

Seritage Growth Properties  
Form S-3ASR  
December 07, 2017  
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 7, 2017

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
***UNDER***  
***THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933***

**SERITAGE GROWTH PROPERTIES**  
**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Maryland**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of**  
**incorporation or organization)**

**38-3976287**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**  
**Identification No.)**

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**489 Fifth Avenue, 18th Floor**

**New York, New York 10017**

**(212) 355-7800**

**(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)**

**Matthew E. Fernand**

**General Counsel, Executive Vice President and Secretary**

**Seritage Growth Properties**

**489 Fifth Avenue, 18th Floor**

**New York, New York 10017**

**(212) 355-7800**

**(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)**

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**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are to be offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

**Table of Contents**

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, smaller reporting company and emerging growth company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act:

Large accelerated filer		Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer	(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company
		Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registration has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of Securities Act.

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered (1)	Amount to be Registered (2)(3)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price	Proposed Maximum Aggregate	Amount of Registration Fee (4)
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**Per Share (2)(3) Offering Price (2)(3)**

Class A common shares of  
beneficial interest, par value \$0.01  
per share  
Preferred shares of beneficial  
interest, par value \$0.01 per share  
Total

- (1) This registration statement registers an unspecified amount of securities of each identified class. The securities registered hereunder may be sold together or as units with other securities registered hereunder.
- (2) Omitted pursuant to Form S-3 General Instruction II.E.
- (3) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price, principal amount or number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be issued at indeterminate prices or upon conversion, exchange or exercise of securities registered hereunder to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible into, or exchangeable or exercisable for, such securities, including as a result of share splits, anti-dilution adjustments, share distributions, or similar transactions.
- (4) In accordance with Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

**SERITAGE GROWTH PROPERTIES**

**Class A Common Shares**

**Preferred Shares**

Seritage Growth Properties intends to offer and sell from time to time the securities described in this prospectus, in each case, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that apply to the securities. We will provide specific terms of any securities we may offer in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. We also may authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you in connection with the offering. The prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus also may add, update or change information contained or incorporated in this prospectus.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, see Plan of Distribution in this prospectus. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe the plan of distribution for that offering. The prospectus supplement also will set forth the price to the public of the securities and the net proceeds that we expect to receive from the sale of such securities.

Our Class A common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share ( common shares ), are traded on the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ) under the symbol SRG. On December 6, 2017, the last reported sales price of our common shares on the NYSE was \$39.68 per share.

We impose certain restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest and may include restrictions and limitations on the securities offered and sold hereunder. You should read the information under the section entitled Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer in this prospectus for a description of these restrictions.

**Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully read and consider Risk Factors beginning on page 3 of this prospectus, in the applicable prospectus supplement, in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, any additional information set forth in our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and in other reports we file with the SEC from time to time.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus or any applicable**

**prospectus supplement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**The date of this prospectus is December 7, 2017.**

Table of Contents

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	ii
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	5
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDENDS</u>	6
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST</u>	7
<u>CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR DECLARATION OF TRUST AND BYLAWS</u>	15
<u>U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	21
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	41
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	44
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	45
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	46
<u>EXPERTS</u>	46

We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any applicable free writing prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any applicable free writing prospectus. This prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation, or to whom it is unlawful to sell, in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any applicable free writing prospectus is delivered or securities are sold on a later date. Our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects may have changed since those dates. When we deliver this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any applicable free writing prospectus or make a sale pursuant to this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any applicable free writing prospectus, we are not implying that the information is current as of the date of the delivery or sale.



**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). Under the automatic shelf registration process, we may periodically sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus or in any applicable prospectus supplement in one or more offerings. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the sections entitled *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference*. This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. As allowed by SEC rules, this prospectus does not contain all of the information you can find in the registration statement or the exhibits to the registration statement. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering, including the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities offered. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information, including information about us, contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference. Accordingly, to the extent there is an inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. Before making your investment decision, you should carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under the sections entitled *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference*.

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**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

*This summary only highlights the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should carefully read the entire prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus before deciding whether to invest in our securities. Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, the Company, we, us, and our as used herein refer to Seritage Growth Properties, Seritage Growth Properties, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (the Operating Partnership), and their owned and controlled subsidiaries.*

We are a Maryland real estate investment trust formed on June 3, 2015, and we are a fully integrated, self-administered and self-managed real estate investment trust ( REIT ) as defined under Section 856(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). Our assets are held by and our operations are primarily conducted through, directly or indirectly, the Operating Partnership. Under the partnership agreement of the Operating Partnership, we, as the sole general partner, have exclusive responsibility and discretion in the management and control of the Operating Partnership.

We are principally engaged in the acquisition, ownership, development, redevelopment, management and leasing of diversified retail real estate throughout the United States.

On June 11, 2015 Sears Holdings Corporation ( Sears Holdings ) effected a rights offering (the Rights Offering ) to Sears Holdings stockholders to purchase our common shares in order to fund, in part, the \$2.7 billion acquisition of 234 of Sears Holdings owned properties and one of its ground-leased properties (the Wholly Owned Properties ), and its 50% interests in three joint ventures that collectively owned 28 properties, ground-leased one property and leased two properties (collectively, the JV Properties ) (collectively, the Transaction ). The Rights Offering ended on July 2, 2015, and our common shares were listed on the NYSE on July 6, 2015.

On July 7, 2015, we completed the Transaction with Sears Holdings and commenced operations. Our only operations prior to the completion of the Rights Offering and Transaction were those incidental to the completion of such activities.

As of September 30, 2017, our portfolio included over 40.0 million square feet of gross leasable area ( GLA ), consisting of 230 Wholly Owned Properties totaling over 35.4 million square feet of GLA across 49 states and Puerto Rico, and interests in 28 JV Properties totaling approximately 5.1 million square feet of GLA across 15 states.

As of September 30, 2017, 171 of the Wholly Owned Properties were leased to Sears Holdings pursuant to a master lease agreement (the Master Lease ) and operated under either the Sears or Kmart brand. At 85 properties, third-party tenants under direct leases occupy a portion of leasable space alongside Sears and Kmart, and 41 properties are leased only to third parties. A substantial majority of the space at the JV Properties is also leased to Sears Holdings under the master lease agreements.

We generate revenues primarily by leasing our properties to tenants, including both Sears Holdings and third-party tenants, who operate retail stores (and potentially other uses) in the leased premises, a business model common to many publicly traded REITs. In addition to revenues generated under the Master Lease through rent payments from Sears Holdings, we generate revenue through leases to third-party tenants under existing and future leases for space at our properties.

The Master Lease provides us with the right to recapture up to approximately 50% of the space occupied by Sears Holdings at each of the 224 Wholly Owned Properties initially included in the Master Lease (subject to



**Table of Contents**

certain exceptions and limitations). In addition, we have the right to recapture any automotive care centers which are free-standing or attached as appendages to the properties, and all outparcels or outlots and certain portions of parking areas and common areas. Upon exercise of this recapture right, we will generally incur certain costs and expenses for the separation of the recaptured space from the remaining Sears Holdings space and can reconfigure and rent the recaptured space to third-party tenants on potentially superior terms determined by us and for our own account. We also have the right to recapture 100% of the space occupied by Sears Holdings at each of 21 identified Wholly Owned Properties by making a specified lease termination payment to Sears Holdings, after which we expect to be able to reposition and re-lease those stores on potentially superior terms determined by us and for our own account.

As of September 30, 2017, we had exercised recapture rights at 45 properties, including 17 properties at which we exercised partial recapture rights, 17 properties at which we exercised 100% recapture rights (five of which were converted from partial recapture properties), and 11 properties at which we exercised our rights to recapture only automotive care centers or outparcels.

