

ANTHRACITE CAPITAL INC
Form 424B5
November 26, 2008

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Registration No. 333-151400

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

To Prospectus dated June 17, 2008

4,500,000 Shares

Common Stock

Through this prospectus supplement, we may offer and sell from time to time up to 4,500,000 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share.

We may sell all or a portion of the shares offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement through agents, to or through underwriters or dealers. We are a party to a sales agreement with Brinson Patrick Securities Corporation as sales manager, relating to the sale of shares offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement. The sales manager is not required to sell any specific number or dollar amount of shares, but will use its best efforts to sell the shares offered by this prospectus supplement. Such sales will be at market prices prevailing at the time of the sale. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **AHR**. On November 25, 2008, the last reported sales price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$2.95 per share.

Brinson Patrick will receive from us a commission ranging from 1.0% to 2.0% based on the aggregate gross sales during each day for shares sold through it as agent under the sales agreement. The sales manager will be deemed to be an underwriter, within the meaning of the Securities Act, in connection with any sales of common shares on our behalf. See **Description of Sales Agreement** and **Plan of Distribution**.

Investing in our common stock involves certain risks. Before buying any of these shares of our common stock, you should carefully consider the risk factors described in Risk Factors in the documents incorporated by reference herein, including our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus supplement is November 26, 2008.

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and the sales manager has not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell, nor are they seeking an offer to buy, these securities where the offer or sale is not permitted. The information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein is accurate as of the date the information is presented, but the information may have changed since that date. In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires, the Company, Anthracite, we, us, and our refer to Anthracite Capital, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein. Because it is a summary, it does not include all of the information you should consider before deciding to purchase the offered securities. Please review this entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein before you decide to purchase the offered securities.

Anthracite Capital, Inc.

We are a specialty finance company that invests in commercial real estate assets on a global basis. We seek to generate income from the spread between the interest income, gains and net operating income on our commercial real estate assets and the interest expense from borrowings to finance our investments. Our primary activities are investing in high yielding commercial real estate debt and equity. We combine traditional real estate underwriting and capital markets expertise to maximize the opportunities arising from the continuing integration of these two disciplines. We focus on acquiring pools of performing loans in the form of commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS), issuing secured debt backed by CMBS and providing strategic capital for the commercial real estate industry in the form of mezzanine loan financing and equity.

Our primary investment activities are conducted on a global basis in four investment sectors: (i) commercial real estate debt securities, (ii) commercial real estate loans, (iii) commercial real estate equity and (iv) residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS). The commercial real estate securities portfolio provides diversification and high yields that are adjusted for anticipated losses over a period of time (typically, a ten-year weighted average life). Commercial real estate loans and equity provide attractive risk adjusted returns over shorter periods of time through strategic investments in specific property types or regions. The Company may consider investing in RMBS given their current value and liquidity.

We are a Maryland corporation, managed by BlackRock Financial Management, Inc., or the manager, a subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc., or BlackRock. The manager provides an operating platform that incorporates significant asset origination, risk management and operational capabilities. We commenced operations on March 24, 1998. We are organized and conduct our operations in a manner intended to qualify as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for federal income tax purposes. We have adopted compliance guidelines, including restrictions on acquiring, holding, and selling assets, to ensure that we meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT. Our charter also contains restrictions on ownership of our common stock to assist us in maintaining our qualification as a REIT. See Federal Income Tax Considerations and Risk Factors in the accompanying prospectus.

Our principal executive offices are located at 40 East 52nd Street, New York, New York 10022, and our telephone number is (212) 810-3333. Our website is <http://www.anthracitecapital.com>. The information on our website is not considered part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Copies of the documents referred to in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus and all documents incorporated by reference herein (other than the exhibits to such documents unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated herein by reference in the documents that this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus incorporate by reference) may be obtained without charge upon written or oral request to Anthracite Capital, Inc. at the address and telephone number under Additional Information.

About the Manager

BlackRock is one of the world's largest publicly traded (NYSE:BLK) investment management firms. As of September 30, 2008, its assets under management were approximately \$1.259 trillion. BlackRock manages assets on behalf of institutions and individuals worldwide through a variety of equity, fixed income, cash management and alternative investment products. BlackRock Financial Management, Inc. is a subsidiary of BlackRock.

The Offering

| | |
|---|--|
| Issuer | Anthracite Capital, Inc. |
| Common stock offered by us pursuant to this prospectus supplement | Up to 4,500,000 shares |
| Common stock to be outstanding after this offering | Up to 81,398,810 shares ¹ |
| Manner of offering | Best efforts, at-the-market offering that may be made from time to time through Brinson Patrick Securities Corporation, as sales manager. See Plan of Distribution. |
| New York Stock Exchange symbol | AHR |
| Dividend policy | In order to maintain our qualification as a REIT, we are generally required to distribute dividends to our stockholders in an amount each year at least equal to 90% of our REIT taxable income, with certain adjustments. The declaration and payment of future dividends to our stockholders will be at the discretion of our board of directors. |
| Use of proceeds | We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for working capital and other general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment or refinancing of outstanding indebtedness. We will have significant discretion in the use of any net proceeds. |
| Risk factors | Investing in our common stock involves certain risks, which are described under Risk Factors in the accompanying prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008. |

¹ The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering is based on 76,898,810 shares outstanding as of November 10, 2008.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for working capital and other general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment or refinancing of outstanding indebtedness. We will have significant discretion in the use of any net proceeds.

**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND
PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

The historical ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated is as follows:

| | Nine months ended | Year ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | September 30, 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends | 1.53 | 1.30 | 1.26 | 1.34 | 1.16 | |

For the purpose of calculating the above ratios, earnings represent:

income from continuing operations before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees; plus

fixed charges; plus

amortization of capitalized expenses related to indebtedness; plus

distributed income of equity investees; minus

preferred stock dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries.

Combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends represent:

interest expensed; plus

amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness; plus

preferred stock dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries.

The ratios are based solely on historical financial information, and no pro forma adjustments have been made thereto. For the year ended December 31, 2003, earnings were insufficient to cover combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends by \$20.2 million.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We have entered into a sales agreement with Brinson Patrick Securities Corporation pursuant to which we may issue and sell shares of our common stock from time to time through Brinson Patrick as sales manager. Pursuant to this prospectus supplement, we may issue and sell up to 4,500,000 shares of our common stock. Sales of the shares, if any, will be made on our behalf on or through national securities exchanges (such as the New York Stock Exchange) and/or alternative trading systems at prices prevailing at the time of sale and/or in any other manner permitted by law (including, without limitation, privately negotiated transactions).

Sales pursuant to the Brinson Patrick sales agreement may be effected on a daily basis. The compensation to Brinson Patrick for sales of shares of common stock under the Brinson Patrick sales agreement during each day shall be at a commission rate of 2.0% if the aggregate gross sales during that day are less than \$2.5 million, 1.5% if the aggregate gross sales during that day are \$2.5 million or more but less than \$5 million, and 1.0% if the aggregate gross sales during that day are \$5 million or more. The remaining proceeds, after further deduction for any transaction fees imposed by any governmental or self-regulatory organization in respect to such sale, shall constitute the net proceeds to us for such sale.

In connection with the sale of the common stock on our behalf under the Brinson Patrick sales agreement, Brinson Patrick will be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation payable to Brinson Patrick under the Brinson Patrick sales agreement will be deemed to be an underwriting commission or discount.

The following tables show the public offering prices, underwriting commissions and proceeds, before expenses, to us, assuming all 4,500,000 shares of our common stock are sold at \$2.95 per share, the last reported sales price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on November 25, 2008.

| | Per Share* | Total* |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Public offering price | \$ 2.95 | \$ 13,275,000 |
| Underwriting commissions | \$ 0.059 | \$ 265,500 |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to us | \$ 2.891 | \$ 13,009,500 |

* This is an offering that will be made, if at all, from time to time at the then-prevailing market prices. Therefore, there can be no assurances that the public offering price, underwriting commissions, and proceeds before expenses to us, will be as set forth above.

** Assumes 2.0% underwriting commissions. Underwriting commissions for sales of common stock under the Brinson Patrick sales agreement during each day shall be at a commission rate of 2.0% if the aggregate gross sales during that day are less than \$2.5 million, 1.5% if the aggregate gross sales during that day are \$2.5 million or more but less than \$5 million, and 1.0% if the aggregate gross sales during that day are \$5 million or more.

The expenses of the offering, including certain fees and disbursements of underwriter's counsel but excluding underwriting commissions, are estimated at \$100,000 and are payable by us.

We will open and maintain a trading account at the clearing agent designated by Brinson Patrick to facilitate the transactions contemplated by the Brinson Patrick sales agreement. The net proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock under the Brinson Patrick sales agreement shall be available in the trading account on the third business day (or such other day as is industry practice for regular-way trading) following each sale of the common stock (each, a settlement date). We will effect the delivery of the applicable number of shares of common stock to an account designated by Brinson Patrick at The Depository Trust Company on or before the settlement date of each sale hereunder. Brinson Patrick's compensation shall be withheld from the sales proceeds on each settlement date and shall be paid to Brinson Patrick.

Brinson Patrick may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business for which they will receive customary compensation.

The offering of common stock pursuant to the Brinson Patrick sales agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (i) the sale of all shares of common stock subject thereto or (ii) termination of the Brinson Patrick sales agreement. The Brinson Patrick sales agreement may be terminated by us or by Brinson Patrick upon written notice and in certain other circumstances specified therein.

We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to Brinson Patrick against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. We or Brinson Patrick may suspend the offering of shares of common stock under or terminate the Brinson Patrick sales agreement upon proper notice and subject to other conditions as set forth under the Brinson Patrick sales agreement.

All sales made pursuant to the Brinson Patrick sales agreement will be reported in our filings with the SEC pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

We may enter into other sales agreements with other sales agents or underwriters in the future. We may sell our common stock from time to time (1) through arrangements with underwriters or dealers, (2) directly to one or more purchasers, or (3) through agents.

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ADDITIONAL FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following supplements the discussion in the accompanying prospectus under the heading Federal Income Tax Considerations.

The Housing and Economic Recovery Tax Act of 2008

The Housing and Economic Recovery Tax Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act) was recently enacted into law. The 2008 Act s sections that affect the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), are generally effective for taxable years beginning after its date of enactment, and for us will generally mean that the new provisions apply from and after January 1, 2009, except as otherwise indicated below.

Among others, the 2008 Act made the following changes to, or clarifications of, the REIT provisions of the Code that could be relevant for us:

Taxable REIT Subsidiaries. The limit on the value of taxable REIT subsidiaries securities held by a REIT has been increased from 20 percent to 25 percent of the total value of such REIT s assets. See Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Asset Tests in the accompanying prospectus.

Foreign Currency as Cash. Foreign currency that is the functional currency of a REIT or a qualified business unit of a REIT and is held for use in the normal course of business of such REIT or unit will be treated as cash for purposes of the 75% asset test. The foreign currency must not be derived from dealing, or engaging in substantial and regular trading in securities. See Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Asset Tests in the accompanying prospectus.

Expanded Prohibited Transactions Safe Harbor. The safe harbor from the prohibited transactions tax for certain sales of real estate assets is expanded by reducing the required minimum holding period from four years to two years, among other changes. See Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Prohibited Transactions in the accompanying prospectus.

Each of the following changes to, or clarifications of, the 75% and 95% gross income tests, applies to gains and items of income recognized or transactions entered into after July 30, 2008. See Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Income Tests in the accompanying prospectus.

Gross Income Tests. The 2008 Act provides greater detail as to the treatment of foreign currency exchange gains, trading and hedging. See Foreign Investments below.

Hedging Income. Income from a hedging transaction that complies with identification procedures set out in Treasury regulations that hedges indebtedness incurred or to be incurred by us to acquire or carry real estate assets will not constitute gross income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. See Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Derivatives and Hedging Transactions in the accompanying prospectus.

Reclassification Authority. The Secretary of the Treasury is given broad authority to determine whether particular items of gain or income qualify or not under the 75% and 95% gross income tests, or are to be excluded from the measure of gross income for such purposes.

Foreign Investments

We and our subsidiaries may hold investments in, and pay taxes to, foreign countries. Taxes that we pay in foreign jurisdictions may not be passed through to, or used by, our U.S. stockholders as a foreign tax credit or otherwise. However, such taxes would create a tax deduction which would reduce REIT taxable income. Our foreign investments might also generate foreign currency gains and losses. Based on recent guidance prior to the 2008 Act, to the extent that a REIT realizes foreign currency gain attributable to income that is qualifying income under the 95% and 75% gross income tests, then the foreign currency gain is also considered to be qualifying income under the 95% and 75% gross income tests.

Under the 2008 Act, real estate foreign exchange gain is not treated as gross income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Real estate foreign exchange gain includes gain derived from certain qualified business units of the REIT and foreign currency gain attributable to (i) qualifying income under the 75% gross income test, (ii) the acquisition or ownership of obligations secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property, or (iii) being an obligor on an obligation secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property.

Passive foreign exchange gain is not treated as gross income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. Passive foreign exchange gain includes real estate foreign exchange gain and foreign currency gain attributable to (i) qualifying income under the 95% gross income test, (ii) the acquisition or ownership of obligations, or (iii) being the obligor on obligations and that, in the case of (ii) and (iii), does not fall within the scope of the real estate foreign exchange definition.

