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OMB Number: 3235-0045
Estimated average burden hours per response......38

Page 1 of *	54		EXCHANGE COMN TON, D.C. 20549 orm 19b-4		File No.* S	SR - 2016 - * 62 mendments *)
Filing by	NASDAQ PHLX LLC					
Pursuant t	o Rule 19b-4 under the S	Securities Exchange	Act of 1934			
Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section .	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
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Exhibit 2 Sen	t As Paper Document E	xhibit 3 Sent As Paper Do	ocument			
Proposal to	rief description of the action of the action of the action of the Preface, Se ticipants to aggregate vo	ection B and Section	II of the Exchange F	Pricing Sched	ule to permit certain a	uffiliated
Provide the	name, telephone number respond to questions and			taff of the self	-regulatory organizatior	1
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information * clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Add Remove View Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Transcripts, Other Communications documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working. **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part Add Remove View of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial

amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

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1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) NASDAQ PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or "Exchange"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposal to amend the Preface, Section B and Section II of the Exchange's Pricing Schedule to permit certain affiliated market participants to aggregate volume and qualify for various pricing incentives in the Pricing Schedule.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is at <u>Exhibit 1</u> and the text of the amended Exchange Rule is at <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the "Board") on July 1, 2015. Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Angela Saccomandi Dunn Associate General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 215-496-5692.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

a. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to permit certain affiliated market participants to aggregate volume and qualify for various pricing incentives in the Pricing Schedule. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend the Pricing Schedule at Section B, Customer³ Rebates and at Section II, Multiply-Listed Options Fees⁴, to offer Affiliated Entities certain rebate and fee incentives.

Affiliated Entity

The Exchange proposes to add three definitions to the Preface of the Pricing Schedule. The Exchange proposes to define the terms "Appointed MM," "Appointed OFP," and "Affiliated Entity." The Exchange proposes to define the term "Appointed MM" as a Phlx Market Maker⁵ or Specialist⁶ who has been appointed by an Order Flow

The term "Customer" applies to any transaction that is identified by a member or member organization for clearing in the Customer range at The Options Clearing Corporation which is not for the account of a broker or dealer or for the account of a "Professional" (as that term is defined in Rule 1000(b)(14)).

These fees include options overlying equities, ETFs, ETNs and indexes which are Multiply Listed.

The term "Market Maker" will be utilized to describe fees and rebates applicable to Registered Options Traders ("ROTs"), Streaming Quote Traders ("SQTs"), Remote Streaming Quote Traders ("RSQTs"). An ROT is defined in Exchange Rule 1014(b) is a regular member or a foreign currency options participant of the Exchange located on the trading floor who has received permission from the Exchange to trade in options for his own account. A ROT includes SQTs and RSQTs as well as on and off-floor ROTS. An SQT is defined in Exchange Rule 1014(b)(ii)(A) as an ROT who has received permission from the Exchange to generate and submit option quotations electronically in options to which such SQT is assigned. An RSQT is defined in Exchange Rule in 1014(b)(ii)(B) as an ROT that is a member affiliated with an RSQTO with no physical trading floor presence who has received permission from the Exchange to generate and submit option quotations electronically in options to which such RSQT has been

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Provider ("OFP") for purposes of becoming an Affiliated Entity. An OFP means any member or member organization that submits orders, as agent or principal, to the Exchange. The Exchange proposes to define the term "Appointed OFP" as an OFP who has been appointed by a Phlx Market Maker or Specialist for purposes of becoming an Affiliated Entity. The Exchanges proposes to define the term "Affiliated Entity" as an Exchange approved relationship between an Appointed MM and an Appointed OFP for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing as specified in the Pricing Schedule. In order to become an Affiliated Entity, Market Makers and OFPs will be required to send an email to the Exchange, designating their Appointed MM or Appointed OFP, respectively. The emails received by the Exchange must be sent at least 3 business days before the end of the month in order for the Appointed MM and Appointed OFP to become an Affiliated Entity for the following month. For example, with this proposal, market participants may submit emails to the Exchange to become Affiliated Entities eligible to qualify for discounted pricing starting July 1, 2016, provided the emails are sent at least 3 business

assigned. A Remote Streaming Quote Trader Organization or "RSQTO," which may also be referred to as a Remote Market Making Organization ("RMO"), is a member organization in good standing that satisfies the RSQTO readiness requirements in Rule 507(a). RSQTs may also be referred to as Remote Market Markers ("RMMs").

- The term "Specialist" shall apply to the account of a Specialist (as defined in Exchange Rule 1020(a)). A Specialist is an Exchange member who is registered as an options specialist pursuant to Rule 501(a). An options Specialist includes a Remote Specialist which is defined as an options specialist in one or more classes that does not have a physical presence on an Exchange floor and is approved by the Exchange pursuant to Rule 501.
- Specialist and Market Makers submitting quotes to the Exchange shall not be considered Appointed OFPs for the purpose of becoming an Affiliated Entity.
- The Exchange shall issue an Options Trader Alert specifying the email address and details required to apply to become an Affiliated Entity.

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days prior to the end of June 2016. The Exchange will acknowledge receipt of the emails and specify the start date that the Affiliated Entity would be eligible to qualify for applicable pricing, as specified in the Pricing Schedule. Each Affiliated Entity relationship will commence on the 1st of a month and may not be terminated prior to the end of that month. Members desiring to terminate in any month are required to submit an email to the Exchange at least 3 business days before the end of the month to terminate in the next month. An Affiliated Entity relationship will terminate after a one (1) year period, unless either party terminates earlier in writing by notifying the Exchange by email. At the end of the one year time period from the effective date, a new Affiliated Entity relationship may be agreed upon. For example, if the start date of the Affiliated Entity relationship is July 1, 2016, the counterparties may determine to commence a new relationship as of July 1, 2017 by sending two new emails by June 28, 2017 (3 business days prior to the end of month). Members and member organizations under Common Ownership⁹ are not eligible to become a counterparty comprising an Affiliated Entity. Each member or member organization may qualify for only one (1) Affiliated Entity relationship at any given time.

As proposed, an Affiliated Entity shall be eligible to aggregate their volume for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing specified in the Pricing Schedule, as described below.

Section B - Customer Rebates

The Exchange proposes to amend Section B, entitled "Customer Rebate Program" to permit Affiliated Entities to aggregate their Customer volume for purposes of

The term "Common Ownership" shall mean members or member organizations under 75% common ownership or control.