We elected to be treated as a REIT commencing with the taxable year ended December 31, 2015 and expect to continue to operate so as to qualify as a REIT. So long as we qualify as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on net taxable income that we distribute annually to our shareholders.

Our principal offices are located at 489 Fifth Avenue, 18th Floor, New York, New York 10017 and our telephone number is (212) 355-7800.

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves risks. Before purchasing the securities offered by this prospectus you should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference in this prospectus in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, any additional information set forth in our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and in documents that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and which are deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and the information contained or incorporated by reference in any applicable prospectus supplement. For a description of these reports and documents, and for information about where you can find them, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#) and [Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference](#). The risks and uncertainties we discuss in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are those that we currently believe may materially affect us. Additional risks not presently known or that are currently deemed immaterial could also materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents we incorporate by reference each contain statements that constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Any statements that do not relate to historical or current facts or matters are forward-looking statements. You can identify forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking terminology such as believes, expects, may, will, should, seeks, approximately, intends, plans, pro forma, estimates or anticipates or similar words or phrases which predict or indicate future events or trends and which do not relate solely to historical matters. Statements concerning current conditions may also be forward-looking if they imply a continuation of current conditions. You can also identify forward-looking statements by discussions of strategy, plans or intentions.

Forward-looking statements involve numerous risks and uncertainties and you should not rely on them as predictions of future events. Forward-looking statements depend on assumptions, data or methods which may be incorrect or imprecise and we may not be able to realize them. The following factors, among others, could cause actual results and future events to differ materially from those set forth or contemplated in the forward-looking statements:

the factors included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, including those set forth under the headings Business, Risk Factors and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, as well as the risks, uncertainties and additional information set forth in any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q;

declines in retail, real estate and general economic conditions;

our current dependence on Sears Holdings for a majority of our revenue;

Sears Holdings' termination and other rights under its master lease with us;

risks relating to our recapture and redevelopment activities and potential acquisition or disposition of properties;

our relatively limited operating history as an independent public company;

the terms of our indebtedness;

tax, environmental, health, safety and land use laws and regulations; and

restrictions with which we are required to comply in order to maintain REIT status.

Any forward-looking statement we make in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference or elsewhere speaks only as of the date on which we make it. While forward-looking statements reflect our good faith beliefs, they are not guarantees of future performance. Except as required by law, we disclaim any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect changes in underlying assumptions or factors of new information, data or methods, future events or other changes. For a further discussion of these and other factors that could impact our future results, performance or transactions, see the section above entitled Risk Factors, including the risks incorporated therein from our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as updated by our future filings.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless we specify otherwise in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from any sale of the securities described in this prospectus to provide additional funds for general trust purposes, including funding our investment activity, the repayment or refinancing of outstanding indebtedness, working capital and other general purposes. Any specific allocation of the net proceeds of an offering of securities to a specific purpose will be determined at the time of such offering and will be described in the related supplement to this prospectus.



**Table of Contents****RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDENDS**

The following table sets forth the consolidated ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends for the periods shown:

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017	0.30x <sup>(1)</sup>
Year Ended December 31, 2016	N/A <sup>(1)</sup>
Period from July 7, 2015 (the date operations commenced) to December 31, 2015	N/A <sup>(1)</sup>

- (1) Fixed charges exceeded earnings by \$43.0 million, \$82.6 million and \$36.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the year ended December 31, 2016 and the period from July 7, 2015 (date operations commenced) to December 31, 2015, respectively.

The consolidated ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends were computed by dividing earnings by the aggregate of fixed charges and preferred dividends. We had no preferred dividend requirement in any of the foregoing periods. Therefore, the consolidated ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends are the same as the ratios of earnings to fixed charges for such periods. Earnings were calculated by adding certain fixed charges (consisting of interest on indebtedness and amortization of finance costs) to our net income. Fixed charges consist of interest on indebtedness, whether expensed or capitalized, and amortization of financing costs.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST**

The following description of our shares of beneficial interest is only a summary and sets forth certain general terms and provisions of our shares of beneficial interest. The statements below describing our shares of beneficial interest in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable provisions of our declaration of trust and bylaws and the applicable provisions of Maryland law.

**General**

Our declaration of trust provides that we may issue up to 100,000,000 Class A common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share, referred to as common shares, up to 5,000,000 Class B common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share, referred to as non-economic shares, up to 50,000,000 Class C common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share, referred to as non-voting shares, and 10,000,000 preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share, referred to as preferred shares. Our declaration of trust authorizes a majority of the entire board of trustees (the Board of Trustees), without shareholder approval, to amend our declaration of trust to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares that we are authorized to issue or the number of authorized shares of any class or series of shares of beneficial interest. As of September 30, 2017, 28,001,411 common shares, 1,434,922 non-economic shares and 5,951,861 non-voting shares are issued and outstanding. Under Maryland law, our shareholders generally are not liable for our debts or obligations solely as a result of their status as shareholders.

**Common Shares**

All of our issued and outstanding common shares, non-voting shares and non-economic shares are duly authorized and fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights, if any, of holders of any other class or series of our shares of beneficial interest and to the provisions of our declaration of trust relating to the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest, holders of common shares and non-voting shares are entitled to receive distributions when authorized by the Board of Trustees and declared by us out of assets legally available for distribution to shareholders and will be entitled to share ratably in assets legally available for distribution to shareholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of or adequate provision for all of our known debts and liabilities. Holders of non-economic shares are not entitled to any regular or special dividend payments or other distributions, including any dividends or other distributions declared or paid with respect to common shares and non-voting shares or any other class or series of our shares of beneficial interest, and are not entitled to receive any distributions in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest and except as may be otherwise specified in the terms of any class or series of our shares of beneficial interest, each outstanding common share entitles the holder to one vote and each non-economic share entitles the holder to one vote on each matter on which holders of common shares are entitled to vote; provided, however, that upon any transfer of a non-economic share to any person other than an affiliate of the initial holder, such shares shall thereafter entitle the holder thereof to one one-hundredth of a vote on each matter on which holders of common shares are entitled to vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of trustees, and, except as may be provided with respect to any other class or series of our shares of beneficial interest, the holders of common shares and non-economic shares, voting together as a single class, will possess the exclusive voting power, provided that the holders of non-economic shares will have exclusive voting rights with respect to amendments to our declaration of trust that would materially and adversely affect any right or voting power of the non-economic shares. The holders of non-voting shares will have no voting rights except with regard to amendments to our declaration of trust that would materially and adversely affect any of the rights of the non-voting shares.

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Our Board of Trustees is divided into three classes of trustees. Each trustee will serve until the third annual meeting following his or her election and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified or until his

## **Table of Contents**

earlier death, resignation or removal. The holders of the common shares and non-economic shares, voting together as a single class, elect only one class of trustees each year. In addition, our bylaws provide that trustees will be elected by a vote of 75% of the votes of the common shares and non-economic shares, voting together as a single class, entitled to be cast in both contested and uncontested elections. In the event that an incumbent trustee does not receive a sufficient percentage of votes entitled to be cast for election, he or she will continue to serve on the Board of Trustees until a successor is duly elected and qualifies. The classification of trustees and the requirement that trustee nominees receive a vote of at least 75% of the votes of the common shares and non-economic shares, voting together as a single class, entitled to be cast to be elected may have the effect of making it more difficult for shareholders to change the composition of the Board of Trustees. Except as otherwise provided in setting the terms of any class or series of shares, any vacancy on the Board of Trustees may be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining trustees, although less than a quorum, and any individual elected to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of the full term of the trusteeship in which the vacancy occurred and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies. Subject to the rights, if any, of holders of any class or series of preferred shares, trustees may be removed only for cause by the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the votes of common shares and non-economic shares, voting together as a single class, entitled to be cast generally in the election of trustees.