The 2008 Act further provides that any gain derived from dealing, or engaging in substantial and regular trading, in securities denominated in, or determined by reference to, one or more nonfunctional currencies will be treated as non-qualifying income for both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. See *Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Income Tests* and *Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Foreign Investments* in the accompanying prospectus.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters relating to Maryland law will be passed upon for us by Miles & Stockbridge P.C., Baltimore, Maryland.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may inspect without charge any documents filed by us at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of all or any part of these materials from the SEC upon the payment of certain fees prescribed by the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. Our filings with the SEC are available to the public through the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference documents we file with the SEC into this prospectus supplement, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered part of this prospectus supplement. Any statement in this prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement shall be automatically modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in a subsequently filed document that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement modifies or supersedes such prior statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement the documents listed below and all documents we subsequently file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus supplement and until all of the securities to which this prospectus supplement relates are sold.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, filed on March 13, 2008;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2008, filed on May 15, 2008;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, filed on August 11, 2008;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, filed on November 10, 2008;

Our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed on April 14, 2008;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 31, 2008, February 21, 2008, March 4, 2008, April 4, 2008, April 7, 2008, April 16, 2008, June 10, 2008, July 14, 2008, August 8, 2008 (Item 8.01 only), September 16, 2008 and November 10, 2008 (Item 8.01 only); and

The description of our common stock included in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed on March 9, 1998. These documents are available at <http://www.sec.gov>.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at:

Anthracite Capital, Inc.

40 East 52nd Street

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New York, New York 10022

Telephone: (212) 810-3333

You should rely only upon the information provided in this document, or incorporated in this document by reference. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this document, including any information incorporated by reference, is accurate as of any date other than the date indicated on the front cover or the date given in the applicable document.

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PROSPECTUS

Anthracite Capital, Inc.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Anthracite Capital, Inc. (Anthracite) may offer, issue and sell from time to time, together or separately, (i) secured or unsecured senior or subordinated debt securities, (ii) shares of our preferred stock, which we may issue in one or more series, (iii) shares of our common stock, (iv) warrants to purchase our equity or debt securities or other securities, up to a maximum aggregate offering price of \$500,000,000.

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol AHR. Each prospectus supplement will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement or a free writing prospectus.

We may offer securities through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters, or directly to purchasers. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, please see Plan of Distribution in this prospectus.

You should carefully read and consider the risk factors included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, periodic reports, in prospectus supplements relating to specific offerings of securities and in other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission before you invest in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is June 17, 2008

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may inspect without charge any documents filed by us at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of all or any part of these materials from the SEC upon the payment of certain fees prescribed by the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. Our filings with the SEC are available to the public through the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference documents we file with the SEC into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered part of this prospectus. Any statement in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus shall be automatically modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in a subsequently filed document that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus modifies or supersedes such prior statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the documents listed below and all documents we subsequently file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, filed on March 13, 2008;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2008, filed on May 15, 2008;

Our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A that we filed with the SEC on April 14, 2008;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 31, 2008, February 21, 2008, March 4, 2008, April 4, 2008, April 7, 2008, April 16, 2008 and June 10, 2008; and

The description of our common stock included in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed on March 9, 1998. These documents are available at <http://www.sec.gov>.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at:

Anthracite Capital, Inc.

40 East 52nd Street

New York, New York 10022

Telephone: (212) 810-3333

You should rely only upon the information provided in this document, or incorporated in this document by reference. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this document, including any information incorporated by reference, is accurate as of any date other than the date indicated on the front cover or the date given in the applicable document.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act with respect to future financial or business performance, strategies or expectations. Forward-looking statements are typically identified by words or phrases such as trend, opportunity, pipeline, believe, comfortable, expect, anticipate, current, intention, estimate, position, assume, position, remain, maintain, sustain, seek, achieve and similar expressions, or future or conditional verbs such as will, would, should, could, expressions. We caution that forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties, which change over time. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we assume no duty to and do not undertake to update forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in forward-looking statements, and future results could differ materially from historical performance.

In addition to factors previously disclosed in our SEC reports and those identified elsewhere in this prospectus, the following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in forward-looking statements or historical performance:

1. the introduction, withdrawal, success and timing of business initiatives and strategies;
2. changes in political, economic or industry conditions, the interest rate environment or financial and capital markets, which could result in changes in the value of our assets;
3. the relative and absolute investment performance and operations of BlackRock Financial Management, Inc., our manager;
4. the impact of increased competition;
5. the impact of future acquisitions and divestitures;
6. the unfavorable resolution of legal proceedings;
7. the impact of legislative and regulatory actions and reforms and regulatory, supervisory or enforcement actions of government agencies relating to us or our manager;
8. terrorist activities and international hostilities, which may adversely affect the general economy, domestic and global financial and capital markets, specific industries and us;
9. the ability of our manager to attract and retain highly talented professionals;
10. fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; and
11. the impact of changes to tax legislation and, generally, our tax position.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 and our subsequent reports filed with the SEC, accessible on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>, identify additional factors that can affect forward-looking statements.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

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This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings, up to a maximum aggregate offering price of \$500,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer, which is not meant to be a complete description of each security. Each time that securities are sold, a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering will be provided, including the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities offered. The prospectus supplement may also add, update, or change information contained in this prospectus. We urge you to read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Additional Information**.

As used in this prospectus, Anthracite, the Company, we, us, and ours refer to Anthracite Capital, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of such documents. Neither the delivery of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement nor any distribution of securities pursuant to such documents shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the information set forth in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or in our affairs since the date of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

ANTHRACITE CAPITAL, INC.

We are a specialty finance company that invests in commercial real estate assets on a global basis. We seek to generate income from the spread between the interest income, gains and net operating income on our commercial real estate assets and the interest expense from borrowings to finance our investments. Our primary activities are investing in high yielding commercial real estate debt and equity. We combine traditional real estate underwriting and capital markets expertise to maximize the opportunities arising from the continuing integration of these two disciplines. We focus on acquiring pools of performing loans in the form of commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS), issuing secured debt backed by CMBS and providing strategic capital for the commercial real estate industry in the form of mezzanine loan financing. We also began investing in diversified portfolios of commercial real estate in the United States during December 2005.

Our primary investment activities are conducted in three investment sectors: (i) commercial real estate securities, (ii) commercial real estate loans and (iii) commercial real estate equity. The commercial real estate securities portfolio provides diversification and high yields that are adjusted for anticipated losses over a period of time (typically, a ten-year weighted average life) and can be financed through the issuance of secured debt that matches the life of the investment. Commercial real estate loans and equity provide attractive risk adjusted returns over shorter periods of time through strategic investments in specific property types or regions.

We are a Maryland corporation, managed by BlackRock Financial Management, Inc., or the manager, a subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc., or BlackRock. The manager provides an operating platform that incorporates significant asset origination, risk management and operational capabilities. We commenced operations on March 24, 1998. We are organized and conduct our operations in a manner intended to qualify as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for federal income tax purposes. We have adopted compliance guidelines, including restrictions on acquiring, holding, and selling assets, to ensure that we meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT. Our charter also contains restrictions on ownership of our common stock to assist us in maintaining our qualification as a REIT. See Federal Income Tax Considerations and Description of Capital Stock Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Our Capital Stock; Repurchase of Shares.

Our principal executive offices are located at 40 East 52nd Street, New York, New York 10022, and our telephone number is (212) 810-3333. Our website is <http://www.anthracitecapital.com>. The information on our website is not considered part of this prospectus. Copies of the documents referred to in this prospectus and all documents incorporated by reference herein (other than the exhibits to such documents unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated herein by reference in the documents that this prospectus incorporate by reference) may be obtained without charge upon written or oral request to Anthracite Capital, Inc. at the address and telephone number under Additional Information.

About the Manager

BlackRock is one of the world's largest publicly traded (NYSE:BLK) investment management firms. As of March 31, 2008, its assets under management were approximately \$1.364 trillion. BlackRock manages assets on behalf of institutions and individuals worldwide through a variety of equity, fixed income, cash management and alternative investment products. BlackRock Financial Management, Inc. is a subsidiary of BlackRock.

RISK FACTORS

Before you invest in our securities, in addition to the other information, documents or reports included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement or other offering materials, you should carefully consider the risk factors in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in any prospectus supplement as well as our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed subsequent to the Annual Report on Form 10-K, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement in their entirety, as the same may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future. Each of the risks described in these sections and documents could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and could result in a partial or complete loss of your investment.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds of any offering of our securities for working capital and other general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment or refinancing of outstanding indebtedness. We will have significant discretion in the use of any net proceeds. We may provide additional information on the use of the net proceeds from the sale of our securities in an applicable prospectus supplement or other offering materials relating to the offered securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The historical ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated is as follows:

| | Three months ended | Year ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | March 31, 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends | 1.86 | 1.20 | 1.26 | 1.34 | 1.16 | |

For the purpose of calculating the above ratios, earnings represent:

income from continuing operations before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees; plus

fixed charges; plus

amortization of capitalized expenses related to indebtedness; plus

distributed income of equity investees; minus

preferred stock dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries.

Combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends represent:

interest expensed; plus

amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness; plus

preferred stock dividend requirements of consolidated subsidiaries.

The ratios are based solely on historical financial information, and no pro forma adjustments have been made thereto. For the year ended December 31, 2003, earnings were insufficient to cover combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends by \$20.2 million.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a description of our capital stock and certain provisions of our charter, bylaws and certain provisions of applicable law. The following is only a summary and is qualified by applicable law and by the provisions of our charter and bylaws, copies of which are available as set forth under Additional Information.

Authorized Capital Stock

The authorized capital stock of Anthracite Capital, Inc. consists of 500,000,000 shares of capital stock, 400,000,000 of such shares being common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, and 100,000,000 shares being preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share, issuable in one or more series.

As of May 2, 2008, 68,938,283 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding, 2,300,000 shares of our 9.375% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding, 3,450,000 shares of our 8.25% Series D Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding, 23,375 shares of our 12% Series E-1 Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding, 23,375 shares of our 12% Series E-2 Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding and 23,375 shares of our 12% Series E-3 Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding. No warrants to purchase our common stock or preferred stock are issued or outstanding.

Common Stock

Voting Rights. Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters to be voted upon by our stockholders, subject to the provisions of our charter regarding the ownership of shares of common stock in excess of the ownership limitations described below under Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Our Capital Stock; Repurchase of Shares.

Dividends. The holders of outstanding shares of common stock, subject to any preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding series of preferred stock, are entitled to receive ratably such dividends out of assets legally available for that purpose at such times and in such amounts as our board of directors may from time to time determine.

Liquidation and Dissolution. Upon our liquidation or dissolution, the holders of the common stock will be entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to stockholders after payment of, or provision for, all known debts and liabilities and subject to the prior rights of any holders of any preferred stock then outstanding.

Other Rights. Holders of the common stock have equal dividend, distribution, liquidation and other rights, and shall have no preference, conversion, exchange, appraisal, preemptive or cumulative voting rights. All outstanding shares of common stock are duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable.

Transfer Agent and Registrar. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, New York, New York, acts as transfer agent and registrar for the common stock.

Preferred Stock

We are authorized to issue 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock. As of May 2, 2008, 2,300,000 shares of our 9.375% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding, 3,450,000 shares of our 8.25% Series D Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding, 23,375 shares of our 12% Series E-1 Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding, 23,375 shares of our 12% Series E-2 Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding and 23,375 shares of our 12% Series E-3 Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock were issued and outstanding. No warrants to purchase our common stock or preferred stock are issued or outstanding. Our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders, to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the number of shares, dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights, liquidation preferences, sinking funds, and any other rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions applicable to each such series of preferred stock.

Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Our Capital Stock; Repurchase of Shares

Two of the requirements for qualification as a real estate investment trust are that:

- (1) during the last half of each taxable year for which a REIT election is made, other than the first taxable year for which a REIT election is made, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares may be owned directly or indirectly by five or fewer individuals. This requirement is known as the 5/50 Rule ; and
- (2) there must be at least 100 stockholders on 335 days of each taxable year of 12 months, other than the first taxable year for which a REIT election is made.

To assist us in meeting these requirements, our charter prohibits any person from acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, in excess of 9.8%, in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the number of our outstanding shares of common stock or any class of preferred stock. For this purpose, the term ownership is defined in accordance with the REIT Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and the constructive ownership provisions of Section 544 of the Internal Revenue Code, as modified by Section 856(h)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. Subject to certain limitations, our board of directors may modify the ownership limitations provided such action does not affect our qualification as a REIT.

For purposes of the 5/50 Rule, the constructive ownership provisions applicable under Section 544 of the Internal Revenue Code

- (1) attribute ownership of securities owned by a corporation, partnership, estate or trust proportionately to its stockholders, partners or beneficiaries,
- (2) attribute ownership of securities owned by certain family members to other members of the same family, and
- (3) treat securities with respect to which a person has an option to purchase as actually owned by that person.