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calculating Customer Rebate Tiers and receiving rebates. Currently, the Exchange has a Customer Rebate Program consisting of the following five tiers that pay Customer rebates on three Categories, A, B and C, of transactions:

Customer Rebate	Percentage Thresholds of National Customer Volume in Multiply- Listed Equity and ETF	Category Category A B C			
Tiers	Options Classes, excluding SPY Options (Monthly)	11	D	C	
Tier 1	0.00% - 0.60%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Tier 2	Above 0.60% - 1.10%	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.17	
Tier 3	Above 1.10% - 1.60%	\$0.15	\$0.12	\$0.17	
Tier 4	Above 1.60% - 2.50%	\$0.20	\$0.16	\$0.22	
Tier 5	Above 2.50%	\$0.21	\$0.17	\$0.22	

A Phlx member qualifies for a certain rebate tier based on the percentage of total national customer volume in multiply-listed options that it transacts monthly on Phlx. The Exchange calculates Customer volume in Multiply Listed Options by totaling electronically-delivered and executed volume, excluding volume associated with electronic Qualified Contingent Cross ("QCC") Orders, as defined in Exchange Rule 1080(o). The Exchange proposes to incentivize certain members and member

In calculating electronically-delivered and executed Customer volume in Multiply Listed Options, the numerator of the equation includes all electronically-delivered and executed Customer volume in Multiply Listed Options. The denominator of

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organizations who are not under Common Ownership to enter into an Affiliated Entity relationship for the purpose of aggregating Customer volume to qualify for Section B Customer Rebates. By aggregating volume, the counterparties comprising the Affiliated Entity are offered an opportunity to qualify for higher rebates, thereby lowering costs and encouraging members to send more order flow. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more order flow to the marketplace and more trading opportunities.

Affiliated Entities would aggregate Customer volume as between the Appointed MM and Appointed OFP to qualify for any of the five tiers of Customer Rebates that pay Category, A, B or C rebates on transactions. An Appointed OFP would also be eligible to receive the additional \$0.02 per contract Category A and B rebate and the additional \$0.03 per contract Category C rebate, paid in addition to the applicable Tier 2 and 3 rebate, currently available to a Specialist or Market Maker or its member or member organization affiliate under Common Ownership, provided the Appointed MM has reached the Monthly Market Maker Cap, as defined in Section II.

The Exchange's proposal would incentivize certain members and member organizations, who are not under Common Ownership, to enter into an Affiliated Entity relationship for the purpose of aggregating Customer volume to qualify the Appointed OFP for Customer Rebates in Section B of the Pricing Schedule.

Section II - Options Transaction Charge

The Exchange proposes to amend Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer member and member organizations that are Appointed OFPs of Affiliated Entities

that equation includes national customer volume in multiply-listed equity and ETF options volume, excluding SPY. <u>See</u> Section B of the Pricing Schedule.

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transacting non-Customer orders an opportunity to reduce non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges. Today, the Exchange assesses a Professional, ¹¹ Broker-Dealer ¹² and Firm ¹³ a non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge of \$0.75 per contract and a Specialist and Market Maker a \$0.25 per contract non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge. The Exchange proposes to provide an Appointed OFP of an Affiliated Entity with an opportunity to lower the Professional, Broker-Dealer and Firm non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge from \$0.75 to \$0.60 per contract provided the Affiliated Entity qualifies for Customer Rebate Tiers 4¹⁴ or 5¹⁵ in Section B of the Pricing Schedule. The Exchange proposes to provide an Appointed MM of an Affiliated Entity with an opportunity to lower the Specialist and Market Maker non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge from \$0.25 to \$0.23 per contract

The term "Professional" means any person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). <u>See</u> Rule 1000(b)(14).

The term "Broker-Dealer" applies to any transaction which is not subject to any of the other transaction fees applicable within a particular category.

The term "Firm" applies to any transaction that is identified by a member or member organization for clearing in the Firm range at The Options Clearing Corporation.

The Tier 4 Customer Rebate in Section B of the Pricing Schedule requires Customer volume above 1.60% to 2.50% of National Customer Volume in Multiply Listed Equity and ETF Options, excluding SPY. This rebate tier pays a Category A \$0.20 rebate, a Category B \$0.16 rebate and a Category C \$0.22 rebate.

The Tier 5 Customer Rebate in Section B of the Pricing Schedule requires Customer volume above 2.50% of National Customer Volume in Multiply Listed Equity and ETF Options, excluding SPY. This rebate tier pays a Category A \$0.21 rebate, a Category B \$0.17 rebate and a Category C \$0.22 rebate.

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provided the Affiliated Entity qualifies for Customer Rebate Tiers 4 or 5 in Section B of the Pricing Schedule.¹⁶

The Exchange's proposal would incentivize certain members and member organizations, who are not under Common Ownership, to enter into an Affiliated Entity relationship for the purpose of aggregating Customer volume to qualify for reduced non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, ¹⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the Act, ¹⁸ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using its facilities, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the

Today, any member or member organization under Common Ownership with another member or member organization that qualifies for Customer Rebate Tiers 4 or 5 in Section B of the Pricing Schedule is assessed either a \$0.23 or \$0.60 per contract non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4), (5).

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market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies." ¹⁹

Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission²⁰ ("NetCoalition") the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission's use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.²¹ As the court emphasized, the Commission "intended in Regulation NMS that 'market forces, rather than regulatory requirements' play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost."²²

Further, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."²³ Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 29, 2005), 70 FR 37496 at 37499 (File No. S7-10-04) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

See id. at 534-535.

<u>See id.</u> at 537.

See id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Commission at Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770 at 74782-74783 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

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The Exchange's proposal to amend the Preface to add the definitions of "Appointed MM," "Appointed OFP" and "Affiliated Entity" is reasonable because the Exchange identifies the applicable market participants that may qualify to aggregate volume as an Affiliated Entity. Further the Exchange seeks to make clear the manner in which members and member organizations may participate on the Exchange as Affiliated Entities by setting timeframes for communicating agreements among market participants and terms of early termination. The Exchange also clearly states that no member or member organization under Common Ownership may become a counterparty to an Affiliated Entity. The Exchange believes that these terms are reasonable because they would allow members or member organizations to elect to become a counterparty to an Affiliated Entity provided they are not under Common Ownership.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the Preface to add the definitions of "Appointed MM," "Appointed OFP" and "Affiliated Entity" is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all member or members that are not under Common Ownership may choose to enter into an Affiliated Entity relationship.

Section B Customer Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to permit Affiliated Entities to aggregate Customer volume for purposes of qualifying Appointed OFPs for Section B Customer Rebates is reasonable because it will attract additional Customer order flow to the Exchange.

Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Appointed OFPs

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directing order flow to the Exchange may be eligible to qualify for a Customer Rebate or a higher Customer Rebate tier, with this proposal, as a result of aggregating volume with an Appointed MM and thereby qualifying for higher Customer Rebates. Permitting members and member organizations to affiliate for purposes of qualifying for Section B Customer Rebates may also encourage the counterparties that comprise the Affiliated Entities to incentivize each other to attract and seek to execute more Customer volume on Phlx. In turn, market participants would benefit from the increased liquidity with which to interact and potentially tighter spreads on orders. Overall, incentivizing market participants with increased opportunities to earn higher Customer rebates may increase the quality of the liquidity available on Phlx.