Holders of the common shares and non-economic shares and, except for the conversion rights discussed below, holders of non-voting shares have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund, redemption or appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any securities of our company. Subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest, common shares and non-voting shares have equal distribution, liquidation and other rights.

Our declaration of trust provides that (i) in the event the number of issued and outstanding common shares is increased or decreased as a result of any share distribution, share split, reverse share split or certain other changes, the number of votes per non-economic share shall be adjusted to preserve the then existing voting power of the holders of non-economic shares and (ii) in the event the number of issued and outstanding common shares is increased or decreased as a result of any share split, reverse share split or certain other changes, the number of non-voting shares shall be adjusted to preserve the holders of non-voting shares then existing economic rights.

ESL Partners, L.P. and Edward S. Lampert (collectively, ESL ) have agreed with us that upon any sale or other transfer to a non-affiliate of any of its Operating Partnership units, it will surrender to us a pro rata portion of the non-economic shares that it holds prior to the sale or other transfer, whereupon the surrendered non-economic shares will be cancelled and the aggregate voting power of the non-economic shares held by ESL proportionately reduced.

In addition, our declaration of trust provides that (i) upon any transfer of a non-economic share to any person other than an affiliate of the holder of such share, such non-economic share will thereafter be entitled to only one-one hundredth of a vote per share and (ii) upon any transfer of a non-voting share to any person other than an affiliate of the holder of such share, such non-voting share shall automatically convert into one common share.

## **Non-Economic Shares**

As of the date of this prospectus, ESL holds non-economic shares having 4.6% of the voting power of the Company. However, these shares are not entitled to receive distributions when distributions to the common shares and non-voting shares are authorized by the Board of Trustees and declared by us, nor are they entitled to share ratably in assets legally available for distribution to shareholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of or adequate provision for all of our known debts and liabilities.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Non-Voting Shares**

As of the date of this prospectus, Fairholme Capital Management L.L.C. ( FCM ) and/or certain clients of FCM (the Fairholme Clients ) hold 4,131,881 non-voting shares having identical preferences, rights, restrictions, limitations as to dividends and other distributions, qualifications, and terms and conditions of redemption as the common shares; provided that in the event that our Board of Trustees authorizes and we declare a regular or special dividend payment or other distribution in the form of common shares, the holders of non-voting shares shall be entitled to receive non-voting shares in lieu of such common shares and provided further, that the holders of non-voting shares will have no voting rights except with regard to amendments to our declaration of trust that would materially and adversely affect any of the rights of the non-voting shares. In addition, each non-voting share will automatically convert into one common share upon a transfer to any person other than an affiliate of the holder of such share.

### **Preferred Shares**

Pursuant to our declaration of trust, the Board of Trustees is empowered, without any approval of our shareholders, to issue preferred shares in one or more classes or series, to establish the number of shares in each class or series, and to set the preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications or terms or conditions of redemption of each such class or series. The prospectus supplement relating to any class or series of preferred shares we may offer will contain the specific terms of that class or series, including some or all of the following:

whether the shares of the class or series are redeemable, and if so, the prices at which, and the terms and conditions on which, the shares may be redeemed, including the date or dates upon or after which the shares will be redeemable and the amount per share payable in case of redemption;

whether shares of the class or series will be entitled to receive dividends or other distributions and, if so, the distribution rate on the shares, any restriction, limitation or condition upon the payment of the dividends or other distributions, whether dividends or other distributions will be cumulative, and the dates on which dividends or other distributions are payable;

any preferential amount payable upon shares of the class or series in the event of voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company;

whether and the extent to which the class or series will be guaranteed;

whether the shares of the class or series are convertible, or exchangeable for, shares of any other class or classes of shares or of any other series of shares, or any other securities of the Company, and if so, the terms and conditions of such conversion or exchange, including price or rates of conversion at which, and the terms and conditions on which, the shares of the class or series may be converted or exchanged into other securities;

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a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred shares being offered;

terms and conditions of the purchase or sinking fund provisions, if any, for the purchase or redemption of shares of the class or series;

the distinctive designation of each class or series and the number of shares that will constitute the class or series;

the voting power, if any, of shares of the class or series; and

any other relative rights, preferences or limitations.

The provisions described in the section **Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer** below may also apply to any preferred shares we issue.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Power to Increase or Decrease Authorized Shares, Reclassify Unissued Shares and Issue Additional Common Shares and Preferred Shares of Beneficial Interest**

Our declaration of trust authorizes the Board of Trustees, with the approval of a majority of the entire Board of Trustees and without shareholder approval, to amend our declaration of trust to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of beneficial interest or the number of shares of any class or series of shares of beneficial interest that we are authorized to issue. In addition, our declaration of trust authorizes the Board of Trustees to authorize the issuance from time to time of shares of beneficial interest of any class or series, including preferred shares.

Our declaration of trust also authorizes the Board of Trustees to classify and reclassify any unissued common shares or preferred shares of beneficial interest into other classes or series of shares of beneficial interest, including one or more classes or series of shares of beneficial interest that have priority over common shares, non-economic shares and non-voting shares with respect to voting rights, distributions or upon liquidation, and authorize us to issue the newly classified shares. Prior to the issuance of shares of each new class or series of shares of beneficial interest, the Board of Trustees is required by Maryland law and by our declaration of trust to set, subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of shares of beneficial interest, the preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption for each class or series. Therefore, the Board of Trustees could authorize the issuance of common shares or preferred shares of beneficial interest with terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control or other transaction that might involve a premium price for common shares or otherwise be in the best interests of our shareholders. No preferred shares of beneficial interest are presently outstanding.

We believe that the power of the Board of Trustees (i) to approve amendments to the declaration of trust to increase or decrease the number of authorized common shares or the number of authorized shares of any class or series of shares of beneficial interest, (ii) to authorize us to issue additional authorized but unissued common shares or preferred shares of beneficial interest and to classify or reclassify unissued common shares or preferred shares of beneficial interest and (iii) thereafter to authorize us to issue such classified or reclassified shares will provide us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs that might arise.

### **Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer**

In order for us to qualify to be taxed as a REIT under the Code, our shares of beneficial interest must be owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (other than the first year for which an election to qualify as a REIT has been made) or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of our outstanding shares of beneficial interest (after taking into account options to acquire shares of beneficial interest) may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities such as qualified pension plans) during the last half of a taxable year (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made).

In addition, rent from related party tenants (generally, a tenant of a REIT owned, actually or constructively, 10% or more by (1) the REIT or (2) a 10% owner of the REIT) is not qualifying income for purposes of the gross income tests under the Code. To qualify to be taxed as a REIT, we must satisfy other requirements as well. See U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Our declaration of trust contains restrictions on the ownership and transfer of shares of beneficial interest that are intended to, among other purposes, assist us in complying with these requirements. The relevant sections of our declaration of trust provide that, subject to the exceptions described below, no person or entity may own, or be



deemed to own, beneficially or by virtue of the applicable constructive ownership provisions of the Code,

## Table of Contents

more than 9.6%, in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of all outstanding shares of beneficial interest, or all outstanding common shares (including common shares, non-economic shares and non-voting shares), of beneficial interest of the Company (the "ownership limits"). We refer to the person or entity that, but for operation of the ownership limits or another restriction on ownership and transfer of shares as described below, would beneficially own or constructively own shares in violation of such limits or restrictions and, if appropriate in the context, a person or entity that would have been the record owner of such shares as a "prohibited owner."