These rules will be applied in determining whether a person holds shares of common stock or preferred stock in violation of the ownership limitations specified in our charter. Accordingly, under certain circumstances, shares of common stock or preferred stock owned by a person who individually owns less than 9.8% of the shares outstanding may nevertheless be in violation of the ownership limitations specified in our charter. Ownership of shares of common stock through such attribution is generally referred to as constructive ownership. The 100 stockholder test is determined by actual, and not constructive, ownership.

Our charter further provide that if any transfer of shares of common stock which, if effective, would

- (1) result in any person beneficially or constructively owning shares of common stock in excess or in violation of the 9.8% ownership limitations described above,
- (2) result in our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons, determined without reference to any rules of attribution, or
- (3) result in us being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code,

then that number of shares of common or preferred stock the beneficial or constructive ownership of which otherwise would cause such person to violate such limitations, rounded to the nearest whole shares, shall be automatically transferred to a trustee as trustee of a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable beneficiaries, and the intended transferee shall not acquire any rights in such shares. Shares of common or preferred stock held by the trustee shall be issued and outstanding shares of common or preferred stock. The intended transferee shall not benefit economically from owning any shares held in the trust, shall have no rights to dividends, and shall possess no rights to vote or other rights attributable to the shares held in the trust. The trustee shall have all voting rights and rights to dividends or other distributions with

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respect to shares held in the trust, which will be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the charitable beneficiary. Any dividend or other distribution paid to the intended transferee before our discovery that shares of common or preferred stock have

been transferred to the trustee shall be paid with respect to such shares to the trustee by the intended transferee upon demand and any dividend or other distribution authorized but unpaid shall be paid to the trustee. Our board of directors may, in its discretion, modify these restrictions on owning shares in excess of the ownership limitations, to the extent such modifications do not affect our qualification as a REIT.

Within 20 days of receiving notice from us that shares of common or preferred stock have been transferred to the trust, the trustee shall sell the shares held in the trust to a person, designated by the trustee, whose ownership of the shares will not violate the ownership limitations specified in our charter. Upon such sale, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold shall terminate and the trustee shall distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the intended transferee and to the charitable beneficiary as follows: The intended transferee shall receive the lesser of (1) the price paid by the intended transferee for the shares or, if the intended transferee did not give value for the shares in connection with the event causing the shares to be held in the trust, e.g., in the case of a gift, devise or other such transaction, the market price, as defined below, of the shares on the day of the event causing the shares to be held in the trust, and (2) the price per share received by the trustee from the sale or other disposition of the shares held in the trust. Any net sales proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the intended transferee shall be immediately paid to the charitable beneficiary. In addition, shares of common or preferred stock transferred to the trustee shall be deemed to have been offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of (1) the price per share in the transaction that resulted in such transfer to the trust or, in the case of a devise or gift, the market price at the time of such devise or gift, and (2) the market price on the date we, or our designee, accept such offer. We shall have the right to accept such offer until the trustee has sold shares held in the trust. Upon such a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold shall terminate and the trustee shall distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the intended transferee.

The term *market price* on any date shall mean, with respect to any class or series of outstanding shares of our stock, the closing price, as defined below, for such shares on such date. The *closing price* on any date shall mean the last sale price for such shares, regular way, or, in case no such sale takes place on such day, the average of the closing bid and asked prices, regular way, for such shares, in either case as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed or admitted to trading on The New York Stock Exchange or, if such shares are not listed or admitted to trading on The New York Stock Exchange, as reported on the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed on the principal national securities exchange on which such shares are listed or admitted to trading or, if such shares are not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, the last quoted price, or, if not so quoted, the average of the high bid and low asked prices in the over-the-counter market, as reported by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., Automated Quotation Systems, or, if such system is no longer in use, the principal other automated quotation system that may then be in use or, if such shares are not quoted by any such organization, the average of the closing bid and asked prices as furnished by a professional market maker making a market in such shares selected by our board of directors or, in the event that no trading price is available for such shares, the fair market value of the shares, as determined in good faith by our board of directors.

Every owner of more than 5%, or such lower percentage as required by the Internal Revenue Code or the regulations promulgated under the Internal Revenue Code, of the outstanding shares or any class or series of our stock, within 30 days after the end of each taxable year, is required to give written notice to us stating the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of our stock beneficially owned and a description of the manner in which such shares are held. Each owner of more than 5% shall provide to us additional information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such beneficial ownership on our qualification as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the ownership limitations.

Material Provisions of Maryland Law and of Our Charter and Bylaws

The following is a summary of the material provisions of the MGCL, as amended from time to time, and of our charter and bylaws. It does not restate the material provisions completely. We urge you to read our charter and bylaws. See *Additional Information*. For a description of additional restrictions on transfer of the common stock, see *Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Our Capital Stock; Repurchase of Shares*.

Removal of Directors

Our charter provides that a director may be removed from office at any time for cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the votes of the shares entitled to be cast in the election of directors.

Our board has elected to opt in to a corporate governance provision providing that each vacancy on the board of directors may be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors in office, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum. For a more detailed description, see Corporate Governance.

Staggered Board

Our charter and bylaws divide the board of directors into three classes of directors, each class constituting approximately one-third of the total number of directors, with the classes serving staggered three-year terms. The classification of the board of directors will make it more difficult for stockholders to change the composition of the board of directors because only a minority of the directors can be elected at any one time. The classification provisions could also discourage a third party from accumulating our stock or attempting to obtain control of us, even though this attempt might be beneficial to us and some, or a majority, of our stockholders. Accordingly, under certain circumstances stockholders could be deprived of opportunities to sell their shares of common stock or preferred stock at a higher price than might otherwise be available.

Furthermore, as described under Corporate Governance, our board may classify itself without the vote of stockholders. Such classification cannot be altered by a charter amendment, thereby making it more difficult for stockholders to change the composition of the board because they cannot veto the board's classification.

Business Combinations

Under the MGCL, certain business combinations including a merger, consolidation, share exchange or, in some circumstances, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities, between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is defined in the MGCL as any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of the corporation's shares or an affiliate of the corporation who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting stock of the corporation. During the five year period, any applicable business combination must be recommended by the board of directors of that corporation and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

- (a) 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of voting stock of the corporation; and
- (b) two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting stock of the corporation other than shares held by the interested stockholder with whom, or with whose affiliate, the business combination is to be effected, unless, among other conditions, the corporation's common stockholders receive a minimum price, as defined in the MGCL, for their shares and the consideration is received in cash or in the same form as previously paid by the interested stockholder for its shares. The MGCL does not apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of directors of the corporation before the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder.

Control Share Acquisitions

The MGCL provides that control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, excluding shares of stock owned by the acquirer, by officers or by directors who are employees of the corporation. Control shares are voting shares of stock which, if aggregated with all other such shares of stock previously acquired by the acquirer or in respect of which the acquirer is able to exercise or direct

the exercise of voting power, except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy, would entitle the acquirer to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of voting power:

- (1) one-tenth or more but less than one-third,
- (2) one-third or more but less than a majority or
- (3) a majority or more of all voting power. Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained stockholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition, upon satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay expenses, may compel the board of directors of the corporation to call a special meeting of stockholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. If no request for a meeting is made, the corporation may itself present the question at any stockholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver an acquiring person statement as required by the statute, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, the corporation may redeem any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been approved, for fair value determined, without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares, as of the date of the last control share acquisition by the acquirer or of any meeting of stockholders at which the voting rights of such shares are considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquirer becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares as determined for purposes of such appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquirer in the control share acquisition.

The control share acquisition statute does not apply:

to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction; or

to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation.

Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of our shares of common stock. We cannot give any assurance that such provision will not be amended or eliminated at any time in the future.

Corporate Governance

The MGCL provides that Maryland corporations that are subject to the Exchange Act and have at least three outside directors can elect by resolution of the board of directors to be subject to some corporate governance provisions that may be inconsistent with the corporation's charter and bylaws. Under the applicable statute, a board of directors may classify itself without the vote of stockholders. A board of directors classified in that manner cannot be altered by amendment to the charter of the corporation. Further, the board of directors may, by electing into the applicable statutory provisions and notwithstanding the charter or bylaws:

provide that a special meeting of stockholders will be called only at the request of stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting;

reserve for itself the right to fix the number of directors;

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provide that a director may be removed only by the vote of the holders of two-thirds of the stock entitled to vote; and

retain for itself sole authority to fill vacancies created by an increase in the size of the board or by the death, removal or resignation of a director.

Our board has elected into the last of the foregoing provisions providing that each vacancy on the board of directors may be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors in office, even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum. A director elected to fill a vacancy under this provision will

serve for the balance of the unexpired term instead of until the next annual meeting of stockholders. A board of directors may implement all or any of these provisions without amending the charter or bylaws and without stockholder approval. A corporation may be prohibited by its charter or by resolution of its board of directors from electing any of the provisions of the statute. We are not prohibited from implementing any or all of the statute. If implemented, these provisions could discourage offers to acquire our stock and could increase the difficulty of completing an offer to acquire our stock.

Amendment to the Charter

We reserve the right from time to time to make any amendment to our charter that is authorized by law at present or in the future, including any amendment which alters the contract rights as expressly stated in our charter, of any shares of outstanding stock. Our charter may be amended only by the affirmative vote of holders of shares entitled to cast at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter; provided, however, that provisions relating to the indemnification of our present and former directors and officers, our election to be taxed as a REIT, the removal of directors for cause and our dissolution may be amended only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the board of directors and the holders of shares entitled to cast at least two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast in the election of directors.

Dissolution of Anthracite

Our dissolution must be approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all of the votes ordinarily entitled to be cast in the election of directors, voting together as a single class, and the affirmative vote of holders of at least two-thirds of any series or class of stock expressly granted a series or class vote on our dissolution in the resolutions providing for such series or class. Before such vote, the dissolution must be approved by a majority of the board of directors.

Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business

The bylaws provide that

- (a) with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of persons for election to the board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders may be made only
 - (1) pursuant to our notice of the meeting,
 - (2) by the board of directors, or
 - (3) by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice procedures specified in the bylaws, and
- (b) with respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of meeting may be brought before the meeting of stockholders and nominations of persons for election to the board of directors or
- (c) provided that the board of directors has determined that directors shall be elected at such meeting, by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and has complied with the advance notice provisions specified in the bylaws.

Possible Anti-takeover Effect of Material Provisions of Maryland Law and of Our Charter and Bylaws

The business combination provisions and, if the applicable provision in our bylaws is rescinded, the control share acquisition provisions of the MGCL, the provisions of our charter creating a staggered board, implementation of the corporate governance provisions described above and the advance notice provisions of our bylaws could delay, defer or prevent a change in control of us or other transaction that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest.

Reports to Stockholders

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We will furnish our stockholders with annual reports containing audited financial statements and such other periodic reports as we may determine to furnish or as may be required by law.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may offer secured or unsecured debt securities which may be senior, subordinated or junior subordinated, and which may be convertible. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, our debt securities will be issued in one or more series under an indenture to be entered into between us and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as trustee. A form of the indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The following description briefly sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which these general provisions may apply to the debt securities, will be described in the related prospectus supplement. Accordingly, for a description of the terms of a particular issue of debt securities, reference must be made to both the related prospectus supplement and to the following description.

Debt Securities

The debt securities may be issued in one or more series as may be authorized from time to time. Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement for the following terms of the debt securities (if applicable):

title and aggregate principal amount;

whether the securities will be senior, subordinated or junior subordinated;

whether the securities will be secured or unsecured;

applicable subordination provisions, if any;

conversion or exchange into other securities;

percentage or percentages of principal amount at which such securities will be issued;

maturity date(s);

interest rate(s) or the method for determining the interest rate(s);

dates on which interest will accrue or the method for determining dates on which interest will accrue and dates on which interest will be payable;

redemption or early repayment provisions;

authorized denominations;

form;

amount of discount or premium, if any, with which such securities will be issued;

whether such securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities;

identity of the depositary for global securities;

whether a temporary security is to be issued with respect to such series and whether any interest payable prior to the issuance of definitive securities of the series will be credited to the account of the persons entitled thereto;

the terms upon which beneficial interests in a temporary global security may be exchanged in whole or in part for beneficial interests in a definitive global security or for individual definitive securities;

any covenants applicable to the particular debt securities being issued;

any defaults and events of default applicable to the particular debt securities being issued;

currency, currencies or currency units in which the purchase price for, the principal of and any premium and any interest on, such securities will be payable;

time period within which, the manner in which and the terms and conditions upon which the purchaser of the securities can select the payment currency;

securities exchange(s) on which the securities will be listed, if any;

whether any underwriter(s) will act as market maker(s) for the securities;

extent to which a secondary market for the securities is expected to develop;

our obligation or right to redeem, purchase or repay securities under a sinking fund, amortization or analogous provision;

provisions relating to covenant defeasance and legal defeasance;

provisions relating to satisfaction and discharge of the indenture;

provisions relating to the modification of the indenture both with and without the consent of holders of debt securities issued under the indenture; and

additional terms not inconsistent with the provisions of the indenture.

General

One or more series of debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. One or more series of debt securities may be variable rate debt securities that may be exchanged for fixed rate debt securities.

