ and in any other position to
21 which he may have been subsequently appointed in the Federal Government and Settlor
22 thereafter giving Trustee written notice directing that this Trust be terminated; or (2) Settlor's
23 death or incompetence. The period between the date of this agreement and the termination of the
24 Trust shall be called the "Trust Term".

25
26 (B) Notwithstanding Paragraph (A) of this Article FIRST, this Trust agreement
27 may in addition be terminated through revocation. However, within thirty days of dissolution of
28 the trust, the interested party shall file a report of the dissolution and a list of the assets of the
29 trust at the time of dissolution, categorized as to value in accordance with 5 C.F.R.
30 § 2634.301(d), with the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

1 (C) The Fiduciaries and the interested parties may amend the terms of this trust
2 agreement only with the prior written approval of the Director of the U.S. Office of Government
3 Ethics and upon a showing of necessity and appropriateness.

4
5 SECOND The Fiduciaries in the exercise of their authority and discretion to manage and
6 control the assets of this Trust shall not consult or notify any interested party or any
7 representative of an interested party.

8
9 THIRD: (A) The assets initially placed in Trust hereunder, as listed in annexed
10 Schedule B, shall consist of a widely-diversified portfolio of readily marketable securities. None
11 of the assets is prohibited as a holding by any interested party by Chapter 131, title 5 of the
12 United States Code and regulations promulgated thereunder, and other applicable Federal laws,
13 Executive orders, and regulations, or consist of securities of entities having substantial activities
14 in the area of the Settlor's primary responsibility within the Federal government.

15
16 (B) The portfolio shall be deemed to be widely-diversified if –

17
18 (1) the value of the securities concentrated in any particular or limited economic
19 or geographic sector is no more than twenty percent of the total, and

20
21 (2) the value of the securities of any single entity (other than the United States
22 Government) is no more than five percent of the total value of such assets. For purposes of this
23 paragraph (B), securities issued by the United States Government are obligations of the United
24 States.

25
26 (C) A security will be deemed readily marketable, for purposes of this Article
27 THIRD, if –

28
29 (1) daily price quotations for the security appear regularly in newspapers of
30 general circulation, and

1 (2) the Trust holds the security in a quantity that does not unduly impair liquidity.

2
3 (D) Each asset listed in annexed Schedule B is free of any restriction with respect
4 to its transfer or sale except as fully described in such Schedule B.

5
6 (E) During the Trust Term, the interested parties shall not pledge, mortgage, or
7 otherwise encumber their interests in the property held in trust hereunder.

8
9 FOURTH: The Fiduciaries shall not acquire any securities or other property in excess of the
10 diversification standards of Paragraph (B)(1) and (2) of Article THIRD of this Trust.

11
12 FIFTH: The Fiduciaries shall not knowingly and willfully, or negligently, disclose to the
13 public or to any interested party or any representative of an interested party any information as to
14 the acquisition, retention, or disposition of any particular securities or other Trust property.

15
16 SIXTH: (A) The income tax return of the Trust shall be prepared by the Trustee or his
17 delegate.

18
19 (B) During the Trust Term, the Trustee shall be responsible for the preparation
20 and filing of such income (joint or separate) and other tax returns, with respect to the property
21 held hereunder and the income therefrom and with respect to any other income of the Settlor, as
22 shall be required by the laws of the United States of America and any State or other political
23 subdivision thereof. The Settlor shall furnish to the Trustee such additional information as it
24 shall, from time to time, need for the completion of such returns. The Settlor shall give to the
25 Trustee power of attorney (I.R.S. Form 2848) and any other instruments which it may need in
26 order to prepare and file such returns and to represent the Settlor in connection with any audit of
27 returns filed by it and to adjust, settle and pay any taxes due in respect of such returns. The
28 Settlor shall deliver to the Trustee funds for the payment of any income tax obligation estimated
29 to have arisen otherwise than with respect to the property held in Trust hereunder. The Trustee
30 in its discretion shall be entitled to reserve an appropriate amount of Trust income for payment of
31 any additional income tax obligation.

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(C) Any tax return filed pursuant to this Article SIXTH and any information relating thereto shall not be disclosed publicly or to any interested party or to any representative of an interested party.

SEVENTH: An interested party and any representative of an interested party shall not receive any report on the holdings and sources of income of the Trust; except that the Trustee shall –

(A) Make quarterly reports of the aggregate market value of the assets representing such interested party's interest in the Trust, and

(B) Provide an annual report for purposes of 5 U.S.C. § 13104(a)(1) of the aggregate amount actually paid from the Trust to such interested party (or applied for his benefit), categorized in accordance with the provisions of such section. For purposes of this Article SEVENTH, only amounts actually received in respect of this Trust by such interested party (or applied for the interested party's benefit) shall be deemed income derived from this Trust.