The constructive ownership rules under the Code are complex and may cause shares of beneficial interest owned beneficially or constructively by a group of related individuals and/or entities to be owned beneficially or constructively by one individual or entity. As a result, the acquisition of less than 9.6% of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest of the Company (or the acquisition by an individual or entity of an interest in an entity that owns, beneficially or constructively, such shares), could, nevertheless, cause that individual or entity, or another individual or entity, to own beneficially or constructively shares of beneficial interest of the Company in excess of the ownership limits. In addition, a person that did not acquire more than 9.6% of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest of the Company may become subject to these restrictions if repurchases by us cause such person's holdings to exceed 9.6% of all outstanding shares, or all outstanding common shares (including common shares, non-economic shares and non-voting shares), of beneficial interest of the Company.

Pursuant to our declaration of trust, the Board of Trustees, in its sole and absolute discretion, may exempt, prospectively or retroactively, a particular shareholder from either or both of the ownership limits or establish a different limit on ownership (the "excepted holder limit") if the Board of Trustees determines that:

no individual's beneficial or constructive ownership of our shares of beneficial interest will result in our being "closely held" under Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a taxable year) or otherwise failing to qualify to be taxed as a REIT;

no person shall constructively own our shares of beneficial interest to the extent that such person's constructive ownership will cause any of our income that would otherwise qualify as "rents from real property" for purposes of Section 856(d) of the Code to fail to qualify as such; and

such shareholder does not and represents that it will not own, actually or constructively, an interest in a tenant of ours (or a tenant of any entity owned or controlled by us, including Operating Partnership) that would cause us to own, actually or constructively, more than a 9.8% interest (as set forth in Section 856(d)(2)(B) of the Code) in such tenant (or the Board of Trustees limits sole and absolute discretion, determines that revenue derived from such tenant will not affect our ability to qualify to be taxed as a REIT).

Any violation or attempted violation of the representations or undertakings discussed above will result in such shareholder's shares being automatically transferred to a charitable trust. As a condition of granting the waiver or establishing the excepted holder limit, our Board of Trustees may require (i) an opinion of counsel or a ruling from the IRS, in either case in form and substance satisfactory to the Board of Trustees, in its sole discretion, in order to determine or ensure our status as a REIT and (ii) such representations and undertakings from the person requesting the exception as the Board of Trustees may require in its sole discretion to make the determinations above. The Board of Trustees may impose such conditions or restrictions as it deems appropriate in connection with granting such a waiver or establishing an excepted holder limit.

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Our Board of Trustees has granted exemptions from the ownership limits to the Fairholme Clients to permit certain Fairholme Clients to own up to 20% of the non-voting shares outstanding immediately following this offering.

At any time, the Board of Trustees may from time to time increase or decrease the ownership limits for all other persons, unless, after giving effect to such increase, five or fewer individuals could beneficially own, in the

**Table of Contents**

aggregate, more than 49.9% in value of our outstanding shares of beneficial interest or we would otherwise fail to qualify as a REIT. A reduced ownership limit will not apply to any person or entity whose percentage ownership of common shares (including common shares, non-economic shares and non-voting shares) of beneficial interest, or all shares of beneficial interest, as applicable, of the Company is, at the effective time of such reduction, in excess of such decreased ownership limit until such time as such person's or entity's percentage ownership, equals or falls below the decreased ownership limit, but any further acquisition of shares of beneficial interest of the Company will violate the decreased ownership limit.

Our declaration of trust further prohibits:

any person from beneficially or constructively owning, applying certain attribution rules of the Code, shares of beneficial interest of the Company that would result in our being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a taxable year) or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify to be taxed as a REIT;

any person from transferring common shares if the transfer would result in shares of beneficial interest of the Company being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons (determined with reference to the rules of attribution under Section 544 of the Code);

any person from constructively owning shares of beneficial interest of the Company to the extent that such constructive ownership would cause any of our income that would otherwise qualify as rents from real property for purposes of Section 856(d) of the Code to fail to qualify as such; and

any person from beneficially owning or constructively owning shares of beneficial interest of the Company to the extent such ownership would result in our failing to qualify as a domestically controlled qualified investment entity within the meaning of Section 897(h) of the Code.

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of beneficial interest of the Company that will or may violate either or both of the ownership limits or any of the other restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest described above, or who would have owned shares of beneficial interest of the Company transferred to the charitable trust as described below, must immediately give notice to us of such event or, in the case of an attempted or proposed transaction, give us at least 15 days prior written notice and provide us with such other information as it may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our status as a REIT. The foregoing restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest will not apply if the Board of Trustees determines that it is no longer in our best interests to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, to be taxed as a REIT or that compliance with the restrictions and limits on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest described above is no longer required in order for us to qualify to be taxed as a REIT.

If any purported transfer of shares of beneficial interest of the Company or any other event would otherwise result in any person violating the ownership limits or any other restriction on ownership and transfer of shares of beneficial interest of the Company described above, then that number of shares (rounded up to the nearest whole share) that would cause the violation will be automatically transferred to, and held by, a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable organizations selected by us, and the intended transferee or other prohibited owner will acquire no rights in the shares. The automatic transfer will be effective as of the close of business on the business day prior to the

date of the violative transfer or other event that results in a transfer to the trust. If the transfer to the trust as described above is not automatically effective, for any reason, to prevent violation of the applicable ownership limit or any other restriction on ownership and transfer of common shares described above, then our declaration of trust provides that the transfer of the shares will be null and void and the intended transferee will acquire no rights in such shares.

Shares of beneficial interest of the Company held in the trust will be issued and outstanding shares. The prohibited owner will not benefit economically from ownership of any common shares held in the trust and will have no rights to distributions and no rights to vote or other rights attributable to the common shares held in the

**Table of Contents**

trust. The trustee of the trust will exercise all voting rights and receive all distributions with respect to shares held in the trust for the exclusive benefit of the charitable beneficiary of the trust. Any distribution made before we discover that the shares have been transferred to a trust as described above must be repaid by the recipient to the trustee upon demand by us. Subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that the shares have been transferred to the trust, the trustee will have the authority to rescind as void any vote cast by a prohibited owner before our discovery that the shares have been transferred to the trust and to recast the vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the charitable beneficiary of the trust. However, if we have already taken irreversible trust action, then the trustee may not rescind and recast the vote.

Shares of beneficial interest of the Company transferred to the trustee will be deemed offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of (i) the price paid by the prohibited owner for the shares (or, in the case of a devise or gift, the market price at the time of the devise or gift), or (ii) the market price on the date we, or our designee, accepts such offer. We may reduce the amount so payable to the prohibited owner by the amount of any distribution that we made to the prohibited owner before we discovered that the shares had been automatically transferred to the trust and that are then owed by the prohibited owner to the trustee as described above, and we may pay the amount of any such reduction to the trustee for the benefit of the charitable beneficiary. We have the right to accept such offer until the trustee has sold the shares of beneficial interest of the Company held in the trust as discussed below. Upon a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold terminates, and the trustee must distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the prohibited owner and must distribute any distributions held by the trustee with respect to such shares to the charitable beneficiary.