United States federal income tax consequences and special considerations, if any, applicable to any such series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Debt securities may be issued where the amount of principal and/or interest payable is determined by reference to one or more currency exchange rates, commodity prices, equity indices or other factors. Holders of such securities may receive a principal amount or a payment of interest that is greater than or less than the amount of principal or interest otherwise payable on such dates, depending upon the value of the applicable currencies, commodities, equity indices or other factors. Information as to the methods for determining the amount of principal or interest, if any, payable on any date, the currencies, commodities, equity indices or other factors to which the amount payable on such date is linked and certain additional United States federal income tax considerations will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The term "debt securities" includes debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars or, if specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, in any other freely transferable currency or units based on or relating to foreign currencies.

We expect most debt securities to be issued in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiples thereof. Subject to the limitations provided in the indenture and in the prospectus supplement, debt securities that are issued in registered form may be transferred or exchanged at the corporate office of the trustee or the principal corporate trust office of the trustee, without the payment of any service charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

Global Securities

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the prospectus supplement. Global securities will be issued in registered form and in either temporary or definitive form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for the individual debt securities, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository for such global security to a nominee of such depository or by a nominee of such depository to such depository or another nominee of such depository or by such depository or any such nominee to a successor of such depository or a nominee of such successor. The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any debt securities of a series and the rights of and limitations upon owners of beneficial interests in a global security will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of New York.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase debt or equity securities. We may issue warrants independently or together with any offered securities. The warrants may be attached to or separate from those offered securities. We will issue the warrants under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company to be named in the applicable prospectus supplement, as warrant agent, all as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants that we may offer will contain the specific terms of the warrants. These terms may include the following:

the title of the warrants;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are to be issued and the number of warrants issued with each other security;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the aggregate number of warrants;

any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of certain material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the warrants;

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;

the maximum or minimum number of warrants that may be exercised at any time; and

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any.

Exercise of Warrants

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Each warrant will entitle the holder of warrants to purchase for cash the amount of debt or equity securities, at the exercise price stated or determinable in the prospectus supplement for the warrants. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date shown in the applicable prospectus supplement, unless otherwise specified in such prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void. Warrants may be exercised as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. When the warrant holder makes the payment and properly completes and signs the warrant certificate at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as possible, forward the debt or equity securities that the warrant holder has purchased. If the warrant holder exercises the warrant for less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate, we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining warrants.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of the material United States federal income tax consequences of an investment in stock of Anthracite Capital, Inc. For purposes of this section under the heading Federal Income Tax Considerations, references to Anthracite Capital, Inc., we, our and us mean only Anthracite Capital, Inc. and not its subsidiaries or other lower-tier entities, except as otherwise indicated. This summary is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Treasury Department, rulings and other administrative pronouncements issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect, and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. We have not sought and will not seek an advance ruling from the IRS regarding any matter discussed in this prospectus. This summary is for general information only, and does not purport to discuss all aspects of federal income taxation that may be important to a particular investor in light of its investment or tax circumstances, or to investors subject to special tax rules, such as:

financial institutions;

insurance companies;

broker-dealers;

regulated investment companies;

partnerships and trusts;

persons who hold our stock on behalf of another person as nominees;

persons who receive Anthracite Capital, Inc. stock through the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation;

persons holding Anthracite Capital, Inc. stock as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction, synthetic security or other integrated investment;

and, except to the extent discussed below:

tax-exempt organizations; and

foreign investors.

This summary assumes that investors will hold their stock as a capital asset, which generally means as property held for investment.

The federal income tax treatment of holders of our stock depends in some instances on determinations of fact and interpretations of complex provisions of federal income tax law for which no clear precedent or authority may be available. In addition, the tax consequences to any particular stockholder of holding our stock will depend on the stockholder's particular tax circumstances. For example, a shareholder that is a partnership or trust that has issued an equity interest to certain types of tax exempt organizations may be subject to a special entity-level tax if we make distributions attributable to excess inclusion income. See Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income. A similar tax may be payable by persons who hold our stock as nominees on behalf of such tax exempt organizations. You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the federal, state, local, and foreign income and other tax

consequences to you, in light of your particular investment or tax circumstances, of acquiring, holding, exchanging, or otherwise disposing of our stock.

Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc.

We have elected to qualify for federal income tax purposes as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1998. We believe that we have been organized, have operated, and expect to continue to operate in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT.

Taxation of REITs in General

Our qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, various qualification requirements to which REITs are subject. The material qualification requirements are summarized below under Requirements for Qualification General. While we intend to operate so that Anthracite Capital, Inc. qualifies as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our qualification, or that we will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future. See Failure to Qualify.

Provided that we qualify as a REIT, generally we will be entitled to a deduction for dividends that we pay, and therefore will not be subject to federal corporate income tax on net income that we distribute to stockholders on a current basis. This treatment substantially eliminates the double taxation at the corporate and stockholder levels that generally results from investment in a corporation. In general, the income that we generate is taxed only at the stockholder level upon a distribution of dividends to our stockholders.

Legislation that was enacted in 2003, and subsequently amended, reduces the rate at which most individuals, trusts and estates are taxed on corporate dividends, from a maximum of 38.6% (as ordinary income) to a maximum of 15% (the same as long-term capital gains) for the period through and including the 2010 tax year. With limited exceptions, however, dividends received from us and from other entities that are taxed as REITs are generally not eligible for the reduced rates, and will continue to be taxed at rates applicable to ordinary income, which will be as high as 35% through 2010. See Taxation of Stockholders Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders Distributions.

Any net operating losses, foreign tax credits and other tax attributes generally do not pass through to our stockholders, subject to special rules for certain items such as any capital gains that we recognize. See Taxation of Stockholders. In addition, dividends from us are not eligible for a dividends received deduction in the hands of our stockholders.

If we qualify as a REIT, we will nonetheless be subject to federal tax in the following circumstances:

We will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed income, including undistributed net capital gains.

We may be subject to the alternative minimum tax on our items of tax preference, including any deductions of net operating losses.

If we have net income from prohibited transactions, which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, other than foreclosure property, such income will be subject to a 100% tax. See Prohibited Transactions, and Foreclosure Property, below.

If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or certain leasehold terminations as foreclosure property, we may thereby avoid the 100% tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction), but the income from the sale or operation of the property may be subject to corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%).

If we derive excess inclusion income from an interest in certain mortgage loan securitization structures (i.e., a taxable mortgage pool or a residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit, or REMIC), we could be subject to corporate level federal income tax at a 35% rate to the extent that such income is allocable to specified types of tax-exempt stockholders known as disqualified organizations that are not subject to unrelated business income tax. See Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income below.

If we should fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below, but nonetheless maintain our qualification as a REIT because we satisfy other requirements, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount based on the magnitude of the failure, adjusted to reflect the profit margin associated with our gross income.

If we should fail to satisfy the asset or other requirements applicable to REITs, as described below, and yet maintain our qualification as a REIT because there is reasonable cause for the failure and other applicable requirements are met, we may be subject to an excise tax. In that case, the amount of the excise tax will be at least \$50,000 per failure, and, in the case of certain asset test failures, will be determined as the amount of net income generated by the assets in question multiplied by the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%), if that amount exceeds \$50,000 per failure.

If we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the sum of (i) the amounts that we actually distributed, plus (ii) the amounts we retained and upon which we paid income tax at the corporate level.

We may be required to pay monetary penalties to the IRS in certain circumstances, including if we fail to meet record keeping requirements intended to monitor our compliance with rules relating to the composition of a REIT's stockholders, as described below in Requirements for Qualification General.

A 100% tax may be imposed on transactions between us and a taxable REIT subsidiary (as described below) that do not reflect arm's length terms.

If we acquire appreciated assets from a corporation that is not a REIT (i.e., a corporation taxable under subchapter C of the Internal Revenue Code) in a tax-deferred transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the subchapter C corporation, we may be subject to tax on such appreciation at the highest corporate income tax rate then applicable if we subsequently recognize gain on a disposition of any such assets during the ten-year period following their acquisition from the subchapter C corporation.

The earnings of our subsidiaries could be subject to federal corporate income tax to the extent that such subsidiaries are subchapter C corporations.

In addition, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes, including payroll taxes and state, local, and foreign income, property and other taxes on assets and operations. We could also be subject to tax in situations and on transactions not presently contemplated.

Requirements for Qualification General

The Internal Revenue Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association:

- (1) that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- (2) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
- (3) that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for the special Internal Revenue Code provisions applicable to REITs;
- (4) that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;

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- (6) in which, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include specified tax-exempt entities); and

- (7) which meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets.

The Internal Revenue Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year, and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Conditions (5) and (6) need not be met during a corporation's initial tax year as a REIT (which, in our case, was 1998). Our charter provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfers of its shares, which are intended to assist us in satisfying the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above.

To monitor compliance with the share ownership requirements, we generally are required to maintain records regarding the actual ownership of our shares. To do so, we must demand written statements each year from the record holders of significant percentages of our stock pursuant to which the record holders must disclose the actual owners of the shares (i.e., the persons required to include our dividends in their gross income). We must maintain a list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with this demand as part of our records. We could be subject to monetary penalties if we fail to comply with these record keeping requirements. If you fail or refuse to comply with the demands, you will be required by Treasury regulations to submit a statement with your tax return disclosing the actual ownership of the shares and other information.

In addition, a corporation generally may not elect to become a REIT unless its taxable year is the calendar year. We have adopted December 31 as our year end, and therefore satisfy this requirement.

The Internal Revenue Code provides relief from violations of the REIT gross income requirements, as described below under *Income Tests*, in cases where a violation is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, and other requirements are met. In addition, a REIT that makes use of these relief provisions must pay a penalty tax that is based upon the magnitude of the violation. Similar relief is available in the case of certain violations of the REIT asset requirements (see *Asset Tests* below) and other REIT requirements, again provided that the violation is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, and other conditions are met, including the payment of a penalty tax, or, in some cases, where the violation is de minimis. If we fail to satisfy any of the various REIT requirements, there can be no assurance that these relief provisions would be available to enable us to maintain our qualification as a REIT, and, if such relief provisions are available, the amount of any resultant penalty tax could be substantial.

Effect of Subsidiary Entities

Ownership of Partnership Interests. Where we are a partner in an entity that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, Treasury regulations provide that we are deemed to own our proportionate share of the partnership's assets, and to earn our proportionate share of the partnership's income, for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs. Our proportionate share of a partnership's assets and income is generally based on our capital interest in the partnership. In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership are deemed to retain the same character in our hands. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and items of income of any subsidiary partnerships will be treated as our assets and items of income for purposes of applying the REIT requirements. A summary of certain rules governing the federal income taxation of partnerships and their partners is provided below in *Tax Aspects of Investments in Affiliated Partnerships*.

Disregarded Subsidiaries. Where we own a corporate subsidiary that is a qualified REIT subsidiary, that subsidiary is generally disregarded for federal income tax purposes, and all of the subsidiary's assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit are treated as our assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction and credit, including for purposes of the gross income and asset tests applicable to REITs. A qualified REIT subsidiary is any corporation, other than a taxable REIT subsidiary as described below, that is directly or indirectly wholly-owned by a REIT. Other entities that are wholly-owned by us, including single member limited liability companies that have not elected to be taxed as corporations for federal income tax purposes, are also generally disregarded as separate entities for federal income tax purposes, including for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests. Disregarded subsidiaries, along with any partnerships in which Anthracite Capital, Inc. holds an equity interest, are sometimes referred to herein as *pass-through subsidiaries*.

In the event that a disregarded subsidiary of ours ceases to be wholly-owned—for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than us or a disregarded subsidiary of ours—the

subsidiary's separate existence would no longer be disregarded for federal income tax purposes. Instead, the subsidiary would have multiple owners and would be treated as either a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect our ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income requirements applicable to REITs, including the requirement that REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the securities of another corporation. See **Asset Tests** and **Income Tests**.

Taxable Subsidiaries. In general, we may jointly elect with a subsidiary corporation, whether or not wholly-owned, to treat the subsidiary corporation as a taxable REIT subsidiary (TRS). We generally may not own more than 10% of the securities of a taxable corporation, as measured by voting power or value, unless we and such corporation elect to treat such corporation as a TRS. The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation is not ignored for federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, a TRS or other taxable corporation generally would be subject to corporate income tax on its earnings, which may reduce the cash flow that we and our subsidiaries generate in the aggregate, and may reduce our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

We are not treated as holding the assets of a TRS or other taxable subsidiary corporation, and we are generally not treated as receiving any income that such a subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by a taxable subsidiary to us is an asset in our hands, and we generally treat the dividends paid to us from such taxable subsidiary, if any, as income. This treatment can affect our income and asset test calculations, as described below. Because we do not include the assets, and generally do not include income of TRSs or other taxable subsidiary corporations in determining our compliance with the REIT requirements, we may use such entities to undertake indirectly activities that the REIT rules might otherwise preclude us from doing directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. For example, we may use TRSs or other taxable subsidiary corporations to conduct activities that give rise to certain categories of income such as management fees or foreign currency gains.

We own stock of certain TRSs that are organized outside of the United States. Special rules apply in the case of income earned by a taxable subsidiary corporation that is organized outside of the United States. Depending upon the nature of the subsidiary's income, the parent REIT may be required to include in its taxable income an amount equal to its share of the subsidiary's income, without regard to whether, or when, such income is distributed by the subsidiary. See **Income Tests** below. A TRS that is organized outside of the United States may, depending upon the nature of its operations, be subject to little or no federal income tax. We currently expect that our offshore TRSs will operate in a manner so that they will generally not be subject to United States federal income tax on their net income at the entity level.