The Exchange's proposal to permit Affiliated Entities to aggregate Customer volume for purposes of qualifying Appointed OFPs for Section B Customer rebates is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all Phlx members and member organizations, other than those under Common Ownership, may elect to become an Affiliated Entity as either an Appointed MM or an Appointed OFP. Also, each member or member organization may participate in only one Affiliated Entity relationship at a given time, which imposes a measure of exclusivity among market participants, allowing each party to rely on the other's executed Customer volume on Phlx to receive a corresponding benefit in terms of a rebate. Any market participant that has not elected to be a member or member organization under Common Ownership may elect to become a counterparty of an Affiliated Entity. The Exchange's proposal to exclude members and

Both members must elect each other to become an Affiliated Entity for one year. Participation is effected by an agreement of both parties that have provided proper notification to the Exchange. A party may elect to terminate the agreement at any time prior to one year.

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member organizations that elect to aggregate pursuant to Common Ownership from qualifying as an Affiliated Entity is reasonable because members and member organizations under Common Ownership may aggregate volume today for purposes of Section B Customer Rebates.²⁵

The Exchange's proposal to exclude members and member organizations that elect to aggregate pursuant to Common Ownership from qualifying as an Affiliated Entity is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because member and member organizations under Common Ownership may aggregate volume today for purposes of qualifying for Customer Rebates. Excluding members and member organizations under Common Ownership from also qualifying as an Affiliated Entity is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because they are able to aggregate volume today and qualify for Customer Rebates in Section B.

<u>Section II – Options Transaction Charges</u>

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 3 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer members and member organizations that are Affiliated Entities an opportunity to reduce non-Customer non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges is reasonable because the Exchange believes it will encourage these market participants to transact a greater amount of Customer volume on Phlx. The Exchange's proposal to permit Appointed OFPs of Affiliated Entities to qualify for the reduced non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges by qualifying for Customer Rebate Tiers 4 or 5 in Section B of the Pricing Schedule will attract additional Customer order flow to the Exchange. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading

See Section B of the Pricing Schedule.

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opportunities, which attracts Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause a corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Appointed OFPs directing order flow to the Exchange may be eligible to qualify for these Customer rebate tiers as a result of aggregating volume with another appointed member and benefit from reduced non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges. Permitting members and member organizations to affiliate for purposes of qualifying for Section B Customer rebates may also encourage the counterparties of an Affiliated Entity to incentivize each other to attract and seek to execute more Customer volume on Phlx. The Affiliated Entity relationship would permit the Appointed MM and the Appointed OFP to benefit from reduced non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges. In turn, market participants would benefit from the increased liquidity with which to interact and potentially tighter spreads on orders. The Exchange believes that lowering these fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges, as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges, is reasonable because today, Penny Pilot Options are the most traded and more liquid than Non-Penny Pilot Options. Electronic Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges are lower for Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms because of the demand in the marketplace. The Exchange is offering Appointed OFPs the opportunity to reduce the higher electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges for Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms with this incentive, provided they qualify.

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 3 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer members and member organizations that are Affiliated Entities an opportunity to

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reduce non-Customer non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will assess Appointed OFPs a reduced Professional, Broker-Dealer and Firm electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options. The Exchange does not assess Customers an electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options because Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Specialists and Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Specialists and Market Makers are assessed lower electronic Options Transaction Charges in Non-Penny Pilot Options as compared to Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms because they have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants.²⁶ They have obligations to make continuous markets, engage in a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with a course of dealings. The proposed differentiation as between Customers, Specialists and Market Makers and other market participants recognizes the differing contributions made to the liquidity and trading environment on the Exchange by these market participants. The Exchange believes that lowering Appointed OFP fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges is equitable and not unfairly

See Rule 1014 titled "Obligations and Restrictions Applicable to Specialists and Registered Options Traders."

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discriminatory because the Exchange seeks to offer lower fees to those market participants paying the highest electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges.

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 4 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer Appointed MMs of an Affiliated Entity an opportunity to reduce the Specialist and Marker Maker electronic non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges is reasonable because today the Exchange offers all market participants, excluding Customers who are not assessed a non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges, a means to reduce electronic Options Transaction Charges by qualifying for a Customer Rebate in Section B of the Pricing Schedule. Even with the reduced rate for Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms of \$0.60 per contract, Specialist and Market Makers will continue to be assessed the lowest electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options because they have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants.²⁷ The Exchange believes that lowering Appointed MM fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges is reasonable because the reduced electronic non-Penny Pilot will be consistent with the current lower reduced Penny Pilot Options Transaction charges (\$0.25) vs. \$0.22 per contract).

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 4 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer Appointed MMs of an Affiliated Entity an opportunity to reduce the Specialist and Marker Maker electronic non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange seeks to incentivize Specialists and Market Makers to increase their activity on Phlx and in turn facilitate

²⁷ Id.

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other market participants. Specialists and Market have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants. ²⁸

They have obligations to make continuous markets, engage in a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with a course of dealings. The Exchange believes that permitting Appointed MMs to receive this additional benefit will continue to benefit the marketplace as described herein. The Exchange believes that lowering these fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options

Transaction Charges as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange is offering market participants the opportunity to reduce the higher electronic non-Penny Pilot Options

Transaction Charges for Specialists and Market Makers with this incentive and permitting Appointed MMs to also receive this discount, provided they qualify.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Specifically, the Exchange does not believe that permitting counterparties to an Affiliated Entity to aggregate volume to qualify for certain rebates and reduced fees will impose any undue burden on competition, as discussed below.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which many sophisticated and knowledgeable market participants can readily and do send order flow

²⁸ Id.

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to competing exchanges if they deem fee levels or rebate incentives at a particular exchange to be excessive or inadequate. Additionally, new competitors have entered the market and still others are reportedly entering the market shortly. These market forces ensure that the Exchange's fees and rebates remain competitive with the fee structures at other trading platforms.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial

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markets. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that other options markets have similar incentives in place to attract volume to their markets.²⁹

Section B Customer Rebates

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange does not believe that its proposal to permit counterparties of an Affiliated Entity to aggregate Customer volume for purposes of qualifying for Section B Customer Rebates imposes an undue burden on intra-market competition because all Phlx members and member organizations, other than those under Common Ownership, may become an Affiliated Entity as either an Appointed MM or an Appointed OFP. Also, each Phlx member or member organization may participate in only one Affiliated Entity relationship at a given time, which imposes a measure of exclusivity among market participants, allowing each party to rely on the other's executed Customer volume on Phlx to receive a corresponding benefit in terms of a rebate. The Exchange will apply all qualifications in a uniform manner to all market participants that elect to become counterparties of an Affiliated Entity. Any market participant that is a member or member organization under Common Ownership may not become a counterparty of an Affiliated Entity. Also, Market Makers are valuable market participants that provide liquidity in the marketplace and incur costs that other market participants do not incur. Market Makers are subject to burdensome quoting

See NYSE MKT LLC's ("NYSE Amex") pricing at NYSE Amex Options Fee Schedule). NYSE Amex permits aggregation of volume to qualify for the Amex Customer Engagement or ACE Program. See Bats BZX Exchange, Inc.'s ("BZX") fee schedule. BZX permits aggregation of volume to qualify for tiered pricing. See the Chicago Board Options Exchange Incorporated ("CBOE") Fees Schedule. CBOE permits aggregation of volume to qualify for credits available under an Affiliated Volume Plan or "AVP."