If we do not buy the shares, the trustee must, within 20 days of receiving notice from us of the transfer of shares to the trust, sell the shares to a person or entity designated by the trustee who could own the shares without violating either of the ownership limits or the other restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest. After the sale of the shares, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee must distribute to the prohibited owner an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the price paid by the prohibited owner for the shares (or, if the prohibited owner did not give value for the shares in connection with the event causing the shares to be held in the trust (for example, in the case of a gift, devise or other such transaction), the market price of the shares on the day of the event causing the shares to be held in the trust) and (ii) the sales proceeds (net of any commissions and other expenses of sale) received by the trust for the shares. The trustee may reduce the amount payable to the prohibited owner by the amount of any distribution that we paid to the prohibited owner before we discovered that the shares had been automatically transferred to the trust and that are then owed by the prohibited owner to the trustee as described above. Any net sales proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the prohibited owner must be paid immediately to the charitable beneficiary, together with any distributions thereon. In addition, if, prior to the discovery by us that shares of beneficial interest have been transferred to a trust, such shares are sold by a prohibited owner, then such shares will be deemed to have been sold on behalf of the trust and, to the extent that the prohibited owner received an amount for or in respect of such shares that exceeds the amount that such prohibited owner was entitled to receive, such excess amount will be paid to the trustee upon demand. The prohibited owner has no rights in the shares held by the trustee.

In addition, if our Board of Trustees determines that a transfer or other event has occurred that would violate the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest described above or that a person or entity intends to acquire or has attempted to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of any shares of beneficial interest of the Company in violation of the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest described above, the Board of Trustees shall take such action as it deems advisable to refuse to give effect to or to prevent such transfer or other event, including, but not limited to, causing us to redeem the shares of beneficial interest of the Company, refusing to give effect to the transfer on our books or instituting proceedings to enjoin the transfer or other event.

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Every person or entity who will be a beneficial or constructive owner of 5% or more (or such lower percentage as required by the Code or the regulations promulgated thereunder) in number or value of our

**Table of Contents**

outstanding shares of beneficial interest, whichever is more restrictive, within 30 days after the end of each taxable year, and within 30 days of initially reaching such threshold must give us written notice stating the shareholder's name and address, the number of shares of each class and series of our shares of beneficial interest that the shareholder beneficially or constructively owns and a description of the manner in which the shares are held. Each such owner must provide to us in writing such additional information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of the shareholder's beneficial ownership on our status as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the applicable ownership limits. In addition, any person or entity that is a beneficial owner or constructive owner of shares of beneficial interest of the Company and any person or entity (including the shareholder of record) who is holding shares of beneficial interest of the Company for a beneficial owner or constructive owner must provide to us such information as we may request in order to determine our status as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance and to ensure compliance with the ownership limits.

Any certificates evidencing shares of beneficial interest of the Company will bear a legend referring to the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest described above and elsewhere in this prospectus.

These restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares of beneficial interest will not apply if our Board of Trustees determines that it is no longer in our best interests to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT or that compliance is no longer required in order for us to qualify as a REIT.

**Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for the common shares is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.



**Table of Contents**

**CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR DECLARATION OF TRUST AND BYLAWS**

*The following summary of certain provisions of Maryland law and of our declaration of trust and bylaws does not purport to be complete. For a complete description, we refer you to Maryland law, our declaration of trust and our bylaws. Copies of our declaration of trust and our bylaws are incorporated by reference as exhibits to this registration statement.*

**Our Board of Trustees**

In accordance with the terms of our declaration of trust, the Board of Trustees is divided into three classes, with the trustees of each class serving until the third annual meeting of shareholders after their election and until their successors are duly elected and qualify. At each annual meeting of shareholders, upon the expiration of the term of a class of trustees, the successor to each such trustee in the class will be elected to serve from the time of election and qualification until the third annual meeting following his or her election and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies.

Our declaration of trust and bylaws provide that the number of our trustees may be established, increased or decreased only by a majority of the entire Board of Trustees but, unless our bylaws are amended, may not be more than 15.

**Election of Trustees; Removals; Vacancies**

Our bylaws provide that trustees are elected by a vote of at least 75% of the votes of the common shares and non-economic shares, voting together as a single class, entitled to be cast in both contested and uncontested elections. In the event that an incumbent trustee does not receive a sufficient percentage of votes entitled to be cast for election, he or she will continue to serve on the Board of Trustees until a successor is duly elected and qualifies.

Our declaration of trust provides that, subject to the rights, if any, of holders of any class or series of preferred shares of beneficial interest to elect or remove one or more trustees, our trustees may be removed only for cause, as such term is defined in our declaration of trust, and only by the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the votes of common shares and non-economic shares, voting together as a single class, entitled to be cast generally in the election of trustees.

We have elected by a provision of our declaration of trust to be subject to provisions of Maryland law requiring that, except as otherwise provided in the terms of any class or series of our shares of beneficial interest, vacancies on the Board of Trustees may be filled only by a majority of the remaining trustees, even if the remaining trustees do not constitute a quorum, and that any individual elected to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of the full term of the trusteeship in which the vacancy occurred and until his or her successor is duly elected and qualifies.

**Business Combinations**

Under certain provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law ( MGCL ) applicable to Maryland REITs, certain business combinations (including a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange and, in certain circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities) between a Maryland REIT and an interested shareholder (defined generally as any person who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting power of the Maryland REIT's outstanding voting shares of beneficial interest or an affiliate or associate of the Maryland REIT who, at any time during the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then-outstanding shares of beneficial interest of

the Maryland REIT) or an affiliate of such an interested

## **Table of Contents**

shareholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder. Thereafter, any such business combination must generally be recommended by the board of trustees of the Maryland REIT and approved by the affirmative vote of at least (i) 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders of outstanding voting shares of beneficial interest of the REIT, voting together as a single class, and (ii) two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting shares of beneficial interest of the Maryland REIT, other than shares held by the interested shareholder with whom (or with whose affiliate) the business combination is to be effected or held by an affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder, unless, among other conditions, the Maryland REIT's common shareholders receive a minimum price (as defined in the MGCL) for their shares and the consideration is received in cash or in the same form as previously paid by the interested shareholder for its shares. A person is not an interested shareholder under the statute if the board of trustees exempted or approved in advance the transaction by which the person otherwise would have become an interested shareholder. A Maryland REIT's board of trustees may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by the board of trustees.

Pursuant to the statute, our Board of Trustees has by resolution exempted business combinations (a) between us and (i) Sears Holdings or its affiliates or (ii) ESL or FCM and/or Fairholme Clients or their respective affiliates and (b) between us and any other person, provided that in the latter case the business combination is first approved by our Board of Trustees (including a majority of our trustees who are not affiliates or associates of such person). Consequently, the five-year prohibition and the supermajority vote requirements will not apply to a business combination between us and Sears Holdings, ESL or FCM and/or Fairholme Clients or their respective affiliates or to a business combination between us and any other person, in the latter case, if the Board of Trustees has first approved the combination. As a result, any person described in the preceding sentence may be able to enter into business combinations with us that may not be in the best interests of our shareholders, without compliance with the supermajority vote requirements and other provisions of the statute. We cannot assure you that our Board of Trustees will not amend or repeal this resolution in the future.

## **Control Share Acquisitions**

The MGCL provides with regards to Maryland REITs that holders of control shares of a Maryland REIT acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights with respect to the control shares except to the extent approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquirer, an officer of the Maryland REIT or an employee of the Maryland REIT who is also a trustee of the Maryland REIT are excluded from shares entitled to vote on the matter.

Control shares are voting shares of beneficial interest that, if aggregated with all other such shares owned by the acquirer, or in respect of which the acquirer is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquirer to exercise voting power in electing trustees within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-tenth or more but less than one-third;

one-third or more but less than a majority; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares that the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained shareholder approval or shares acquired directly from the Maryland REIT. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of issued and outstanding control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition, upon satisfaction of certain conditions (including an undertaking to pay expenses and making an acquiring person statement as described in the MGCL), may compel the board of trustees to call a special meeting of shareholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. If no request for a meeting is made, the Maryland REIT may itself present the question at any shareholders meeting.