A copy of each written communication under this Article SEVENTH shall be filed by the Trustee with the Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, within five days of the date of the communication.

EIGHTH: There shall be no direct or indirect communication between an interested party or any representative of an interested party and the Fiduciaries with respect to the Trust unless the communication is with the Fiduciary, in writing, and has the prior written approval of the Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, and unless it relates only –

(A) To a request for a distribution of cash or other unspecified assets of the trust,

(B) To the general financial interest and needs of the interested party (including, but not limited to, a preference for maximizing income or long-term capital gain), or

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2 (C) To information, documents, and funds provided by, or needed from, the
3 Settlor, to effectuate the provisions of Paragraph (B) of Article SIXTH of this Trust, with respect
4 to any income tax obligation arising otherwise than with respect to the property held in Trust
5 hereunder.

6
7 A copy of each written communication under this Article EIGHTH shall be filed by the person
8 initiating the communication with the Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, within five
9 days of the date of the communication.

10
11 NINTH: The interested parties and any representative of an interested party shall not take
12 any action to obtain, and shall take reasonable action to avoid receiving, information with respect
13 to the holdings of, and the sources of income of, the Trust, including obtaining a copy of any
14 Trust or individual tax return filed by the Trustee or any information relating thereto, except for
15 the reports and information specified in Article SEVENTH of this Trust.

16
17 TENTH: The Fiduciaries shall each file with the Director, U.S. Office of Government
18 Ethics, by the May 15th after any calendar year during which the Trust was in existence a
19 properly executed Certificate of Compliance in the form prescribed by the U.S. Office of
20 Government Ethics. In addition, the Fiduciaries shall maintain and make available for inspection
21 by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, as it may from time to time direct, the Trust's books of
22 account and other records and copies of the Trust's tax returns for each taxable year of the Trust.

23
24 ELEVENTH: The Fiduciaries shall not knowingly and willfully, or negligently –

25
26 (A) Disclose any information to any interested party or any representative of an
27 interested party with respect to this Trust that may not be disclosed pursuant to any provision or
28 requirement of Subchapter I of Chapter 131, title 5 of the United States Code (and the
29 regulations thereunder) or this Trust;

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31 (B) Acquire any holding:

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2 (1) directly from an interested party or any representative of an interested party
3 without the prior written approval of the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, or
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5 (2) the ownership of which is prohibited by, or not in accordance with,
6 Subchapter I of Chapter 131, title 5 of the United States Code (and the regulation thereunder),
7 the terms of this Trust, or other applicable statutes and regulations,
8

9 (C) Solicit advice from any interested party or any representative of an interested
10 party with respect to this Trust, which solicitation is prohibited by any provision or requirement
11 of Subchapter I of Chapter 131, title 5 of the United States Code (and the regulations thereunder)
12 or this Trust; or
13

14 (D) Fail to file any document required by Subchapter I of Chapter 131, title 5 of
15 the United States Code (and the regulations thereunder) or this Trust.
16

17 TWELFTH: The Settlor shall not knowingly and willfully, or negligently –
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19 (A) Solicit or receive any information with respect to this Trust that may not be
20 disclosed pursuant to any provision or requirement of Subchapter I of Chapter 131, title 5 of the
21 United States Code (and the regulations thereunder) or this Trust, or
22

23 (B) Fail to file any document required by Subchapter I of Chapter 131, title 5 of
24 the United States Code (and the regulations thereunder).
25

26 THIRTEENTH [**Optional provision**]: Subject to such amounts as the Fiduciaries may
27 from time to time reserve for the payment of such income taxes as may be due and payable by
28 the Trust, and for payment of expenses and compensation as provided for in this Trust, during
29 the Trust Term the Trustee shall pay to the Settlor \$_____ at the beginning of each
30 month.
31

1 FOURTEENTH: In addition to the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon the Fiduciaries
2 by law, the Fiduciaries shall have the following powers, rights, and discretion with respect to any
3 Trust property held by them:

4

5 (A) To sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of the property in such manner and
6 upon such terms as the Fiduciaries in their sole discretion shall deem appropriate;

7

8 (B) Except as limited by specific enumeration in this Trust agreement, to invest
9 and reinvest the principal and any undistributed income, in property of any kind;

10

11 (C) Except as limited by specific enumeration in this Trust agreement, to
12 participate in any reorganization, consolidation, merger, or dissolution of any corporation having
13 stocks, bonds or other securities that may be held at any time, to receive and hold any property
14 that may be allocated or distributed to them by reason of participation in any such reorganization,
15 consolidation, merger, or dissolution;