Income Tests

In order to qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy two annual gross income requirements. First, at least 75% of our gross income for each taxable year, excluding any gross income from sales of inventory or dealer property in prohibited transactions, generally must be derived from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including interest income derived from mortgage loans secured by real property (including certain types of mortgage backed securities and other financing structures), rents from real property, dividends received from other REITs, and gains from the sale of real estate assets, as well as specified income from temporary investments. Second, at least 95% of our gross income in each taxable year, excluding gross income from any prohibited transactions and from certain hedging transactions, must be derived from some combination of such income from investments in real property (i.e., income that qualifies under the 75% income test described above), as well as other dividends, interest, and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, which need not have any relation to real property.

Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% income test to the extent that the obligation upon which such interest is paid is secured by a mortgage on real property. If we receive interest income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property, and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date that we acquired or originated the mortgage loan, the interest income will be apportioned between the real property and the other collateral, and our income from the arrangement will qualify for purposes

of the 75% income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. Even if a loan is not secured by real property, or is undersecured, the income that it generates may nonetheless qualify for purposes of the 95% income test.

To the extent that the terms of a loan provide for contingent interest that is based on the cash proceeds realized upon the sale of the property securing the loan (a shared appreciation provision), income attributable to the participation feature will be treated as gain from sale of the underlying property, which generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests provided that the property is not held as inventory or dealer property. To the extent that we derive interest income from a mortgage loan, or income from the rental of real property, where all or a portion of the amount of interest or rental income payable is contingent, such income generally will qualify for purposes of the gross income tests only if it is based upon the gross receipts or sales, and not the net income or profits, of the borrower or lessee. This limitation does not apply, however, where the borrower or lessee leases substantially all of its interest in the property to tenants or subtenants, to the extent that the rental income derived by the borrower or lessee, as the case may be, would qualify as rents from real property had we earned the income directly.

We and our subsidiaries have invested in mezzanine loans, which are loans secured by equity interests in an entity that directly or indirectly owns real property, rather than by a direct mortgage of the real property. The IRS has issued Revenue Procedure 2003-65, which provides a safe harbor applicable to mezzanine loans. Under the Revenue Procedure, if a mezzanine loan meets each of the requirements contained in the Revenue Procedure, (1) the mezzanine loan will be treated by the IRS as a real estate asset for purposes of the asset tests described below, and (2) interest derived from the mezzanine loan will be treated as qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% income test. Although the Revenue Procedure provides a safe harbor on which taxpayers may rely, it does not prescribe rules of substantive tax law. We intend to structure, and we believe that we have in the past structured, any investments in mezzanine loans in a manner that complies with the various requirements applicable to our qualification as a REIT. To the extent that any of our mezzanine loans do not meet all of the requirements for reliance on the safe harbor set forth in the Revenue Procedure, however, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not challenge the tax treatment of these loans.

We and our subsidiaries also have invested in real estate mortgage investment conduits, or REMICs, and we may invest in other types of commercial mortgage backed securities, or CMBS. See below under [Asset Tests](#) for a discussion of the effect of such investments on our qualification as a REIT.

We may hold certain participation interests, including B-Notes, in mortgage loans and mezzanine loans. Such interests in an underlying loan are generally created by virtue of a participation or similar agreement to which the originator of the loan is a party, along with one or more participants. The borrower on the underlying loan is typically not a party to the participation agreement. The performance of this investment depends upon the performance of the underlying loan, and if the underlying borrower defaults, the participant typically has no recourse against the originator of the loan. The originator often retains a senior position in the underlying loan, and grants junior participations which absorb losses first in the event of a default by the borrower. We believe that our participation interests generally qualify as real estate assets for purposes of the REIT asset tests described below, and that the interest that we derive from such investments will be treated as qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% income test. The appropriate treatment of participation interests for federal income tax purposes is not entirely certain, however, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our treatment of our participation interests. In the event of a determination that such participation interests do not qualify as real estate assets, or that the income that we derive from such participation interests does not qualify as mortgage interest for purposes of the REIT asset and income tests, we could be subject to a penalty tax, or could fail to qualify as a REIT. See [Taxation of REITs in General](#), [Requirements for Qualification](#) [General](#), [Asset Tests](#) and [Failure to Qualify](#).

Rents will qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income requirements described above only if several conditions are met. If rent is partly attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property, the portion of the rent that is attributable to the personal property will not qualify as rents from real property unless it constitutes 15% or less of the total rent received under the lease. In addition, the

amount of rent must not be based, in whole or in part, on the income or profits of any person. Amounts received as rent, however, generally will not be excluded from rents from real property solely by reason of being based on fixed percentages of gross receipts or sales. Moreover, for rents received to qualify as rents from real property, we generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to the tenants of such property, other than through an independent contractor from which we derive no revenue. We are permitted, however, to perform services that are usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and which are not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant of the property. In addition, we may directly or indirectly provide non-customary services to tenants of our properties without disqualifying all of the rent from the property if the payments for such services do not exceed 1% of the total gross income from the property. For purposes of this test, we are deemed to have received income from such non-customary services in an amount that is at least 150% of the direct cost of providing the services. Moreover, we are generally permitted to provide services to tenants or others through a TRS without disqualifying the rental income received from tenants for purposes of the income tests. Also, rental income will qualify as rents from real property only to the extent that we do not directly or constructively hold a 10% or greater interest, as measured by vote or value, in the lessee's equity.

We may directly or indirectly receive distributions from TRSs or other corporations that are not REITs or qualified REIT subsidiaries. These distributions generally are treated as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions will generally constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any dividends that we receive from a REIT, however, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% income tests.

We are subject to special rules applicable to certain types of income earned by taxable subsidiary corporations that are organized outside of the United States. These rules require that we include our share of such income in the parent REIT's taxable income as it is earned by the subsidiary, without regard to whether, or when, the income is distributed by the subsidiary as a dividend. We believe, based upon the advice of counsel, that income inclusions with respect to any offshore TRSs should be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test (but not for the 75% gross income test), and we treat such income inclusions in that manner. Because there is no clear precedent with respect to the qualification of such income for purposes of the REIT gross income tests, however, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not assert a contrary position.

Any income or gain that we or our pass-through subsidiaries derive from instruments that hedge certain risks, such as the risk of changes in interest rates, will be excluded from gross income for purposes of the 95% gross income test (i.e., excluded from both the numerator and the denominator), provided that specified requirements are met, including the requirement that the instrument hedges risks associated with our indebtedness that is incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets (as described below under Asset Tests), and the instrument is properly identified as a hedge, along with the risk that it hedges, within prescribed time periods. Income and gain from such transactions will not be qualifying income for the 75% gross income test, and income and gain from all other hedging transactions will generally not be qualifying income for either the 95% or 75% income test.

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may still qualify as a REIT for the year if we are entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. These relief provisions will be generally available if (1) our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, (2) we attach to our tax return a schedule of the sources of our income, and (3) any incorrect information on the schedule was not due to fraud with intent to evade tax. Those relief provisions generally will be available if our failure to meet the gross income tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, and we file a schedule of the sources of our gross income in accordance with Treasury regulations. It is not possible to state whether we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions in all circumstances. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances, we will not qualify as a REIT. As discussed above under Taxation of REITs in General, even where these relief provisions apply, the Internal Revenue Code imposes a tax based upon the amount by which we fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

Asset Tests

At the close of each calendar quarter, we must also satisfy four tests relating to the nature of our assets. First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of real estate assets, cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include interests in real property, such as land, buildings, leasehold interests in real property, stock of other corporations that qualify as REITs, and some kinds of mortgage backed securities and mortgage loans. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

Second, the value of any one issuer's securities that we own may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets. Third, we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. The 5% and 10% asset tests do not apply to securities of TRSs. Fourth, the aggregate value of all securities of TRSs that we hold may not exceed 20% of the value of our total assets.

Notwithstanding the general rule, as noted above, that for purposes of the REIT income and asset tests, we are treated as owning our proportionate share of the underlying assets of a subsidiary partnership, if we hold indebtedness issued by a partnership, the indebtedness will be subject to, and may cause a violation of, the asset tests unless the indebtedness is a qualifying mortgage asset, or other conditions are met. Similarly, although stock of another REIT is a qualifying asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, any non-mortgage debt that is issued by another REIT may not so qualify (such debt, however, will not be treated as a security for purposes of the 10% value test, as explained below).

The Code contains a number of provisions applicable to REITs, including relief provisions that make it easier for REITs to satisfy the asset requirements, or to maintain REIT qualification notwithstanding certain violations of the asset and other requirements. One such provision allows a REIT which fails one or more of the asset requirements to nevertheless maintain its REIT qualification if (1) the REIT provides the IRS with a description of each asset causing the failure, (2) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, (3) the REIT pays a tax equal to the greater of (a) \$50,000 per failure, and (b) the product of the net income generated by the assets that caused the failure multiplied by the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%), and (4) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within 6 months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or otherwise satisfies the relevant asset tests within that time frame.

A second relief provision applies to de minimis violations of the 10% and 5% asset tests. A REIT may maintain its qualification despite a violation of such requirements if (a) the value of the assets causing the violation does not exceed the lesser of 1% of the REIT's total assets, and \$10,000,000, and (b) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within 6 months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or the relevant tests are otherwise satisfied within that time frame.

The Code also provides that certain securities will not cause a violation of the 10% value test described above. Such securities include instruments that constitute straight debt, which includes, among other things, securities having certain specified contingency features. A security does not qualify as straight debt where a REIT (or a controlled TRS of the REIT) owns other securities of the same issuer which do not qualify as straight debt, unless the value of those other securities constitute, in the aggregate, 1% or less of the total value of that issuer's outstanding securities. In addition to straight debt, the Code provides that certain other securities will not violate the 10% value test. Such securities include (a) any loan made to an individual or an estate, (b) certain rental agreements pursuant to which one or more payments are to be made in subsequent years (other than agreements between a REIT and certain persons related to the REIT under attribution rules), (c) any obligation to pay rents from real property, (d) securities issued by governmental entities that are not dependent, in whole or in part, on the profits of (or payments made by) a non-governmental entity, (e) any security (including debt securities) issued by another REIT, and (f) any debt instrument issued by a partnership if the partnership's income is of a nature that it would satisfy the 75% gross income test described above under Income Tests. In applying the 10% value test, a debt security issued by a partnership is not taken into account to the extent, if any, of the REIT's proportionate interest in that partnership.

Any interests that we hold in a REMIC will generally qualify as real estate assets, and income derived from REMIC interests will generally be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the REIT income tests described above. If less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC are real estate assets, however, then only a proportionate part of our interest in the REMIC and income derived from the interest qualifies for purposes of the REIT asset and income tests. If we hold a residual interest in a REMIC from which we derive excess inclusion income, we will be required to either distribute the excess inclusion income or pay tax on it (or a combination of the two), even though we may not receive the income in cash. To the extent that distributed excess inclusion income is allocable to a particular stockholder, the income (1) would not be allowed to be offset by any losses or deductions otherwise available to the stockholder, (2) would be subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income in the hands of most types of stockholders that are otherwise generally exempt from federal income tax, and (3) would result in the application of U.S. federal income tax withholding at the maximum rate (30%), without reduction of any otherwise applicable income tax treaty, to the extent allocable to most types of foreign stockholders. Moreover, any excess inclusion income that we receive that is allocable to specified categories of tax-exempt investors which are not subject to unrelated business income tax, such as government entities, may be subject to corporate-level income tax in our hands, whether or not it is distributed. See Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income.

To the extent that we hold mortgage participations or CMBS that do not represent REMIC interests, such assets may not qualify as real estate assets, and the income generated from them might not qualify for purposes of either or both of the REIT income requirements, depending upon the circumstances and the specific structure of the investment.

We believe that our holdings of securities and other assets will comply with the foregoing REIT asset requirements, and we intend to monitor compliance on an ongoing basis. Certain of our mezzanine loans may qualify for the safe harbor in Revenue Procedure 2003-65 pursuant to which certain loans secured by a first priority security interest in ownership interests in a partnership or limited liability company will be treated as qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% real estate asset test and the 10% vote or value test. See Income Tests. We may, however, hold some mezzanine loans that do not qualify for that safe harbor and that do not qualify as straight debt securities or for one of the other exclusions from the definition of securities for purposes of the 10% value test. We intend to make such investments in such a manner as not to fail the asset tests described above, and we believe that our existing investments satisfy such requirements.

Independent appraisals generally are not obtained to support our conclusions as to the value of our total assets, or the value of any particular security or securities. Moreover, values of some assets, including instruments issued in securitization transactions, may not be susceptible to a precise determination, and values are subject to change in the future. Furthermore, the proper classification of an instrument as debt or equity for federal income tax purposes may be uncertain in some circumstances, which could affect the application of the REIT asset requirements. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not contend that our interests in our subsidiaries or in the securities of other issuers will not cause a violation of the REIT asset tests.