## **Table of Contents**

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

The control share acquisition statute does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or statutory share exchange if the Maryland REIT is a party to the transaction or acquisitions approved or exempted by the declaration of trust or bylaws of the Maryland REIT.

Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the control share acquisition statute any and all acquisitions by any person of common shares. This provision may be amended or eliminated at any time in the future by our Board of Trustees.

### **Subtitle 8**

Subtitle 8 of Title 3 of the MGCL ( Subtitle 8 ) permits a Maryland REIT with a class of equity securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), and at least three independent trustees to elect to be subject, by provision in its declaration of trust or bylaws or a resolution of its board of trustees and notwithstanding any contrary provision in the declaration of trust or bylaws, to any or all of five provisions of the MGCL that provide, respectively, for:

a classified board of trustees;

a two-thirds vote requirement for removing a trustee;

a requirement that the number of trustees be fixed only by vote of the board of trustees;

a requirement that a vacancy on the board of trustees be filled only by the remaining trustees in office for the remainder of the full term of the class of trustees in which the vacancy occurred; and

a majority requirement for the calling of a shareholder-requested special meeting of shareholders.

We have elected by a provision in our declaration of trust to be subject to the provisions of Subtitle 8 relating to the filling of vacancies on our Board of Trustees. Through provisions in the declaration of trust and bylaws unrelated to Subtitle 8, we (i) have a classified Board of Trustees, (ii) vest in the Board of Trustees the exclusive power to fix the number of trusteeships and (iii) provide that only our chairman, our chief executive officer, president or our Board of Trustees, may call a special meeting. Under the declaration of trust, trustees may be removed only for cause by the affirmative vote of not less than 75% of the votes of the common shares and non-economic shares, voting together as

a single class, entitled to be cast generally in the election of trustees.

### **Special Meetings of Shareholders**

Pursuant to our bylaws, the chairman, the chief executive officer, the president or the Board of Trustees may call a special meeting of our shareholders. Under the provisions of our bylaws, a special meeting of our shareholders may not be called by shareholders.

### **Shareholder Actions by Unanimous Consent**

Under our declaration of trust and bylaws, shareholder action may be taken only at an annual or special meeting of shareholders or by unanimous consent in lieu of a meeting.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Approval of Extraordinary REIT Action; Amendment of Declaration of Trust and Bylaws**

Under Maryland law, a Maryland REIT generally may not terminate, amend its declaration of trust, merge, convert, sell all or substantially all of its assets or engage in a statutory share exchange, unless advised by its board of trustees and approved by the affirmative vote of shareholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, unless the REIT provides in its declaration of trust for approval of these matters by a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Our declaration of trust does not provide for a lesser percentage.

Our declaration of trust and bylaws provide that the Board of Trustees has the exclusive power to make, alter, amend or repeal any provision of our bylaws.

### **Advance Notice of Trustee Nominations and New Business**

Our bylaws provide that nominations of individuals for election as trustees and proposals of business to be considered by shareholders at any annual meeting may be made only (1) pursuant to notice of the meeting, (2) by or at the direction of the Board of Trustees or (3) by any shareholder who was a shareholder of record at the time of giving the notice required by our bylaws and at the time of the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting in the election of each of the individuals so nominated or on such other proposed business and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of our bylaws. Shareholders generally must provide notice to our secretary not earlier than the 150th day or later than the close of business on the 120th day before the first anniversary of the date of our proxy statement for the preceding year's annual meeting.

Only the business specified in the notice of the meeting may be brought before a special meeting of our shareholders. Nominations of individuals for election as trustees at a special meeting of shareholders may be made only (1) by or at the direction of the Board of Trustees or (2) if the special meeting has been called in accordance with our bylaws for the purpose of electing trustees, by a shareholder who is a shareholder of record both at the time of giving the notice required by our bylaws and at the time of the special meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting in the election of each individual so nominated and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of our bylaws. Shareholders generally must provide notice to our secretary not earlier than the 120th day before such special meeting or later than the later of the close of business on the 90th day before the special meeting or the tenth day after the first public announcement of the date of the special meeting and the nominees of our Board of Trustees to be elected at the meeting.

A shareholder's notice must contain certain information specified by our bylaws about the shareholder, its affiliates and any proposed business or nominee for election as a trustee, including information about the economic interest of the shareholder, its affiliates and any proposed nominee in the Company.

### **Trust Opportunities**

Our declaration of trust provides that if any trustee or officer of the Company who is also a director, officer, employee or agent of Sears Holdings, ESL or FCM or their respective affiliates acquires knowledge of a potential business opportunity, we renounce, on behalf of us and our subsidiaries, any potential interest or expectation in, or right to be offered or participation in, such opportunity, and the trustee may exploit the opportunity or offer it to others, unless the trustee first became aware of it solely as a direct result of his or her capacity as a trustee or officer of the Company, we are financially able and not prohibited from undertaking the opportunity, it is in the line of business and of practical advantage to us, and we have an interest or reasonable expectancy in the opportunity.

**Forum Selection Clause**

Our bylaws provide that, unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland, or, if that court does not have jurisdiction, the United States District Court



## **Table of Contents**

for the District of Maryland, Baltimore Division, is the sole and exclusive forum for (a) any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf, (b) any action asserting a claim of breach of any duty owed by any of our trustees, officers or other employees to us or to our shareholders, (c) any action asserting a claim against us or any of our trustees, officers or other employees arising pursuant to any provision of the MGCL, the Maryland REIT Law (the MRL ) or our declaration of trust or bylaws or (d) any action asserting a claim against us or any of our trustees, officers or other employees that is governed by the internal affairs doctrine.

## **REIT Qualification**

Our declaration of trust provides that the Board of Trustees may authorize the Company to revoke or otherwise terminate its REIT election, without approval of our shareholders, if it determines that it is no longer in our best interests to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

## **Limitation of Trustees and Officers Liability and Indemnification**

Maryland law permits a Maryland REIT to include in its declaration of trust a provision eliminating the liability of its trustees and officers to the REIT and its shareholders for money damages, except for liability resulting from (i) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (ii) active and deliberate dishonesty that is established by a final judgment and that is material to the cause of action. Our declaration of trust contains a provision that eliminates the liability of our trustees and officers to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The MRL permits a Maryland REIT to indemnify and advance expenses to its trustees, officers, employees and agents to the same extent as permitted by the MGCL for directors, officers, employees and agents of a Maryland corporation. The MGCL requires a Maryland corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our declaration of trust does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a Maryland corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that:

the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (a) was committed in bad faith or (b) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or

in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

Under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify a director or officer in a suit by the corporation or in its right in which the director or officer was adjudged liable to the corporation or in a suit in which the director or officer was adjudged liable on the basis that a personal benefit was improperly received. A court may order indemnification if it determines that the director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, even though the director or officer did not meet the prescribed standard of conduct or was adjudged liable on the basis that a personal benefit was improperly received. However, indemnification for an adverse judgment in a suit by us or in our right, or for a

judgment of liability on the basis that a personal benefit was improperly received, is limited to expenses.

In addition, the MGCL permits a Maryland corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon receipt of:

a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation; and

**Table of Contents**

a written undertaking by or on behalf of the director or officer to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the director or officer did not meet the standard of conduct. Our declaration of trust authorizes us to obligate ourselves, and our bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law in effect from time to time, to indemnify and, without requiring a preliminary determination of the ultimate entitlement to indemnification, to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding to:

any present or former trustee or officer who is made or threatened to be made a party to, or witness in, a proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity; or

any individual who, while a trustee or officer of our company and at our request, serves or has served as a trustee, director, officer, partner, member or manager of another real estate investment trust, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, limited liability company, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise and who is made or threatened to be made a party to, or witness in, the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity.