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obligations³⁰ to the market that do not apply to other market participants. Incentivizing these market participants to execute Customer volume on Phlx may result in tighter spreads. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Appointed OFPs directing order flow to the Exchange may be eligible to qualify for a Customer Rebate or a higher Customer Rebate tier, with this proposal, as a result of aggregating volume with an Appointed MM and thereby qualifying for higher Customer Rebates. Permitting members and member organizations to affiliate for purposes of qualifying for Section B Customer Rebates may also encourage the counterparties that comprise the Affiliated Entities to incentivize each other to attract and seek to execute more Customer volume on Phlx.

The Exchange's proposal to exclude members and member organizations that are under Common Ownership from becoming an Affiliated Entity does not impose and undue burden on intra-market competition because member and member organizations under Common Ownership may aggregate volume today for purposes of qualifying for Customer Rebates. Excluding members and member organizations under Common Ownership from also becoming an Affiliated Entity does not impose and undue burden on intra-market competition because they are able to aggregate volume today as common owners.

Section II – Options Transaction Charges

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 3 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer members and member organizations that are Affiliated Entities an opportunity to

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reduce non-Customer non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because the Exchange will assess Appointed OFPs a reduced Professional, Broker-Dealer and Firm electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options. The Exchange does not assess Customers an electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options because Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Specialists and Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Specialists and Market Makers are assessed lower electronic Options Transaction Charges in Non-Penny Pilot Options as compared to Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms because they have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants.³¹ They have obligations to make continuous markets, engage in a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with a course of dealings. The proposed differentiation as between Customers, Specialists and Market Makers and other market participants recognizes the differing contributions made to the liquidity and trading environment on the Exchange by these market participants. The Exchange will apply all qualifications for the reduced rate in a uniform manner. The Exchange believes that lowering these fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges as compared to Penny Pilot

^{31 &}lt;u>Id.</u>

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Options Transaction Charges does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because the Exchange seeks to offer lower fees to those market participants paying the highest electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges.

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 4 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer members and member organizations that are Affiliated Entities an opportunity to reduce non-Customer electronic non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because the Exchange seeks to incentivize Specialists and Market Makers to increase their activity on Phlx and in turn facilitate tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Specialists and Market have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants.³² They have obligations to make continuous markets, engage in a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with a course of dealings. The Exchange believes that permitting Affiliated MMs to receive this additional benefit will continue to benefit the market place as described herein. The Exchange believes that lowering these fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because the electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges is higher (\$0.25 vs. \$0.22 per contract).

 Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others
 No written comments were either solicited or received.

³² Id.

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Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
 Not applicable.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,³³ The Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

- Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission
 Not applicable.
- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act
 Not applicable.
- 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act
 Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.

³³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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5. Text of the proposed rule change.

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EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-Phlx-2016-62)

June ___, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Related to Affiliated Entities

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on June 21, 2016, NASDAQ PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to amend the Preface, Section B and Section II of the Exchange's Pricing Schedule to permit certain affiliated market participants to aggregate volume and qualify for various pricing incentives in the Pricing Schedule

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at http://nasdaqphlx.cchwallstreet.com/, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to permit certain affiliated market participants to aggregate volume and qualify for various pricing incentives in the Pricing Schedule. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend the Pricing Schedule at Section B, Customer³ Rebates and at Section II, Multiply-Listed Options Fees⁴, to offer Affiliated Entities certain rebate and fee incentives.

Affiliated Entity

The Exchange proposes to add three definitions to the Preface of the Pricing Schedule. The Exchange proposes to define the terms "Appointed MM," "Appointed OFP," and "Affiliated Entity." The Exchange proposes to define the term "Appointed

The term "Customer" applies to any transaction that is identified by a member or member organization for clearing in the Customer range at The Options Clearing Corporation which is not for the account of a broker or dealer or for the account of a "Professional" (as that term is defined in Rule 1000(b)(14)).

These fees include options overlying equities, ETFs, ETNs and indexes which are Multiply Listed.

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MM" as a Phlx Market Maker⁵ or Specialist⁶ who has been appointed by an Order Flow Provider ("OFP") for purposes of becoming an Affiliated Entity. An OFP means any member or member organization that submits orders, as agent or principal, to the Exchange.⁷ The Exchange proposes to define the term "Appointed OFP" as an OFP who has been appointed by a Phlx Market Maker or Specialist for purposes of becoming an Affiliated Entity. The Exchanges proposes to define the term "Affiliated Entity" as an Exchange approved relationship between an Appointed MM and an Appointed OFP for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing as specified in the Pricing Schedule. In order to become an Affiliated Entity, Market Makers and OFPs will be required to send an email

The term "Market Maker" will be utilized to describe fees and rebates applicable to Registered Options Traders ("ROTs"), Streaming Quote Traders ("SQTs"), Remote Streaming Quote Traders ("RSQTs"). An ROT is defined in Exchange Rule 1014(b) is a regular member or a foreign currency options participant of the Exchange located on the trading floor who has received permission from the Exchange to trade in options for his own account. A ROT includes SQTs and RSQTs as well as on and off-floor ROTS. An SQT is defined in Exchange Rule 1014(b)(ii)(A) as an ROT who has received permission from the Exchange to generate and submit option quotations electronically in options to which such SQT is assigned. An RSQT is defined in Exchange Rule in 1014(b)(ii)(B) as an ROT that is a member affiliated with an RSQTO with no physical trading floor presence who has received permission from the Exchange to generate and submit option quotations electronically in options to which such RSQT has been assigned. A Remote Streaming Quote Trader Organization or "RSQTO," which may also be referred to as a Remote Market Making Organization ("RMO"), is a member organization in good standing that satisfies the RSQTO readiness requirements in Rule 507(a). RSQTs may also be referred to as Remote Market Markers ("RMMs").

The term "Specialist" shall apply to the account of a Specialist (as defined in Exchange Rule 1020(a)). A Specialist is an Exchange member who is registered as an options specialist pursuant to Rule 501(a). An options Specialist includes a Remote Specialist which is defined as an options specialist in one or more classes that does not have a physical presence on an Exchange floor and is approved by the Exchange pursuant to Rule 501.

Specialist and Market Makers submitting quotes to the Exchange shall not be considered Appointed OFPs for the purpose of becoming an Affiliated Entity.