Annual Distribution Requirements

In order to qualify as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to our stockholders in an amount at least equal to:

- (a) the sum of
 - (1) 90% of our REIT taxable income, computed without regard to our net capital gains and the deduction for dividends paid, and
 - (2) 90% of our net income, if any, (after tax) from foreclosure property (as described below), minus
- (b) the sum of specified items of noncash income.

We generally must make these distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before we timely file our tax return for the year and if paid with or before the first regular

dividend payment after such declaration. In order for distributions to be counted for this purpose, and to give rise to a tax deduction for us, the distributions must not be preferential dividends. A dividend is not a preferential dividend if the distribution is (1) pro rata among all outstanding shares of stock within a particular class, and (2) in accordance with the preferences among different classes of stock as set forth in our organizational documents.

To the extent that we distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, we will be subject to tax at ordinary corporate tax rates on the retained portion of our income. We may elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net long-term capital gains and pay tax on such gains. In this case, we could elect for our stockholders to include their proportionate shares of such undistributed long-term capital gains in income, and to receive a corresponding credit for their share of the tax that we paid. Our stockholders would then increase their adjusted basis of their stock by the difference between (a) the amounts of capital gain dividends that we designated and that they include in their taxable income, minus (b) the tax that we paid on their behalf with respect to that income.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, will generally not affect the character of any distributions that are actually made as ordinary dividends or capital gains. See Taxation of Stockholders Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders Distributions.

If we should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for such year, (b) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we would be subject to a non-deductible 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the sum of (x) the amounts actually distributed, plus (y) the amounts of income we retained and on which we have paid corporate income tax.

It is possible that, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash to meet the distribution requirements due to timing differences between (a) our actual receipt of cash, including receipt of distributions from our subsidiaries, and (b) our inclusion of items in income for federal income tax purposes. Other potential sources of non-cash taxable income include:

residual interests in REMICs or taxable mortgage pools,

loans or mortgage backed securities held as assets that are issued at a discount and require the accrual of taxable economic interest in advance of its receipt in cash,

loans on which the borrower is permitted to defer cash payments of interest, and distressed loans on which we may be required to accrue taxable interest income even though the borrower is unable to make current servicing payments in cash.

In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the distribution requirements, it might be necessary for us to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings, or to pay dividends in the form of taxable in-kind distributions of property.

In some circumstance we might be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirements for a year by paying deficiency dividends to stockholders in a later year which is included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. In this case, we may be able to avoid losing REIT status or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends. We could, however, be required to pay interest and a penalty based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

Failure to Qualify

If we fail to satisfy one or more requirements for REIT qualification other than the gross income or asset tests, we could avoid disqualification if our failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, and we pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure. Relief provisions are also potentially available for failures of the gross income tests and asset tests, as described above in Income Tests and Asset Tests.

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions described above do not apply, we would be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. We cannot deduct distributions to stockholders in any year in which we are not a REIT, nor would we be required to make distributions in such a year. In this situation, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, distributions to domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates would generally be taxable at capital gains rates (through 2010). In addition, subject to the limitations of the Internal Revenue Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless we are entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we would also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we lost qualification. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

Prohibited Transactions

Net income, if any, that we derive from a prohibited transaction is subject to a 100% tax. The term prohibited transaction generally includes a sale or other disposition of property (other than foreclosure property, as discussed below) that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. We intend to conduct our operations so that no asset that we own will be treated as held for sale, or as having been sold, to customers in the ordinary course of our business. Whether property is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business depends, however, on the particular facts and circumstances. No assurance can be given that any property that we sell will not be treated as property held for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, or that we can comply with certain safe-harbor provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that would prevent such treatment. The 100% tax does not apply to gains from the sale of property that is held through a TRS or other taxable corporation, although such income will generally be subject to tax in the hands of that corporation at regular corporate rates.

Foreclosure Property

Foreclosure property is real property, and any personal property incident to such real property (1) that we acquire as the result of having bid in the property at foreclosure, or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law, after a default (or upon imminent default) on a lease of the property or a mortgage loan held by us and secured by the property, (2) for which we acquired the related loan or lease was at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated, and (3) with respect to which we made a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. We generally will be subject to tax at the maximum corporate rate (currently 35%) on any net income from foreclosure property, including any gain from the disposition of the foreclosure property, other than income that would otherwise be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Any gain from the sale of property for which a foreclosure property election has been made will not be subject to the 100% tax on gains from prohibited transactions described above, even if the property would otherwise constitute inventory or dealer property. To the extent that we receive a material amount of income from foreclosure property that would not otherwise qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test, we intend to make an election to treat the related property as foreclosure property.

Foreign Investments

We and our subsidiaries may hold investments in, and pay taxes to, foreign countries. Taxes we pay in foreign jurisdictions may not be passed through to, or used by, our stockholders as a foreign tax credit or otherwise. Our foreign investments might also generate foreign currency gains and losses. Foreign currency gains are treated as income that does not qualify under the 95% or 75% income tests, unless certain technical requirements are met. No assurance can be given that these technical requirements will be met in the case of any foreign currency gains that we recognize directly or through pass-through subsidiaries, or that these technical requirements will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

Derivatives and Hedging Transactions

We and our subsidiaries may enter into hedging transactions with respect to interest rate exposure on one or more assets or liabilities. Any such hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including the use of

derivative instruments such as interest rate swap contracts, interest rate cap or floor contracts, futures or forward contracts, and options. To the extent that we or one of our pass-through subsidiaries enters into a hedging transaction to reduce risks associated with indebtedness incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets, and the instrument is properly identified as a hedge, along with the risk that it hedges, within prescribed time periods, any periodic income from the instrument, or gain from the disposition of such instrument, would not be treated as gross income for purposes of the REIT 95% gross income test (i.e., would be excluded from the calculation altogether), but would nonetheless be treated as non-qualifying income for the 75% gross income test.

To the extent that we hedge in other situations, the resultant income will be treated as income that does not qualify for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our status as a REIT. We may conduct some or all of our hedging activities (including hedging activities relating to currency risk) through a TRS or other corporate entity, the income from which may be subject to federal income tax, rather than by participating in the arrangements directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. No assurance can be given, however, that our hedging activities will not give rise to income that does not qualify for purposes of the REIT gross income tests, or that our hedging activities will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income

An entity, or a portion of an entity, may be classified as a taxable mortgage pool (TMP) under the Internal Revenue Code if:

substantially all of its assets consist of debt obligations or interests in debt obligations,

more than 50% of those debt obligations are real estate mortgages or interests in real estate mortgages,

the entity has issued debt obligations (liabilities) that have two or more maturities, and

the payments required to be made by the entity on its debt obligations (liabilities) bear a relationship to the payments to be received by the entity on the debt obligations that it holds as assets

Under regulations issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, if less than 80% of the assets of an entity (or a portion of an entity) consist of debt obligations, these debt obligations are considered not to comprise substantially all of its assets, and therefore the entity would not be treated as a TMP. Our financing and securitization arrangements may give rise to TMPs, with the consequences described below.

Where an entity, or a portion of an entity, is classified as a TMP, it is generally treated as a taxable corporation for federal income tax purposes. In the case of a REIT, or a portion of a REIT, or a disregarded subsidiary of a REIT, that is a TMP, however, special rules apply. The TMP is not treated as a corporation that is subject to corporate income tax, and the TMP classification does not directly affect the tax status of the REIT. Rather, the consequences of the TMP classification would, in general, except as described below, be limited to the stockholders of the REIT.

A portion of the REIT's income from the TMP arrangement, which might be non-cash accrued income, could be treated as excess inclusion income. Under recently issued IRS guidance, including IRS Notice 2006-97, the REIT's excess inclusion income, including any excess inclusion income from a residual interest in a REMIC, must be allocated among its stockholders in proportion to dividends paid. The REIT is required to notify stockholders of the amount of excess inclusion income allocated to them. A stockholder's share of excess inclusion income:

cannot be offset by any losses or deductions otherwise available to the stockholder,

is subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income in the hands of most types of stockholders that are otherwise generally exempt from federal income tax, and

results in the application of U.S. federal income tax withholding at the maximum rate (30%), without reduction for any otherwise applicable income tax treaty or other exemption, to the extent allocable to most types of foreign stockholders.

See **Taxation of Stockholders**. Under the recently issued IRS guidance, to the extent that excess inclusion income is allocated to a tax-exempt stockholder of a REIT that is not subject to unrelated business income tax (such as a government entity or charitable remainder trust), the REIT will be subject to tax on this income at the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%). In that case, the REIT could reduce distributions to such stockholders by the amount of such tax paid by it that is attributable to such stockholder's ownership. Treasury regulations provide that such a reduction in distributions does not give rise to a preferential dividend that could adversely affect the REIT's compliance with its distribution requirements. See **Annual Distribution Requirements**. The manner in which excess inclusion income is calculated, or would be allocated to stockholders, including allocations among shares of different classes of stock, is not clear under current law. As required by the IRS guidance, we intend to make such determinations using a reasonable method. Tax-exempt investors, foreign investors and taxpayers with net operating losses should carefully consider the tax consequences described above, and are urged to consult their tax advisors.

If a subsidiary partnership of ours that we do not wholly-own, directly or through one or more disregarded entities, were a TMP, the foregoing rules would not apply. Rather, the partnership that is a TMP would be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, and potentially could be subject to corporate income tax or withholding tax. In addition, this characterization would alter our income and asset test calculations, and could adversely affect our compliance with those requirements. We intend to monitor the structure of any TMPs in which we have an interest to ensure that they will not adversely affect our status as a REIT.

Tax Aspects of Investments in Affiliated Partnerships

General

We may hold investments through entities that are classified as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. In general, partnerships are pass-through entities that are not subject to federal income tax. Rather, partners are allocated their proportionate shares of the items of income, gain, loss, deduction and credit of a partnership, and are potentially subject to tax on these items, without regard to whether the partners receive a distribution from the partnership. We will include in our income our proportionate share of these partnership items for purposes of the various REIT income tests, and in computing our taxable income. Moreover, for purposes of the REIT asset tests, we will include in our calculations our proportionate share of any assets held by subsidiary partnerships. Our proportionate share of a partnership's assets and income is generally based on our capital interest in the partnership. See **Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Effect of Subsidiary Entities Ownership of Partnership Interests**.

Entity Classification

Any investment in partnerships involves special tax considerations, including the possibility of a challenge by the IRS of the status of any subsidiary partnership as a partnership, as opposed to an association taxable as a corporation, for federal income tax purposes (for example, if the IRS were to assert that a subsidiary partnership is a TMP). See **Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income**. If any of these entities were treated as an association for federal income tax purposes, it would be taxable as a corporation and therefore could be subject to an entity-level tax on its income. In such a situation, the character of our assets and items of gross income would change and could preclude us from satisfying the REIT asset tests or the gross income tests as discussed in **Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Asset Tests and Income Tests**, and in turn could prevent us from qualifying as a REIT, unless we are eligible for relief from the violation pursuant to relief provisions described above. See **Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Asset Tests, Income Tests and Failure to Qualify**, above, for discussion of the effect of failure to satisfy the REIT tests for a taxable year, and of the relief provisions. In addition, any change in the status of any subsidiary partnership for tax purposes might be treated as a taxable event, in which case we could have taxable income that is subject to the REIT distribution requirements, without receiving any cash.

Tax Allocations with Respect to Partnership Properties

Under the Internal Revenue Code and the Treasury regulations, income, gain, loss and deduction attributable to appreciated or depreciated property that is contributed to a partnership in exchange for an interest in the partnership must be allocated for tax purposes so that the contributing partner is charged with, or benefits from, the unrealized gain or unrealized loss associated with the property at the time of the contribution. The amount of the unrealized gain or unrealized loss is generally equal to the difference between the fair market value of the contributed property at the time of contribution, and the adjusted tax basis of such property at the time of contribution (a book-tax difference). Such allocations are solely for federal income tax purposes, and do not affect the book capital accounts or other economic or legal arrangements among the partners.

To the extent that any subsidiary partnership acquires appreciated (or depreciated) properties by way of capital contributions from its partners, allocations would need to be made in a manner consistent with these requirements. Where a partner contributes cash to a partnership at a time that the partnership holds appreciated (or depreciated) property, the Treasury regulations provide for a similar allocation of these items to the other (i.e., non-contributing) partners. These rules may apply to a contribution that we make to any subsidiary partnerships of the cash proceeds received in offerings of our stock. As a result, the partners in any subsidiary partnerships, including us, could be allocated greater or lesser amounts of depreciation and taxable income in respect of a partnership's properties than would be the case if all of the partnership's assets (including any contributed assets) had a tax basis equal to their fair market values at the time of any contributions to that partnership. This could cause us to recognize, over a period of time, taxable income in excess of cash flow from the partnership, which might adversely affect our ability to comply with the REIT distribution requirements discussed above.

Taxation of Stockholders

Taxation of Taxable Domestic Stockholders

Distributions. As a REIT, the distributions that we make to our taxable domestic stockholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits that we do not designate as capital gain dividends will generally be taken into account by stockholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporations. With limited exceptions, our dividends are not eligible for taxation at the preferential income tax rates (15% maximum federal rate through 2010) which are applicable to qualified dividends from taxable C corporations received by domestic stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates. Such stockholders, however, are taxed at the preferential rates on dividends designated by and received from REITs to the extent that the dividends are attributable to:

income retained by the REIT in the prior taxable year on which the REIT was subject to corporate level income tax (less the amount of tax),

dividends received by the REIT from TRSs or other taxable C corporations, or

income from subsequent sales of built-in gain property that had previously been acquired by the REIT from C corporations in tax-deferred carryover basis transactions (less the amount of corporate tax borne by the REIT on such income).

Distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends will generally be taxed to our stockholders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that such distributions do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the stockholder that receives such distribution has held its stock. We may elect to retain and pay taxes on some or all of our net long term capital gains, if any. In that case, we might elect to apply certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that treat our stockholders as having received, solely for tax purposes, our undistributed capital gains. The stockholders would be taxable on this income, but would also receive a corresponding credit for the taxes that we paid on such undistributed capital gains. The stockholders would also be deemed to recontribute the after-tax amount of the income back to us, and would correspondingly increase the tax basis of their shares. See Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Annual Distribution Requirements. Corporate stockholders may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain

dividends as ordinary income. Long-term capital gains are generally taxable at maximum federal rates of 15% (through 2010) in the case of stockholders that are individuals, trusts and estates, and 35% in the case of stockholders that are corporations. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions, subject to a 25% maximum federal income tax rate in lieu of the 15% capital gains rate that applies to certain taxpayers.

In determining the extent to which a distribution constitutes a dividend for tax purposes, our earnings and profits generally will be allocated first to distributions with respect to preferred stock prior to allocating any remaining earnings and profits to distributions on our common stock. If we have net capital gains and designate some or all of our distributions as capital gain dividends to that extent, the capital gain dividends will be allocated among different classes of stock in proportion to the allocation of earnings and profits as described above.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will generally represent a return of capital, and will not be taxable to a stockholder, to the extent that the amount of such distributions does not exceed the adjusted tax basis of the stockholder's shares in respect of which the distributions were made. Rather, the distribution will reduce the adjusted basis of the stockholder's shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a stockholder's shares, the stockholder generally must include such distributions in income as long-term capital gain, or short-term capital gain if the shares have been held for one year or less. In addition, any dividend that we declare in October, November or December of any year and that is payable to a stockholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the stockholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the dividend before the end of January of the following calendar year.

To the extent that we have available net operating losses and capital losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. See *Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Annual Distribution Requirements*. Such losses, however, are not passed through to stockholders and do not offset income of stockholders from other sources, nor would such losses affect the character of any distributions that we make, which are generally subject to tax in the hands of stockholders to the extent that we have current or accumulated earnings and profits, as described above.

If excess inclusion income from a taxable mortgage pool or REMIC residual interest is allocated to any stockholder, that income will be taxable in the hands of the stockholder and would not be offset by any losses or other deductions of the stockholder that would otherwise be available. See *Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income*. As required by IRS guidance, we intend to disclose to our stockholders if a portion of a dividend paid by us is attributable to excess inclusion income.

Dispositions of Our Stock. In general, capital gains recognized by individuals, trusts and estates upon the sale or disposition of our stock will be subject to a maximum federal income tax rate of 15% (through 2010) if the stock is held for more than one year, and will be taxed at ordinary income rates (of up to 35% through 2010) if the stock is held for one year or less. Gains recognized by stockholders that are corporations are subject to federal income tax at a maximum rate of 35%, whether or not such gains are classified as long-term capital gains. Capital losses recognized by a stockholder upon the disposition of our stock that was held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, and are generally available only to offset capital gain income of the stockholder but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may apply up to \$3,000 per year, of the excess, if any, of capital losses over capital gains, to offset ordinary income). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of shares of our stock by a stockholder who has held the shares for six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of distributions that we make that are required to be treated by the stockholder as long-term capital gain.

A redemption of our stock (including preferred stock or common stock) will be treated under Section 302 of the Code as a dividend subject to tax at ordinary income tax rates (to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits), unless the redemption satisfies certain tests set forth in Section 302(b) of the Code enabling the redemption to be treated as a sale or exchange of the stock. The redemption will satisfy such test if it (i) is

substantially disproportionate with respect to the holder, (ii) results in a complete termination of the holder's stock interest in Anthracite Capital, Inc., or (iii) is not essentially equivalent to a dividend with respect to the holder, all within the meaning of Section 302(b) of the Code. In determining whether any of these tests have been met, shares considered to be owned by the holder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in the Code, as well as shares actually owned, must generally be taken into account. Because the determination as to whether any of the alternative tests of Section 302(b) of the Code is satisfied with respect to any particular holder of the stock will depend upon the facts and circumstances as of the time the determination is made, prospective investors are advised to consult their own tax advisors to determine such tax treatment. If a redemption of the stock is treated as a distribution that is taxable as a dividend, the amount of the distribution would be measured by the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received by the stockholders. The stockholder's adjusted tax basis in such redeemed stock would be transferred to the holder's remaining stockholdings in Anthracite Capital, Inc. If, however, the stockholder has no remaining stockholdings in Anthracite Capital, Inc., such basis may, under certain circumstances, be transferred to a related person or it may be lost entirely.

If an investor recognizes a loss upon a disposition of our stock in an amount that exceeds a prescribed threshold, it is possible that the provisions of Treasury regulations involving reportable transactions could apply, with a resulting requirement to separately disclose the loss-generating transaction to the IRS. These regulations, though directed towards tax shelters, are written quite broadly, and apply to transactions that would not typically be considered tax shelters. The Code imposes significant penalties for failure to comply with these requirements. You should consult your tax advisors concerning any possible disclosure obligation with respect to the receipt or disposition of our stock, or transactions that we might undertake directly or indirectly. Moreover, we and other participants in the transactions in which we are involved (including their advisors) might be subject to disclosure or other requirements pursuant to these regulations.

Taxation of Foreign Stockholders

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our stock applicable to non-U.S. holders. A non-U.S. holder is any person other than:

a citizen or resident of the United States,

a corporation or partnership created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, or of any state thereof, or the District of Columbia

an estate, the income of which is includable in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source, or

a trust if a United States court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more United States fiduciaries have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

If a partnership, including for this purpose any entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holds our stock, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. An investor that is a partnership and the partners in such partnership should consult their tax advisors about the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our stock.

The discussion is based on current law, and is for general information only. It addresses only selected, and not all, aspects of U.S. federal income and estate taxation.

Ordinary Dividends. The portion of dividends received by non-U.S. holders that (1) is payable out of our earnings and profits, (2) is not attributable to our capital gains, and (3) is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder, will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30%, unless reduced or eliminated by treaty. Reduced treaty rates and other exemptions are not available to the extent that income is attributable to excess inclusion income allocable to the foreign stockholder. Accordingly, we will withhold at a rate of 30% on any portion of a dividend that is paid to a non-U.S. holder and attributable to that

holder's share of our excess inclusion income. See *Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion Income*. As required by recent IRS guidance, we intend to disclose to stockholders if a portion of a dividend paid by us is attributable to excess inclusion income.

In general, non-U.S. holders will not be considered to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business solely as a result of their ownership of our stock. In cases where the dividend income from a non-U.S. holder's investment in our stock is, or is treated as, effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business, the non-U.S. holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at graduated rates, in the same manner as domestic stockholders are taxed with respect to such dividends. Such income must generally be reported on a U.S. income tax return filed by or on behalf of the non-U.S. holder. The income may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax in the case of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation.

Non-Dividend Distributions. Unless our stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest (a *USRPI*), distributions that we make which are not dividends out of our earnings and profits will not be subject to U.S. income tax. If we cannot determine at the time that a distribution is made whether or not the distribution will exceed current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. The non-U.S. holder may seek a refund from the IRS of any amounts withheld if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. If our stock constitutes a *USRPI*, as described below, distributions that we make in excess of the sum of (a) the stockholder's proportionate share of our earnings and profits, plus (b) the stockholder's basis in its stock, will be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (*FIRPTA*) at the rate of tax, including any applicable capital gains rates, that would apply to a domestic stockholder of the same type (e.g., an individual or a corporation, as the case may be), and the collection of the tax will be enforced by a refundable withholding at a rate of 10% of the amount by which the distribution exceeds the stockholder's share of our earnings and profits.

Capital Gain Dividends. Under *FIRPTA*, a distribution that we make to a non-U.S. holder, to the extent attributable to gains from dispositions of *USRPIs* that we held directly or through pass-through subsidiaries (*USRPI capital gains*), will, except as described below, be considered effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the non-U.S. holder and will be subject to U.S. income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. individuals or corporations, without regard to whether we designate the distribution as a capital gain dividend. See above under *Taxation of Foreign Stockholders Ordinary Dividends*, for a discussion of the consequences of income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. In addition, we will be required to withhold tax equal to 35% of the amount of dividends to the extent the dividends constitute *USRPI capital gains*. Distributions subject to *FIRPTA* may also be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation. A distribution is not a *USRPI capital gain* if we held an interest in the underlying asset solely as a creditor. Capital gain dividends received by a non-U.S. holder that are attributable to dispositions of our assets other than *USRPIs* are not subject to U.S. income or withholding tax, unless (1) the gain is effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the non-U.S. holder would be subject to the same treatment as U.S. holders with respect to such gain, or (2) the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a *tax home* in the United States, in which case the non-U.S. holder will incur a 30% tax on his or her capital gains.

A capital gain dividend that would otherwise have been treated as a *USRPI capital gain* will not be so treated or be subject to *FIRPTA*, and generally will not be treated as income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business, and instead will be treated in the same manner as an ordinary dividend (see *Taxation of Foreign Stockholders Ordinary Dividends*), provided that (1) the capital gain dividend is received with respect to a class of stock that is regularly traded on an established securities market located in the United States, and (2) the recipient non-U.S. holder does not own more than 5% of that class of stock at any time during the year ending on the date on which the capital gain dividend is received. We believe that our common stock is, and is likely to continue to be, regularly traded on an established securities exchange.

Dispositions of Our Stock. Unless our stock constitutes a *USRPI*, a sale of our stock by a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. taxation under *FIRPTA*. Our stock will not be treated as a *USRPI* if less than

50% of our assets throughout a prescribed testing period consist of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding, for this purpose, interests in real property solely in a capacity as a creditor. It is not currently anticipated that our stock will constitute a USRPI.

Even if the foregoing 50% test is not met, our stock nonetheless will not constitute a USRPI if we are a domestically-controlled REIT. A domestically-controlled REIT is a REIT, less than 50% of value of which is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. holders at all times during a specified testing period. We believe that we are, and we expect to continue to be, a domestically-controlled REIT, and that a sale of our stock should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. No assurance can be given, however, that we will remain a domestically-controlled REIT.

In the event that we are not a domestically-controlled REIT, but our stock is regularly traded, as defined by applicable Treasury Department regulations, on an established securities market, a non-U.S. holder's sale of our stock nonetheless would not be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a USRPI, provided that the selling non-U.S. holder held 5% or less of such class of stock at all times during a specified testing period. As noted above, we believe that our common stock is, and is likely to continue to be, regularly traded on an established securities exchange.

If gain on the sale of our stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the non-U.S. holder would be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return and would be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, subject to applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals, and the purchaser of the stock could be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit such amount to the IRS.

Gain from the sale of our stock that would not otherwise be subject to FIRPTA will nonetheless be taxable in the United States to a non-U.S. holder in two cases: (1) if the non-U.S. holder's investment in our stock is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business conducted by such non-U.S. holder, the non-U.S. holder will be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to such gain, or (2) if the non-U.S. holder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a tax home in the United States, the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gain.

Estate Tax. If our stock is owned or treated as owned by an individual who is not a citizen or resident (as specially defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) of the United States at the time of such individual's death, the stock will be includable in the individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise, and may therefore be subject to U.S. federal estate tax.

Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders

Tax-exempt entities, including qualified employee pension and profit sharing trusts and individual retirement accounts, generally are exempt from federal income taxation. Such entities, however, may be subject to taxation on their unrelated business taxable income (UBTI). While some investments in real estate may generate UBTI, the IRS has ruled that dividend distributions from a REIT to a tax-exempt entity generally do not constitute UBTI. Based on that ruling, and provided that (1) a tax-exempt stockholder has not held our stock as debt financed property within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code (i.e., where the acquisition or holding of the property is financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt stockholder), and (2) our stock is not otherwise used in an unrelated trade or business, distributions that we make and income from the sale of our stock generally should not give rise to UBTI to a tax-exempt stockholder.

To the extent, however, that we are (or a part of us, or a disregarded subsidiary of ours) is a TMP, or if we hold residual interests in a REMIC, a portion of the dividends paid to a tax-exempt stockholder that is allocable to excess inclusion income may be treated as UBTI. If, however, excess inclusion income is allocable to some categories of tax-exempt stockholders that are not subject to UBTI, we will be subject to corporate level tax on such income, and, in that case, we may reduce the amount of distributions to those stockholders whose ownership gave rise to the tax. See *Taxation of Anthracite Capital, Inc. Taxable Mortgage Pools and Excess Inclusion*

Income. As required by recent IRS guidance, we intend to disclose to our stockholders if a portion of a dividend paid by us is attributable to excess inclusion income.

Tax-exempt stockholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code are subject to different UBTI rules, which generally require such stockholders to characterize distributions that we make as UBTI.