16

17 (D) To exercise all conversion, subscription, voting, and other rights of
18 whatsoever nature pertaining to any such property and to grant proxies, discretionary, or
19 otherwise, with respect thereto;

20

21 (E) To elect, appoint, and remove directors of any corporation, the stock of which
22 shall constitute Trust property, and to act through their nominee as a director or officer of any
23 such corporation;

24

25 (F) Except as limited by specific enumeration in this Trust agreement, to manage,
26 control, operate, convert, reconvert, invest, reinvest, sell, exchange, lease, mortgage, grant a
27 security interest in, pledge, pool, or otherwise encumber and deal with the property of this Trust,
28 for Trust purposes and in behalf of the Trust to the same extent and with the same powers that
29 any individual would have with respect to his own property and funds;

30

1 (G) Except as limited by specific enumeration in this Trust agreement, to borrow
2 money from any person or corporation (including the Fiduciaries hereunder) and for the purpose
3 of securing the payment thereof, to pledge, mortgage, or otherwise encumber any and all such
4 property for Trust purposes upon such terms, covenants, and conditions as they may deem proper
5 and also to extend the time of payment of any loans or encumbrances which at any time may be
6 encumbrances on any such property irrespective of by whom the same were made or where the
7 obligations may or should ultimately be borne on such terms, covenants, and conditions as they
8 may deem proper;

9
10 (H) To register any property belonging to the Trust in the name of their nominee,
11 or to hold the same unregistered, or in such form that title shall pass by delivery;

12
13 (I) To abandon, settle, compromise, extend, renew, modify, adjust, or submit to
14 arbitration in whole or in part and without the order or decree of any court any and all claims
15 whether such claims shall increase or decrease the assets held under this Trust agreement;

16
17 (J) To determine whether or to what extent receipts should be deemed income or
18 principal, whether or to what extent expenditures should be charged against principal or income,
19 and what other adjustments should be made between principal and income, provided that such
20 adjustments shall not conflict with well-settled rules for the determination of principal and
21 income adjustments, or the Uniform Principal and Income Act, if in effect in the State of
22 _____;

23
24 (K) To determine whether or not to amortize bonds purchased at a premium;

25
26 (L) Except to the extent otherwise expressly provided in this Trust agreement, to
27 make distributions in kind or in cash or partly in each and for such purposes to fix, insofar as
28 legally permissible, the value of any property;

29
30 (M) To pay such persons employed by the Fiduciaries to assist them in the
31 administration of the Trust, including investment counsel, accountants, and those engaged for

1 assistance in preparation of tax returns, such sums as the Fiduciaries deem to be reasonable
2 compensation for the services rendered by such persons. Such persons may rely upon and
3 execute the written instructions of the Fiduciaries, and shall not be obliged to inquire into the
4 propriety thereof;

5

6 (N) No person may be employed or consulted by the Fiduciaries to assist them in
7 any capacity in the administration of the Trust or the management and control of Trust assets,
8 including investment counsel, investment advisers, accountants, and those engaged for assistance
9 in preparation of tax returns, unless the following four conditions are met –

10

11 (1) when an interested party or any representative of an interested party learns
12 about such employment or consultation, the person must sign the Trust instrument as a party,
13 subject to the prior approval of the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics,

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15 (2) under all the facts and circumstances, the person is determined pursuant to the
16 requirements for eligible entities under 5 C.F.R. § 2634.405(c) to be independent of any
17 interested party with respect to the trust arrangement,

18

19 (3) the person is instructed by the Fiduciaries to make no disclosure publicly or to
20 any interested party or any representative of an interested party that might specifically identify
21 current Trust assets or those assets which have been sold or disposed of from Trust holdings, and

22

23 (4) the person is instructed by the Fiduciaries to have no direct communication
24 with any interested party or any representative of an interested party, and that any indirect
25 communication with an interested party or any representative of an interested party shall be made
26 only through the Fiduciary pursuant to Article EIGHTH of this Trust;

27

28 (O) Except as specifically limited in this Trust agreement, to do all such acts,
29 take all such proceedings, and exercise all such rights and privileges, although not otherwise
30 specifically mentioned in this Article FOURTEENTH, with relation to any such property, as if

1 the Fiduciaries were the absolute owner thereof, and in connection therewith to make, execute,
2 and deliver any instruments and to enter into any covenants or agreements binding the Trust.

3

4 FIFTEENTH: Notwithstanding the provisions of Article FOURTEENTH of this Trust,
5 the Fiduciaries shall not acquire by purchase, grant, gift, exercise of option, or otherwise, without
6 the prior written approval of the Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, any
7 securities, cash, or other property in addition to that listed in the annexed Schedule B, from any
8 interested party or any representative of an interested party.