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to the Exchange, designating their Appointed MM or Appointed OFP, respectively.⁸ The emails received by the Exchange must be sent at least 3 business days before the end of the month in order for the Appointed MM and Appointed OFP to become an Affiliated Entity for the following month. For example, with this proposal, market participants may submit emails to the Exchange to become Affiliated Entities eligible to qualify for discounted pricing starting July 1, 2016, provided the emails are sent at least 3 business days prior to the end of June 2016. The Exchange will acknowledge receipt of the emails and specify the start date that the Affiliated Entity would be eligible to qualify for applicable pricing, as specified in the Pricing Schedule. Each Affiliated Entity relationship will commence on the 1st of a month and may not be terminated prior to the end of that month. Members desiring to terminate in any month are required to submit an email to the Exchange at least 3 business days before the end of the month to terminate in the next month. An Affiliated Entity relationship will terminate after a one (1) year period, unless either party terminates earlier in writing by notifying the Exchange by email. At the end of the one year time period from the effective date, a new Affiliated Entity relationship may be agreed upon. For example, if the start date of the Affiliated Entity relationship is July 1, 2016, the counterparties may determine to commence a new relationship as of July 1, 2017 by sending two new emails by June 28, 2017 (3 business days prior to the end of month). Members and member organizations under Common Ownership⁹ are not eligible to become a counterparty comprising an Affiliated Entity.

The Exchange shall issue an Options Trader Alert specifying the email address and details required to apply to become an Affiliated Entity.

The term "Common Ownership" shall mean members or member organizations under 75% common ownership or control.

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Each member or member organization may qualify for only one (1) Affiliated Entity relationship at any given time.

As proposed, an Affiliated Entity shall be eligible to aggregate their volume for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing specified in the Pricing Schedule, as described below.

Section B - Customer Rebates

The Exchange proposes to amend Section B, entitled "Customer Rebate Program" to permit Affiliated Entities to aggregate their Customer volume for purposes of calculating Customer Rebate Tiers and receiving rebates. Currently, the Exchange has a Customer Rebate Program consisting of the following five tiers that pay Customer rebates on three Categories, A, B and C, of transactions:

National Customer Volume in Multiply- Listed Equity and ETF Options Classes, excluding SPY Options (Monthly)	Category A	Category B	Category C
0.00% - 0.60%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Above 0.60% - 1.10%	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.17
Above 1.10% - 1.60%	\$0.15	\$0.12	\$0.17
Above 1.60% - 2.50%	\$0.20	\$0.16	\$0.22
Above 2.50%	\$0.21	\$0.17	\$0.22
	Listed Equity and ETF Options Classes, excluding SPY Options (Monthly) 0.00% - 0.60% Above 0.60% - 1.10% Above 1.10% - 1.60% Above 1.60% - 2.50%	Listed Equity and ETF Options Classes, excluding SPY Options (Monthly) 0.00% - 0.60% \$0.00 Above 0.60% - 1.10% \$0.10 Above 1.10% - 1.60% \$0.15 Above 1.60% - 2.50% \$0.20	Listed Equity and ETF Options A B Classes, excluding SPY Options (Monthly) \$0.00 \$0.00 Above 0.60% - 0.60% \$0.10 \$0.10 Above 1.10% - 1.60% \$0.15 \$0.12 Above 1.60% - 2.50% \$0.20 \$0.16

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A Phlx member qualifies for a certain rebate tier based on the percentage of total national customer volume in multiply-listed options that it transacts monthly on Phlx. The Exchange calculates Customer volume in Multiply Listed Options by totaling electronically-delivered and executed volume, excluding volume associated with electronic Qualified Contingent Cross ("QCC") Orders, as defined in Exchange Rule 1080(o). The Exchange proposes to incentivize certain members and member organizations who are not under Common Ownership to enter into an Affiliated Entity relationship for the purpose of aggregating Customer volume to qualify for Section B Customer Rebates. By aggregating volume, the counterparties comprising the Affiliated Entity are offered an opportunity to qualify for higher rebates, thereby lowering costs and encouraging members to send more order flow. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more order flow to the marketplace and more trading opportunities.

Affiliated Entities would aggregate Customer volume as between the Appointed MM and Appointed OFP to qualify for any of the five tiers of Customer Rebates that pay Category, A, B or C rebates on transactions. An Appointed OFP would also be eligible to receive the additional \$0.02 per contract Category A and B rebate and the additional \$0.03 per contract Category C rebate, paid in addition to the applicable Tier 2 and 3 rebate, currently available to a Specialist or Market Maker or its member or member

In calculating electronically-delivered and executed Customer volume in Multiply Listed Options, the numerator of the equation includes all electronically-delivered and executed Customer volume in Multiply Listed Options. The denominator of that equation includes national customer volume in multiply-listed equity and ETF options volume, excluding SPY. See Section B of the Pricing Schedule.

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organization affiliate under Common Ownership, provided the Appointed MM has reached the Monthly Market Maker Cap, as defined in Section II.

The Exchange's proposal would incentivize certain members and member organizations, who are not under Common Ownership, to enter into an Affiliated Entity relationship for the purpose of aggregating Customer volume to qualify the Appointed OFP for Customer Rebates in Section B of the Pricing Schedule.

Section II - Options Transaction Charge

The Exchange proposes to amend Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer member and member organizations that are Appointed OFPs of Affiliated Entities transacting non-Customer orders an opportunity to reduce non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges. Today, the Exchange assesses a Professional, ¹¹ Broker-Dealer ¹² and Firm ¹³ a non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge of \$0.75 per contract and a Specialist and Market Maker a \$0.25 per contract non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge. The Exchange proposes to provide an Appointed OFP of an Affiliated Entity with an opportunity to lower the Professional, Broker-Dealer and Firm non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge from \$0.75 to \$0.60 per

The term "Professional" means any person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). <u>See</u> Rule 1000(b)(14).

The term "Broker-Dealer" applies to any transaction which is not subject to any of the other transaction fees applicable within a particular category.

The term "Firm" applies to any transaction that is identified by a member or member organization for clearing in the Firm range at The Options Clearing Corporation.

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contract provided the Affiliated Entity qualifies for Customer Rebate Tiers 4¹⁴ or 5¹⁵ in Section B of the Pricing Schedule. The Exchange proposes to provide an Appointed MM of an Affiliated Entity with an opportunity to lower the Specialist and Market Maker non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge from \$0.25 to \$0.23 per contract provided the Affiliated Entity qualifies for Customer Rebate Tiers 4 or 5 in Section B of the Pricing Schedule.¹⁶

The Exchange's proposal would incentivize certain members and member organizations, who are not under Common Ownership, to enter into an Affiliated Entity relationship for the purpose of aggregating Customer volume to qualify for reduced non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, ¹⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of

The Tier 4 Customer Rebate in Section B of the Pricing Schedule requires Customer volume above 1.60% to 2.50% of National Customer Volume in Multiply Listed Equity and ETF Options, excluding SPY. This rebate tier pays a Category A \$0.20 rebate, a Category B \$0.16 rebate and a Category C \$0.22 rebate.