Our declaration of trust and bylaws also permit us to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of the Company in any of the capacities described above and to any employee or agent of the Company or a predecessor of the Company.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our trustees and executive officers that provide for indemnification to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

Insofar as the foregoing provisions permit indemnification of trustees, officers or persons controlling us for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that, in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

**Table of Contents**

**U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following is a summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in our common shares and preferred shares (collectively, our shares). For purposes of this section under the heading U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations, references to the Company, we, our and us generally mean only Seritage Growth Properties and not its subsidiaries or other lower-tier entities, except as otherwise indicated, and references to tenants are to persons who are treated as lessees of real property for purposes of the REIT requirements. This summary is based upon the Code, final, temporary and proposed regulations promulgated by the Treasury, rulings and other administrative pronouncements issued by the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS), and judicial decisions, all as currently in effect, and all of which are subject to differing interpretations or to change, possibly with retroactive effect. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position to the contrary to any of the tax consequences described below. The summary is also based upon the assumption that we and our subsidiaries and affiliated entities have operated and will continue to operate in accordance with our and their applicable organizational documents. This summary is for general information only and is not tax advice. It does not discuss any estate, gift, state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences relevant to us or an investment in our shares, and it does not purport to discuss all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to a particular investor in light of its investment or tax circumstances or to investors subject to special tax rules, such as:

banks, insurance companies, regulated investment companies, REITs, or financial institutions;

dealers or brokers in securities or currencies;

partnerships, other pass-through entities and trusts;

persons who hold our shares on behalf of other persons as nominees;

persons who receive our shares as compensation;

persons holding our shares as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction, synthetic security or other integrated investment;

persons who are subject to alternative minimum tax;  
and, except to the extent discussed below:

tax-exempt organizations; and

foreign investors.

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

**The U.S. federal income tax treatment of holders of our shares depends in some instances on determinations of fact and interpretations of complex provisions of U.S. federal income tax law for which no clear precedent or authority may be available. In addition, the tax consequences to any particular shareholder of holding our shares will depend on the shareholder's particular tax circumstances. You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal, state, local, and foreign income and other tax consequences to you in light of your particular investment or tax circumstances of acquiring, holding, exchanging, or otherwise disposing of our shares, including applicable tax reporting requirements.**

### **Taxation of the Company**

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under Sections 856 through 859 of the Code commencing with our taxable year ending December 31, 2015. We believe that, commencing with our taxable year ending December 31, 2015, we have been organized and operated in such a manner as to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the applicable provisions of the Code, and we intend to continue to operate in such a manner, but no assurances can be given that we will operate in a manner so as to qualify as a REIT.

**Table of Contents**

In connection with the filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is part, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP ( Fried Frank ) has issued an opinion to us to the effect that, commencing with our taxable year ending December 31, 2015, we have been organized in conformity with the requirements for qualification as a REIT under the Code, and our current and proposed method of operation, as described in this Registration Statement and in representations furnished by us to Fried Frank, will enable us to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code. It must be emphasized that the opinion of Fried Frank is based on various assumptions relating to our organization and operation, and is conditioned upon representations and covenants made by our management regarding our organization, assets, and income, and the past, present and future conduct of our business operations. While we intend to operate so that we will qualify to be taxed as a REIT, given the highly complex nature of the rules governing REITs, the ongoing importance of factual determinations, and the possibility of future changes in our circumstances, no assurance can be given by Fried Frank or by us that we will qualify to be taxed as a REIT for any particular year. The opinion is expressed as of the date issued. Fried Frank will have no obligation to advise us or our shareholders of any subsequent change in the matters stated, represented or assumed, or of any subsequent change in the applicable law. You should be aware that opinions of counsel are not binding on the IRS, and no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge the conclusions set forth in such opinion.

Qualification and taxation as a REIT depends on our ability to meet on a continuing basis, through actual operating results, distribution levels, and diversity of share ownership, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code, the compliance with which will not be reviewed by Fried Frank. Our ability to qualify to be taxed as a REIT also requires that we satisfy certain tests, some of which depend upon the fair market values of assets that we own directly or indirectly. Such values may not be susceptible to a precise determination. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the actual results of our operations for any taxable year will satisfy such requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT.

**Taxation of REITs in General**

As indicated above, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depends upon our ability to meet, on a continuing basis, various qualification requirements imposed upon REITs by the Code. The material qualification requirements are summarized below under Requirements for Qualification General. While we intend to operate so that we qualify and continue to qualify to be taxed as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not challenge our qualification, or that we will be able to operate in accordance with the REIT requirements in the future. See Failure to Qualify.

Provided that we qualify to be taxed as a REIT, we generally will be entitled to a deduction for dividends that we pay and therefore will not be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax on our net REIT taxable income that is currently distributed to our shareholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the double taxation at the corporate and shareholder levels that generally results from an investment in a C corporation. A C corporation is a corporation that generally is required to pay tax at the corporate level on its net taxable income. Double taxation means taxation once at the corporate level when income is earned and once again at the shareholder level when the income is distributed. In general, the income that we generate is taxed only at the shareholder level upon a distribution of dividends to our shareholders.

Most U.S. shareholders that are individuals, trusts or estates are taxed on corporate dividends at a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20% (the same as long-term capital gains) plus (if applicable) an additional tax of 3.8% on net investment income (see Other Tax Considerations Medicare 3.8% Tax on Investment Income below). With limited exceptions, however, dividends from us or from other entities that are taxed as REITs generally are not eligible for this rate and will be taxed at rates applicable to ordinary income. Currently, the highest marginal non-corporate U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income is 39.6%. See Taxation of Shareholders Distributions. See Other Tax Considerations Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs below regarding the possible effect of pending tax

legislation on the tax rates applicable to dividends from entities that are taxed as REITs.

## Table of Contents

Our net operating losses, foreign tax credits and other tax attributes generally do not pass through to our shareholders, subject to special rules for certain items such as the capital gains that we recognize. See [Taxation of Shareholders](#) [Taxation of Taxable U.S. Shareholders](#) [Distributions](#).

Even if we qualify to be taxed as a REIT, we will nonetheless be subject to U.S. federal tax in the following circumstances:

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

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

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

If we elect to treat property that we acquire in connection with a foreclosure of a mortgage loan or certain leasehold terminations as [foreclosure property](#), we may thereby avoid the 100% tax on gain from a resale of that property (if the sale would otherwise constitute a prohibited transaction), but the income from the sale or operation of the property generally would be subject to corporate income tax at the highest applicable rate (currently 35%, but see [Other Tax Considerations](#) [Legislative or Other Actions Affecting REITs](#) below regarding the possible effect of pending tax legislation on U.S. federal corporate income tax rates).

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

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

If we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (i) 85% of our ordinary income for such year, (ii) 95% of our capital gain net income for such year and (iii) any undistributed net taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax on the excess of the required



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distribution over the sum of (a) the amounts that we actually distributed and (b) the amounts we retained and upon which we paid income tax at the corporate level.

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

A 100% tax may be imposed on transactions between us and a taxable REIT subsidiary ( [TRS](#) ) that do not reflect arm's-length terms.