In certain circumstances, a pension trust that owns more than 10% of our stock could be required to treat a percentage of the dividends as UBTI, if we are a pension-held REIT. We will not be a pension-held REIT unless either (1) one pension trust owns more than 25% of the value of our stock, or (2) a group of pension trusts, each individually holding more than 10% of the value of our stock, collectively owns more than 50% of our stock. Certain restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock should generally prevent a tax-exempt entity from owning more than 10% of the value of our stock, and should generally prevent us from becoming a pension-held REIT.

Tax-exempt stockholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the federal, state, local and foreign income and other tax consequences of owning Anthracite Capital, Inc. stock.

Other Tax Considerations

Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs

The rules dealing with federal income taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process and by the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department. Changes to the federal tax laws and interpretations thereof could adversely affect an investment in our stock.

State, Local and Foreign Taxes

We and our subsidiaries and stockholders may be subject to state, local or foreign taxation in various jurisdictions, including those in which we or they transact business, own property or reside. We may own properties located in numerous jurisdictions, and may be required to file tax returns in some or all of those jurisdictions. Our state, local or foreign tax treatment, and that of our stockholders, may not conform to the federal income tax treatment discussed above. We may pay foreign property taxes, and dispositions of foreign property or operations involving, or investments in, foreign property may give rise to foreign income or other tax liability in amounts that could be substantial. Any foreign taxes that we incur do not pass through to stockholders as a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the application and effect of state, local and foreign income and other tax laws on an investment in our stock.

CERTAIN ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

A plan fiduciary considering an investment in the securities should consider, among other things, whether such an investment might constitute or give rise to a prohibited transaction under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any substantially similar federal, state or local law. ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code impose restrictions on:

employee benefit plans as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA that are subject to Title I of ERISA,

plans described in Section 4975(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, including retirement accounts and Keogh Plans that are subject to Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code,

entities whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of a plan's investment in such entities including, without limitation, insurance company general accounts, and

persons who have certain specified relationships to a plan described as parties in interest under ERISA and disqualified persons under the Internal Revenue Code.

Regulation Under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code

ERISA imposes certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of a plan. Under ERISA, any person who exercises any authority or control over the management or disposition of a plan's assets is considered to be a fiduciary of that plan. Both ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code prohibit certain transactions involving plan assets between a plan and parties in interest or disqualified persons. Violations of these rules may result in the imposition of an excise tax or penalty.

Under Section 3(42) of ERISA and 29 C.F.R. 2510.3-101 (the Plan Assets Rules), a plan's assets may be deemed to include an interest in the underlying assets of an entity if the plan acquires an equity interest in such an entity. In that event, the operations of such an entity could result in a prohibited transaction under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code.

Regulation Issued by the Department of Labor

Under the Plan Assets Rules, if a plan acquires a publicly-offered security, the issuer of the security is not deemed to hold plan assets. A publicly-offered security is a security that:

is freely transferable,

is part of a class of securities that is owned by 100 or more investors independent of the issuer and of one another, and

is either:

(i) part of a class of securities registered under Section 12(b) or 12(g) of the Exchange Act, or

(ii) sold to the plan as part of an offering of securities to the public pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act and the class of securities of which such security is part is registered under the Exchange Act within the requisite time.

The Shares of Our Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Debt Securities and Warrants as Publicly-Offered Securities

Our common stock is currently publicly offered and our preferred stock, debt securities and warrants subject to this registration statement are anticipated to meet the above criteria of publicly-offered securities.

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Applicability of the publicly-offered securities exception or other exceptions to the Plan Asset Regulation with respect to the securities offered will be discussed in the respective prospectus supplement.

Prohibited Transactions

The issuer, the manager, any underwriters or certain affiliates thereof may be parties in interest or disqualified persons with respect to a number of Plans. Accordingly, investment in the securities by a Plan that has such a relationship could be deemed to constitute a transaction prohibited under Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (e.g., an extension of credit to a party in interest). Such transactions may, however, be subject to one or more statutory or administrative exemptions such as Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA, which exempts certain transactions between a plan and a non-fiduciary service provider to such Plan, Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption (PTCE) 90-1, which exempts certain transactions involving insurance company separate accounts; PTCE 91-38 which exempts certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds; PTCE 84-14, which exempts certain transactions effected on behalf of a Plan by a qualified professional asset manager; PTCE 95-60, which exempts certain transactions involving insurance company general accounts; or PTCE 96-23, which exempts certain transactions effected on behalf of a Plan by an in-house asset manager; or another available exemption. Such exemptions may not, however, apply to all of the transactions that could be deemed prohibited transactions in connection with a Plan's investment. If a purchase or transfer were to result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction, such purchase or transfer may have to be rescinded. By its purchase, each investor will be deemed to have represented that either (i) it is not a Plan that is subject to the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or the Code or a governmental, church or non-U.S. plan subject to similar laws, or (ii) its investment will not constitute a non-exempt prohibited transaction by reason of application of one or more statutory or administrative exemptions under ERISA or the Code (or in the case of a governmental, church or non-U.S. plan, any similar exemption under any similar laws).

General Investment Considerations

Prospective fiduciaries of a plan (including, without limitation, an entity whose assets include plan assets, including, as applicable, an insurance company general account) considering the purchase of securities should consult with their legal advisors concerning the impact of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code and the potential consequences of making an investment in these securities with respect to their specific circumstances. Each plan fiduciary should take into account, among other considerations:

whether the plan's investment could give rise to a non-exempt prohibited transaction under Title I of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code,

whether the fiduciary has the authority to make the investment,

the composition of the plan's portfolio with respect to diversification by type of asset,

the plan's funding objectives,

the tax effects of the investment,

whether our assets would be considered plan assets, and

whether, under the general fiduciary standards of investment prudence and diversification an investment in these shares is appropriate for the plan taking into account the overall investment policy of the plan and the composition of the plan's investment portfolio.

Certain employee benefit plans, such as governmental plans and certain church plans are not subject to the provisions of Title I of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, assets of such plans may be invested in the securities without regard to the ERISA considerations described here, subject to the provisions of any other applicable federal and state law. It should be noted that any such plan that is qualified and exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code is subject to the prohibited transaction rules set forth in the Internal Revenue Code.

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The sale of any securities to a Plan or plan subject to similar laws is in no respect a representation by us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by any such plan generally or any particular plan, or that such investment is appropriate for such plans generally or any particular plan.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered by this prospectus from time to time in one or more transactions, including without limitation;

directly to purchasers;

to or through underwriters or dealers;

through agents; or

through a combination of any of these methods.

A distribution of the securities offered by this prospectus may also be effected through the issuance of derivative securities, including without limitation, warrants, subscriptions, exchangeable securities, forward delivery contracts and the writing of options.

In addition, the manner in which we may sell some or all of the securities covered by this prospectus includes, without limitation, through:

a block trade in which a broker-dealer will attempt to sell as agent, but may position or resell a portion of the block, as principal, in order to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer, as principal, and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker solicits purchasers; or

privately negotiated transactions.

We may also enter into hedging transactions. For example, we may:

enter into transactions with a broker-dealer or affiliate thereof in connection with which such broker-dealer or affiliate will engage in short sales of the common stock pursuant to this prospectus, in which case such broker-dealer or affiliate may use shares of common stock received from us to close out its short positions;

sell securities short and redeliver such shares to close out our short positions;

enter into option or other types of transactions that require us to deliver common stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who will then resell or transfer the common stock under this prospectus; or

loan or pledge the common stock to a broker-dealer or an affiliate thereof, who may sell the loaned shares or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged shares pursuant to this prospectus.

In addition, we may enter into derivative or hedging transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. In connection with such a transaction, the third parties may sell securities covered by and pursuant to

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this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be. If so, the third party may use securities borrowed from us or others to settle such sales and may use securities received from us to close out any related short positions. We may also loan or pledge securities covered by this prospectus and an applicable prospectus supplement to third parties, who may sell the loaned securities or, in an event of default in the case of a pledge, sell the pledged securities pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

A prospectus supplement with respect to each series of securities will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of any underwriters or agents and the amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them, if any;

the public offering price or purchase price of the securities and the net proceeds to be received by us from the sale;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange on which the securities may be listed.

The offer and sale of the securities described in this prospectus by us, the underwriters or the third parties described above may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions, including privately negotiated transactions, either:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to the prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

General

Any public offering price and any discounts, commissions, concessions or other items constituting compensation allowed or reallocated or paid to underwriters, dealers, agents or remarketing firms may be changed from time to time. Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms that participate in the distribution of the offered securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act. Any discounts or commissions they receive from us and any profits they receive on the resale of the offered securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will identify any underwriters, agents or dealers and describe their commissions, fees or discounts in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

Underwriters and Agents

If underwriters are used in a sale, they will acquire the offered securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the offered securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions. These sales may be made at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of the sale, at prices related to such prevailing market price or at negotiated prices. We may offer the securities to the public through an underwriting syndicate or through a single underwriter. The underwriters in any particular offering will be mentioned in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the offered securities will be subject to certain conditions contained in an underwriting agreement that we will enter into with the underwriters at the time of the sale to them. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities of the series offered if any of the securities are purchased, unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities. Any initial offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed, reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

We may designate agents to sell the offered securities. Unless otherwise specified in connection with any particular offering of securities, the agents will agree to use their best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment. We may also sell the offered securities to one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. These firms will remarket the offered securities upon purchasing them in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to the terms of the offered securities. A prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be will identify any remarketing firm and will describe the terms of its agreement, if any, with us and its

compensation.

In connection with offerings made through underwriters or agents, we may enter into agreements with such underwriters or agents pursuant to which we receive our outstanding securities in consideration for the securities being offered to the public for cash. In connection with these arrangements, the underwriters or agents may also sell securities covered by this prospectus to hedge their positions in these outstanding securities, including in short sale transactions. If so, the underwriters or agents may use the securities received from us under these arrangements to close out any related open borrowings of securities.

Dealers

We may sell the offered securities to dealers as principals. We may negotiate and pay dealers commissions, discounts or concessions for their services. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public either at varying prices to be determined by the dealer or at a fixed offering price agreed to with us at the time of resale. Dealers engaged by us may allow other dealers to participate in resales.

Direct Sales

We may choose to sell the offered securities directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved.

Institutional Purchasers

We may authorize agents, dealers or underwriters to solicit certain institutional investors to purchase offered securities on a delayed delivery basis pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified future date. The applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be will provide the details of any such arrangement, including the offering price and commissions payable on the solicitations.

We will enter into such delayed contracts only with institutional purchasers that we approve. These institutions may include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions.

Indemnification; Other Relationships

We may have agreements with agents, underwriters, dealers and remarketing firms to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Agents, underwriters, dealers and remarketing firms, and their affiliates, may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business. This includes commercial banking and investment banking transactions.

Market-Making, Stabilization and Other Transactions

There is currently no market for any of the offered securities, other than the common stock which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. If the offered securities are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price, depending upon prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities and other factors. While it is possible that an underwriter could inform us that it intends to make a market in the offered securities, such underwriter would not be obligated to do so, and any such market-making could be discontinued at any time without notice. Therefore, no assurance can be given as to whether an active trading market will develop for the offered securities. We have no current plans for listing of the debt securities, preferred stock or warrants on any securities exchange or on the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. automated quotation system; any such listing with respect to any particular debt securities, preferred stock or warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be.

In connection with any offering of common stock, the underwriters may purchase and sell shares of common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve syndicate sales of common stock in excess of the number of shares to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Covered

short sales are sales of shares made in an amount up to the number of shares represented by the underwriters over-allotment option. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered syndicate short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. Transactions to close out the covered syndicate short involve either purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed or the exercise of the over-allotment option. The underwriters may also make naked short sales of shares in excess of the over-allotment option. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares of common stock in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of bids for or purchases of shares in the open market while the offering is in progress for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the securities.

In connection with any offering, the underwriters may also engage in penalty bids. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would be in the absence of the transactions. The underwriters may, if they commence these transactions, discontinue them at any time.

Fees and Commissions

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (the FINRA), the aggregate maximum discount, commission or agency fees or other items constituting underwriting compensation to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer will not exceed 8% of any offering pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement, as the case may be; however, it is anticipated that the maximum commission or discount to be received in any particular offering of securities will be significantly less than this amount.

If more than 10% of the net proceeds of any offering of securities made under this prospectus will be received by FINRA members participating in the offering or affiliates or associated persons of such FINRA members, the offering will be conducted in accordance with NASD Conduct Rule 2710(h).

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters relating to Maryland law will be passed upon for us by Miles & Stockbridge P.C., Baltimore, Maryland. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, certain legal matters relating to New York law as well as certain legal matters described under "Federal Income Tax Considerations" in this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York. If legal matters in connection with offerings made pursuant to this prospectus are passed upon by counsel for the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, such counsel will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2007, incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and the related financial statement schedules incorporated by reference elsewhere in the Registration Statement, and the effectiveness of Anthracite Capital Inc. and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports appearing herein and elsewhere in the Registration Statement. Such consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and for the period from March 21, 2005 (inception) to December 31, 2005, relating to BlackRock Diamond Property Fund, Inc., incorporated by reference in this prospectus have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, as stated in their report appearing therein. Such consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.