The Tier 5 Customer Rebate in Section B of the Pricing Schedule requires Customer volume above 2.50% of National Customer Volume in Multiply Listed Equity and ETF Options, excluding SPY. This rebate tier pays a Category A \$0.21 rebate, a Category B \$0.17 rebate and a Category C \$0.22 rebate.

Today, any member or member organization under Common Ownership with another member or member organization that qualifies for Customer Rebate Tiers 4 or 5 in Section B of the Pricing Schedule is assessed either a \$0.23 or \$0.60 per contract non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charge.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78f(b).

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Section 6(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the Act,¹⁸ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using its facilities, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies." ¹⁹

Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission²⁰ ("NetCoalition") the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission's use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.²¹ As the court emphasized, the Commission "intended in Regulation NMS that 'market forces, rather than regulatory requirements' play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost."²²

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4), (5).

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 29, 2005), 70 FR 37496 at 37499 (File No. S7-10-04) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

²⁰ NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

See id. at 534-535.

See id. at 537.

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Further, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...." Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the Preface to add the definitions of "Appointed MM," "Appointed OFP" and "Affiliated Entity" is reasonable because the Exchange identifies the applicable market participants that may qualify to aggregate volume as an Affiliated Entity. Further the Exchange seeks to make clear the manner in which members and member organizations may participate on the Exchange as Affiliated Entities by setting timeframes for communicating agreements among market participants and terms of early termination. The Exchange also clearly states that no member or member organization under Common Ownership may become a counterparty to an Affiliated Entity. The Exchange believes that these terms are reasonable because they would allow members or member organizations to elect to become a counterparty to an Affiliated Entity provided they are not under Common Ownership.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the Preface to add the definitions of "Appointed MM," "Appointed OFP" and "Affiliated Entity" is equitable and not unfairly

See id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Commission at Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770 at 74782-74783 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

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discriminatory because all member or members that are not under Common Ownership may choose to enter into an Affiliated Entity relationship.

Section B Customer Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to permit Affiliated Entities to aggregate Customer volume for purposes of qualifying Appointed OFPs for Section B Customer Rebates is reasonable because it will attract additional Customer order flow to the Exchange. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Appointed OFPs directing order flow to the Exchange may be eligible to qualify for a Customer Rebate or a higher Customer Rebate tier, with this proposal, as a result of aggregating volume with an Appointed MM and thereby qualifying for higher Customer Rebates. Permitting members and member organizations to affiliate for purposes of qualifying for Section B Customer Rebates may also encourage the counterparties that comprise the Affiliated Entities to incentivize each other to attract and seek to execute more Customer volume on Phlx. In turn, market participants would benefit from the increased liquidity with which to interact and potentially tighter spreads on orders. Overall, incentivizing market participants with increased opportunities to earn higher Customer rebates may increase the quality of the liquidity available on Phlx.

The Exchange's proposal to permit Affiliated Entities to aggregate Customer volume for purposes of qualifying Appointed OFPs for Section B Customer rebates is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because all Phlx members and member

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organizations, other than those under Common Ownership, may elect to become an Affiliated Entity as either an Appointed MM or an Appointed OFP.²⁴ Also, each member or member organization may participate in only one Affiliated Entity relationship at a given time, which imposes a measure of exclusivity among market participants, allowing each party to rely on the other's executed Customer volume on Phlx to receive a corresponding benefit in terms of a rebate. Any market participant that has not elected to be a member or member organization under Common Ownership may elect to become a counterparty of an Affiliated Entity. The Exchange's proposal to exclude members and member organizations that elect to aggregate pursuant to Common Ownership from qualifying as an Affiliated Entity is reasonable because members and member organizations under Common Ownership may aggregate volume today for purposes of Section B Customer Rebates.²⁵

The Exchange's proposal to exclude members and member organizations that elect to aggregate pursuant to Common Ownership from qualifying as an Affiliated Entity is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because member and member organizations under Common Ownership may aggregate volume today for purposes of qualifying for Customer Rebates. Excluding members and member organizations under Common Ownership from also qualifying as an Affiliated Entity is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because they are able to aggregate volume today and qualify for Customer Rebates in Section B.

Both members must elect each other to become an Affiliated Entity for one year. Participation is effected by an agreement of both parties that have provided proper notification to the Exchange. A party may elect to terminate the agreement at any time prior to one year.

See Section B of the Pricing Schedule.

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Section II – Options Transaction Charges

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 3 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer members and member organizations that are Affiliated Entities an opportunity to reduce non-Customer non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges is reasonable because the Exchange believes it will encourage these market participants to transact a greater amount of Customer volume on Phlx. The Exchange's proposal to permit Appointed OFPs of Affiliated Entities to qualify for the reduced non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges by qualifying for Customer Rebate Tiers 4 or 5 in Section B of the Pricing Schedule will attract additional Customer order flow to the Exchange. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause a corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Appointed OFPs directing order flow to the Exchange may be eligible to qualify for these Customer rebate tiers as a result of aggregating volume with another appointed member and benefit from reduced non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges. Permitting members and member organizations to affiliate for purposes of qualifying for Section B Customer rebates may also encourage the counterparties of an Affiliated Entity to incentivize each other to attract and seek to execute more Customer volume on Phlx. The Affiliated Entity relationship would permit the Appointed MM and the Appointed OFP to benefit from reduced non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges. In turn, market participants would benefit from the increased liquidity with which to interact and potentially tighter spreads on orders. The Exchange believes that lowering these fees for

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electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges, as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges, is reasonable because today, Penny Pilot Options are the most traded and more liquid than Non-Penny Pilot Options. Electronic Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges are lower for Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms because of the demand in the marketplace. The Exchange is offering Appointed OFPs the opportunity to reduce the higher electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges for Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms with this incentive, provided they qualify.

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 3 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer members and member organizations that are Affiliated Entities an opportunity to reduce non-Customer non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will assess Appointed OFPs a reduced Professional, Broker-Dealer and Firm electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options. The Exchange does not assess Customers an electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options because Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Specialists and Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Specialists and Market Makers are assessed lower electronic Options Transaction Charges in Non-Penny Pilot Options as compared to Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms because they have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which

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normally do not apply to other market participants.²⁶ They have obligations to make continuous markets, engage in a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with a course of dealings. The proposed differentiation as between Customers, Specialists and Market Makers and other market participants recognizes the differing contributions made to the liquidity and trading environment on the Exchange by these market participants. The Exchange believes that lowering Appointed OFP fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange seeks to offer lower fees to those market participants paying the highest electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges.

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 4 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer Appointed MMs of an Affiliated Entity an opportunity to reduce the Specialist and Marker Maker electronic non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges is reasonable because today the Exchange offers all market participants, excluding Customers who are not assessed a non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges, a means to reduce electronic Options Transaction Charges by qualifying for a Customer Rebate in Section B of the Pricing Schedule. Even with the reduced rate for Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms of \$0.60 per contract, Specialist and Market Makers will continue to be assessed the lowest electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options because they have obligations to the market and regulatory

See Rule 1014 titled "Obligations and Restrictions Applicable to Specialists and Registered Options Traders."