9

10 SIXTEENTH: The Fiduciaries shall not at any time be held liable for any action taken or
11 not taken or for any loss or depreciation of the value of any property held in the Trust whether
12 due to an error of judgment or otherwise where the Fiduciaries have exercised good faith and
13 ordinary diligence in the exercise of their duties such as would have been exercised by a prudent
14 person.

15

16 SEVENTEENTH: No Fiduciaries hereunder shall be required, in any jurisdiction, to furnish
17 any bond or other security, or to obtain the approval of any court before applying, distributing,
18 selling, or otherwise dealing with property.

19

20 EIGHTEENTH: Except as provided in Article SEVENTH of this Trust, the Fiduciaries
21 shall make no accounting to the Settlor until the date of termination of this Trust, and, at such
22 time, they shall be required to make full and proper accounting and turn over to the Settlor all
23 assets of the Trust then held by them the said Fiduciaries.

24

25 NINETEENTH: The Fiduciaries (and any substitutes or successors) shall have the right, by
26 a duly acknowledged instrument delivered to the Settlor to resign as Fiduciaries in which event
27 the Settlor shall designate and appoint substitute or successor Fiduciaries (subject to the prior
28 written approval of the Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics) in their place and stead,
29 which shall have all of the rights, powers, discretions, and duties conferred or imposed hereunder
30 upon the original Fiduciaries.

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1 TWENTIETH: Any amendment of the terms of this Trust Agreement, including the
2 appointment of substitute or successor Fiduciaries, shall require the prior written approval of the
3 Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, upon a showing of necessity and
4 appropriateness. Any such substitute or successor Fiduciaries shall have all of the rights,
5 powers, discretions, and duties conferred or imposed hereunder upon the original Fiduciaries.

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7 TWENTY-FIRST [**Optional provision**]: [**A provision delineating the respective powers**
8 **and responsibilities of the Fiduciaries is recommended. Note that the Fiduciaries will not**
9 **be able to communicate with the Settlor for resolution of any disputes which may arise**
10 **between them.**]

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12 The term "interested party" as used in this Trust means the Settlor, the Settlor's spouse,
13 and any minor or dependent child.

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The validity, construction, and administration of this Trust shall be governed by Chapter 131, title 5 of the United States Code (and regulations thereunder) and the laws of the State of _____.

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____.

Settlor

NOTARIZATION
REQUIRED

The above Trust is accepted this _____ day of _____, _____.

Trustee

NOTARIZATION
REQUIRED

By:
(title)

Investment Manager

NOTARIZATION
REQUIRED

By:
(title)

Privacy Act Statement

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 as amended and the regulations of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) require the reporting of this information for the administration of qualified trusts. The consequences of failing to provide the requested information are as follows: for proposed qualified trusts, OGE may be unable to review or approve the trust; for existing qualified trusts, OGE may revoke the trust certification or trustee approval previously granted. The primary use of the information on the trust instrument, communication, or certification prepared based in part upon this model draft document is for review by Government officials of OGE and the agency of the Government employee for whom the trust is being established to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations as regards qualified trusts. Additional disclosures of the information may be made:

- 1) To disclose information furnished in accordance with sections 105 and 402(b)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, codified at 5 U.S.C. 13107 and 13122(b)(1), and subject to the limitations contained therein, to any requesting person.
- 2) To disclose pertinent information to the appropriate Federal, State, or local agency responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing a statute, rule, regulation, or order where the disclosing agency becomes aware of an indication of a violation or potential violation of civil or criminal law or regulation.
- 3) To disclose information to any source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict-of-interest investigation or determination.
- 4) To disclose information to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections conducted under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.
- 5) To disclose information to the Office of Management and Budget at any stage in the legislative coordination and clearance process in connection with private relief legislation as set forth in OMB Circular No. A-19.
- 6) To disclose information when the disclosing agency determines that the records are relevant and necessary to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body; or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding.
- 7) To disclose the public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from a covered position in one office, department or agency to a covered position in another office, department or agency.
- 8) To disclose information to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of, and at the request of, an individual who is the subject of the record.

- 9) To disclose the information to contractors, grantees, experts, consultants, detailees, and other non-Government employees performing or working on a contract, service, or other assignment for the Federal Government, when necessary to accomplish an agency function related to this system of records.
- 10) To disclose information to appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when: (1) the agency maintaining the records suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system of records; (2) the agency maintaining the records has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed breach there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security; and (3) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.
- 11) To disclose information to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in (1) responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or (2) preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security, resulting from a suspected or confirmed breach.

For additional information please see the OGE/GOVT-1 Governmentwide Privacy Act System of Records.