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requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants.²⁷ The Exchange believes that lowering Appointed MM fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options

Transaction Charges is reasonable because the reduced electronic non-Penny Pilot will be consistent with the current lower reduced Penny Pilot Options Transaction charges (\$0.25 vs. \$0.22 per contract).

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 4 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer Appointed MMs of an Affiliated Entity an opportunity to reduce the Specialist and Marker Maker electronic non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange seeks to incentivize Specialists and Market Makers to increase their activity on Phlx and in turn facilitate tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Specialists and Market have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants.²⁸ They have obligations to make continuous markets, engage in a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with a course of dealings. The Exchange believes that permitting Appointed MMs to receive this additional benefit will continue to benefit the marketplace as described herein. The Exchange believes that lowering these fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange is offering market participants the opportunity to reduce the higher electronic non-Penny Pilot Options

^{27 &}lt;u>Id.</u>

²⁸ Id.

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Transaction Charges for Specialists and Market Makers with this incentive and permitting Appointed MMs to also receive this discount, provided they qualify.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Specifically, the Exchange does not believe that permitting counterparties to an Affiliated Entity to aggregate volume to qualify for certain rebates and reduced fees will impose any undue burden on competition, as discussed below.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which many sophisticated and knowledgeable market participants can readily and do send order flow to competing exchanges if they deem fee levels or rebate incentives at a particular exchange to be excessive or inadequate. Additionally, new competitors have entered the market and still others are reportedly entering the market shortly. These market forces ensure that the Exchange's fees and rebates remain competitive with the fee structures at other trading platforms.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees

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in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that other options markets have similar incentives in place to attract volume to their markets.²⁹

Section B Customer Rebates

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange does not believe that its proposal to permit counterparties of an Affiliated Entity to aggregate Customer volume for purposes of qualifying for Section B Customer Rebates imposes an undue burden on intra-market competition because all Phlx members and member organizations, other than those under Common Ownership, may become an Affiliated Entity as either an Appointed MM or an Appointed OFP. Also, each Phlx member or member organization may participate in only one Affiliated Entity relationship at a given time, which imposes a measure of exclusivity among market participants, allowing each party to rely on the other's executed Customer volume on Phlx to receive a corresponding benefit in terms of

See NYSE MKT LLC's ("NYSE Amex") pricing at NYSE Amex Options Fee Schedule). NYSE Amex permits aggregation of volume to qualify for the Amex Customer Engagement or ACE Program. See Bats BZX Exchange, Inc.'s ("BZX") fee schedule. BZX permits aggregation of volume to qualify for tiered pricing. See the Chicago Board Options Exchange Incorporated ("CBOE") Fees Schedule. CBOE permits aggregation of volume to qualify for credits available under an Affiliated Volume Plan or "AVP."

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a rebate. The Exchange will apply all qualifications in a uniform manner to all market participants that elect to become counterparties of an Affiliated Entity. Any market participant that is a member or member organization under Common Ownership may not become a counterparty of an Affiliated Entity. Also, Market Makers are valuable market participants that provide liquidity in the marketplace and incur costs that other market participants do not incur. Market Makers are subject to burdensome quoting obligations³⁰ to the market that do not apply to other market participants. Incentivizing these market participants to execute Customer volume on Phlx may result in tighter spreads. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Appointed OFPs directing order flow to the Exchange may be eligible to qualify for a Customer Rebate or a higher Customer Rebate tier, with this proposal, as a result of aggregating volume with an Appointed MM and thereby qualifying for higher Customer Rebates. Permitting members and member organizations to affiliate for purposes of qualifying for Section B Customer Rebates may also encourage the counterparties that comprise the Affiliated Entities to incentivize each other to attract and seek to execute more Customer volume on Phlx.

The Exchange's proposal to exclude members and member organizations that are under Common Ownership from becoming an Affiliated Entity does not impose and undue burden on intra-market competition because member and member organizations under Common Ownership may aggregate volume today for purposes of qualifying for Customer Rebates. Excluding members and member organizations under Common

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Ownership from also becoming an Affiliated Entity does not impose and undue burden on intra-market competition because they are able to aggregate volume today as common owners.

<u>Section II – Options Transaction Charges</u>

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 3 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer members and member organizations that are Affiliated Entities an opportunity to reduce non-Customer non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because the Exchange will assess Appointed OFPs a reduced Professional, Broker-Dealer and Firm electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options. The Exchange does not assess Customers an electronic Options Transaction Charge in Non-Penny Pilot Options because Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants. Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Specialists and Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Specialists and Market Makers are assessed lower electronic Options Transaction Charges in Non-Penny Pilot Options as compared to Professionals, Broker-Dealers and Firms because they have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants.³¹ They have obligations to make continuous markets, engage in a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and not make bids or offers or enter into

^{31 &}lt;u>Id.</u>

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transactions that are inconsistent with a course of dealings. The proposed differentiation as between Customers, Specialists and Market Makers and other market participants recognizes the differing contributions made to the liquidity and trading environment on the Exchange by these market participants. The Exchange will apply all qualifications for the reduced rate in a uniform manner. The Exchange believes that lowering these fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because the Exchange seeks to offer lower fees to those market participants paying the highest electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges.

The Exchange's proposal to amend note 4 of Section II of the Pricing Schedule to offer members and member organizations that are Affiliated Entities an opportunity to reduce non-Customer electronic non-Penny Pilot electronic Options Transaction Charges does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because the Exchange seeks to incentivize Specialists and Market Makers to increase their activity on Phlx and in turn facilitate tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. Specialists and Market have obligations to the market and regulatory requirements, which normally do not apply to other market participants. They have obligations to make continuous markets, engage in a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with a course of dealings. The Exchange believes that permitting Affiliated MMs to receive this additional benefit will continue to benefit the market place as described herein. The

³² Id.

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Exchange believes that lowering these fees for electronic non-Penny Pilot Options

Transaction Charges as compared to Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because the electronic non-Penny Pilot Options Transaction Charges is higher (\$0.25 vs. \$0.22 per contract).

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission</u> Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.³³

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

³³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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Electronic comments:

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

Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-Phlx-2016-62 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2016-62. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site

(<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>).

Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

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All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2016-62 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 34

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

³⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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EXHIBIT 5

New text is underlined.

NASDAQ PHLX LLC PRICING SCHEDULE THE EXCHANGE CALCULATES FEES ON A TRADE DATE BASIS.

POLICY FOR AMENDING BILLING INFORMATION: CORRECTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER TRADE DATE AND PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN INVOICE BY THE EXCHANGE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXCHANGE IN WRITING AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION. ONLY MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT TRADE CORRECTIONS.

ALL BILLING DISPUTES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXCHANGE IN WRITING AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION. ALL DISPUTES MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF A BILLING INVOICE, EXCEPT FOR DISPUTES CONCERNING NASDAQ PSX FEES, PROPRIETARY DATA FEED FEES AND CO-LOCATION SERVICES FEES. THE EXCHANGE CALCULATES FEES ON A TRADE DATE BASIS. ONLY MEMBERS MAY SUBMIT BILLING DISPUTES.

PREFACE ****

For purposes of determining average daily volume or volume-based pricing hereunder, any day that the market is not open for the entire trading day will be excluded from such calculation.

The term "Appointed MM" is a Phlx Market Maker or Specialist who has been appointed by an Order Flow Provider ("OFP") for purposes of qualifying as an Affiliated Entity. An OFP means any member or member organization that submits orders, as agent or principal, to the Exchange.

The term "Appointed OFP" is an OFP who has been appointed by a Phlx Market Maker or Specialist for purposes of qualifying as an Affiliated Entity.

The term "Affiliated Entity" shall mean an Exchange approved relationship between an Appointed MM and an Appointed OFP for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing specified in the Pricing Schedule. Appointed MMs and Appointed OFPs are required to send an email to the Exchange to appoint their counterpart, at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to qualify for the next month. The Exchange will

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acknowledge receipt of the emails and specify the date the Affiliated Entity would be eligible for applicable pricing, as specified in the Pricing Schedule. Each Affiliated Entity relationship will commence on the 1st of a month and may not be terminated prior to the end of any month. An Affiliated Entity relationship will terminate after a one (1) year period, unless either party terminates earlier in writing by sending an email to the Exchange at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to terminate for the next month. At the end of a year, a new Affiliated Entity relationship may be agreed upon. Members and member organizations under Common Ownership may not qualify as a counterparty comprising an Affiliated Entity. Each member or member organization may qualify for one (1) Affiliated Entity relationship at any given time.

* * * * *

B. Customer Rebate Program

The Customer Rebate Tiers described below will be calculated by totaling Customer volume in Multiply Listed Options (including SPY) that are electronically-delivered and executed, except volume associated with electronic QCC Orders, as defined in Exchange Rule 1080(o). Rebates will be paid on Customer Rebate Tiers according to the below categories. Members and member organizations under Common Ownership may aggregate their Customer volume for purposes of calculating the Customer Rebate Tiers and receiving rebates. Affiliated Entities may aggregate their Customer volume for purposes of calculating the Customer Rebate Tiers and receiving rebates.

Customer Rebate Tiers	Percentage Thresholds of National Customer Volume in Multiply- Listed Equity and ETF Options Classes, excluding SPY Options (Monthly)	Category A	Category B	Category C
Tier 1	0.00% - 0.60%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tier 2	Above 0.60% - 1.10%	\$0.10*	\$0.10*	\$0.17*
Tier 3	Above 1.10% - 1.60%	\$0.15	\$0.12*	\$0.17*
Tier 4	Above 1.60% - 2.50%	\$0.20	\$0.16	\$0.22
Tier 5	Above 2.50%	\$0.21	\$0.17	\$0.22

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Category A: Rebate will be paid to members executing electronically-delivered Customer Simple Orders in Penny Pilot Options and Customer Simple Orders in Non-Penny Pilot Options in Section II symbols.

Category B: Rebate will be paid on Customer PIXL Orders in Section II symbols that execute against non-Initiating Order interest. In the instance where member organizations qualify for Tier 4 or higher in the Customer Rebate Program, Customer PIXL Orders that execute against a PIXL Initiating Order will be paid a rebate of \$0.14 per contract. Rebates on Customer PIXL Orders will be capped at 4,000 contracts per order for Simple PIXL Orders.

Category C: Rebate will be paid to members executing electronically-delivered Customer Complex Orders in Penny Pilot Options and Non-Penny Pilot Options in Section II symbols. Rebate will be paid on Customer PIXL Complex Orders in Section II symbols that execute against non-Initiating Order interest. Customer Complex PIXL Orders that execute against a Complex PIXL Initiating Order will not be paid a rebate under any circumstances. The Category C Rebate will not be paid when an electronically-delivered Customer Complex Order, including Customer Complex PIXL Order, executes against another electronically-delivered Customer Complex Order. Rebates on Customer PIXL Orders will be capped at 4,000 contracts per order leg for Complex PIXL Orders.

Rebates will not be paid on NDX and MNX contracts in any Category, however NDX and MNX contracts will count toward the volume requirement to qualify for a Customer Rebate Tier.

*The Exchange will pay a \$0.02 per contract Category A and B rebate and a \$0.03 per contract Category C rebate in addition to the applicable Tier 2 and 3 rebate to: (1) an individual Specialist or Market Maker who is not under Common Ownership or an Appointed MM; or (2) its member or member organization affiliate under Common Ownership; or (3) an Appointed OFP of an Affiliated Entity, provided the Specialist or Market Maker has reached the Monthly Market Maker Cap, as defined in Section II.

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II. Multiply Listed Options Fees (Includes options overlying equities, ETFs, ETNs and indexes which are Multiply Listed)

Specialist and **Customer Professional Broker-Dealer Firm** Market Maker **Electronic Floor Electronic Floor Electronic Floor Options Transaction** $$0.48^2$ \$0.00 $$0.48^2$ \$0.25 \$0.22 \$0.35 \$0.25 \$0.48^{1, 2} \$0.25 Charge (Penny Pilot) **Options Transaction** Charge \$0.00 $\$0.75^{2, 3}$ \$0.25 $\$0.25^4$ \$0.35 \$0.75^{2, 3} \$0.25 \$0.75^{1, 2, 3} \$0.25 (non-Penny Pilot) **Options** Surcharge N/A \$0.25 \$0.25 \$0.25 \$0.25 \$0.25 \$0.25 \$0.25 \$0.25 in MNX and NDX **Options** Surcharge N/A \$0.10 \$0.10 \$0.10 \$0.10 \$0.10 \$0.10 \$0.10 \$0.10 in BKX **Cabinet** \$0.00 N/A \$0.10 N/A \$0.10 N/A \$0.10 N/A \$0.10 **Options**

[•] These fees are per contract.

¹Firm electronic simple orders in AAPL, BAC, EEM, FB, FXI, IWM, QQQ, TWTR, VXX and XLF will be assessed \$0.37.

²Electronic Complex Orders will be assessed \$0.35 per contract.

³Any member or member organization under Common Ownership with another member or member organization or an Appointed OFP of an Affiliated Entity that qualifies for Customer Rebate Tiers 4 or 5 in Section B of the Pricing Schedule will be assessed \$0.60 per contract.

⁴Any member or member organization under Common Ownership with another member or

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member organization or an Appointed MM of an Affiliate Entity that qualifies for Customer Rebate Tiers 4 or 5 in Section B of the Pricing Schedule will be assessed \$0.23 per contract.

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