If we acquire appreciated assets from a corporation that is not a REIT (i.e., a corporation taxable under subchapter C of the Code) in a transaction in which the adjusted tax basis of the assets in our hands is determined by reference to the adjusted tax basis of the assets in the hands of the subchapter C corporation (a [carryover basis transaction](#) ), we may be subject to tax on such appreciation at the

## Table of Contents

highest corporate income tax rate then applicable if we subsequently recognize gain on a disposition of any such assets within the specified recognition period. The specified recognition period is five years for carryover basis transactions occurring after February 17, 2017 and ten years for carryover basis transactions occurring on or prior to February 17, 2017 (but we may elect to apply the five-year period instead for carryover basis transactions occurring after August 8, 2016 and on or before February 17, 2017).

The taxable income of our TRSs generally will be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax. In addition, we and our subsidiaries may be subject to a variety of taxes, including payroll taxes and state, local, and foreign income, property, gross receipts and other taxes on our assets and operations. We could also be subject to tax in situations and on transactions not presently contemplated.

## **Requirements for Qualification General**

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

1. that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
2. the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
3. that would be taxable as a domestic corporation but for its election to be subject to tax as a REIT;
4. that is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to specific provisions of the Code;
5. the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;
6. in which, during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares or other beneficial interest is owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include specified tax-exempt entities); and

7. that meets other tests described below, including with respect to the nature of its income and assets. The Code provides that conditions (1) through (4) must be met during the entire taxable year, and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Conditions (5) and (6) need not be met during an entity's initial tax year as a REIT (which, in our case, was 2015). Our declaration of trust provides restrictions regarding the ownership and transfers of our shares, which are intended to assist us in satisfying the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. These restrictions, however, may not ensure that we will, in all cases, be able to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. If we fail to satisfy these share ownership requirements, except as provided

in the next sentence, our status as a REIT will terminate. If, however, we comply with the rules contained in applicable Treasury regulations that require us to ascertain the actual ownership of our shares and we do not know, or would not have known through the exercise of reasonable diligence, that we failed to meet the requirements described in condition (6) above (the so-called "closely-held" test), we will be treated as having met this requirement.

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

## **Table of Contents**

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

### **Effect of Subsidiary Entities**

#### *Ownership of Partnership Interests*

If we are a partner in an entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such as the Operating Partnership, Treasury regulations provide that we are deemed to own our proportionate share of the partnership's assets, and to earn our proportionate share of the partnership's gross income, for purposes of the asset and gross income tests applicable to REITs. Our proportionate share of a partnership's assets and gross income is based on our capital interest in the partnership (except that for purposes of the 10% value test, described below, our proportionate share of the partnership's assets is based on our proportionate interest in the equity and certain debt securities issued by the partnership). In addition, the assets and gross income of the partnership are deemed to retain the same character in our hands. Thus, our proportionate share of the assets and income of any of our subsidiary partnerships will be treated as our assets and items of income for purposes of applying the REIT requirements.

If we become a limited partner or non-managing member in any partnership or limited liability company and such entity takes or expects to take actions that could jeopardize our status as a REIT or require us to pay tax, we may be forced to dispose of our interest in such entity. In addition, it is possible that a partnership or limited liability company could take an action which could cause us to fail a gross income or asset test, and that we would not become aware of such action in time to dispose of our interest in the partnership or limited liability company or take otherwise corrective action on a timely basis. In that case, we could fail to qualify to be taxed as a REIT unless we were entitled to relief, as described below.

#### *Disregarded Subsidiaries*

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

In the event that a disregarded subsidiary of ours ceases to be wholly owned—for example, if any equity interest in the subsidiary is acquired by a person other than us or another disregarded subsidiary of ours—the subsidiary's separate existence would no longer be disregarded for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Instead, the subsidiary would have multiple owners and would be treated as either a partnership or a taxable corporation. Such an event could, depending on the circumstances, adversely affect our ability to satisfy the various asset and gross income requirements applicable to REITs, including requirements that the REITs generally may not own, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the securities of another corporation. See [Asset Tests](#) and [Income Tests](#).

#### *Taxable REIT Subsidiaries*

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In general, we may jointly elect with a subsidiary corporation, whether or not wholly owned, to treat such subsidiary corporation as a TRS. We generally may not own more than 10% of the securities of a taxable

## **Table of Contents**

corporation, as measured by voting power or value, unless we and such corporation elect to treat such corporation as a TRS. The separate existence of a TRS or other taxable corporation is not ignored for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, a TRS or other taxable subsidiary corporation generally is subject to corporate income tax on its earnings, which may reduce the cash flow that we and our subsidiaries generate in the aggregate and may reduce our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

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

U.S. federal income tax law limits the deductibility of interest paid or accrued by a TRS to its parent REIT to assure that the TRS is subject to an appropriate level of corporate taxation. Further, the rules impose a 100% excise tax on transactions between a TRS and its parent REIT or the REIT's tenants that are not conducted on an arm's-length basis. We intend that all of our transactions with our TRS, if any, will be conducted on an arm's-length basis.

## **Income Tests**

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

### *Rents from Real Property*

Rents we receive from a tenant will qualify as rents from real property for the purpose of satisfying the gross income requirements for a REIT described above only if all of the conditions described below are met.

The amount of rent is not based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount we receive or accrue generally will not be excluded from the term rents from real property solely because it is based on a fixed-percentage or percentages of receipts or sales;

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Neither we nor an actual or constructive owner of 10% or more of our shares of beneficial ownership actually or constructively owns 10% or more of the interests in the assets or net profits of a non-corporate tenant, or, if the tenant is a corporation, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote or 10% or more of the total value of all classes of stock of the tenant. Rents we receive from such a tenant that is a TRS of ours, however, will not be excluded from the definition of rents from real property as a result of this condition if at least 90% of the space at

## Table of Contents

the property to which the rents relate is leased to third parties, and the rents paid by the TRS are substantially comparable to rents paid by our other tenants for comparable space. Whether rents paid by a TRS are substantially comparable to rents paid by other tenants is determined at the time the lease with the TRS is entered into, extended, and modified, if such modification increases the rents due under such lease. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, if a lease with a controlled TRS is modified and such modification results in an increase in the rents payable by such TRS, any such increase will not qualify as rents from real property. For purposes of this rule, a controlled TRS is a TRS in which the parent REIT owns stock possessing more than 50% of the voting power or more than 50% of the total value of the outstanding stock of such TRS;

Rent attributable to personal property that is leased in connection with a lease of real property is not greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease. If this condition is not met, then the portion of the rent attributable to personal property will not qualify as rents from real property ; and

We generally are not permitted to operate or manage our properties or to furnish or render services to our tenants, subject to a 1% de minimis exception and except as further provided below. We are permitted, however, to perform directly certain services that are usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only and are not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant of the property. Examples of these permitted services include the provision of light, heat, or other utilities, trash removal and general maintenance of common areas. In addition, we are permitted to employ an independent contractor from whom we derive no revenue, or a TRS that is wholly or partially owned by us, to provide both customary and non-customary property management or services to our tenants without causing the rent that we receive from those tenants to fail to qualify as rents from real property. Any amounts that we receive from a TRS with respect to the TRS's provision of non-customary services will, however, be nonqualifying income under the 75% gross income test and, except to the extent received through the payment of dividends, the 95% gross income test.

We believe that the rent payments received pursuant to the Master Lease are and will be treated as rents from real property for purposes of the REIT gross income tests.

### *Interest Income*

Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test (as described above) to the extent that the obligation upon which such interest is paid is secured by a mortgage on real property. If we receive interest income with respect to a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and other property, and the highest principal amount of the loan outstanding during a taxable year exceeds the fair market value of the real property on the date that we acquired or originated the mortgage loan, the interest income will be apportioned between the real property and the other collateral, and our income from the arrangement will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test only to the extent that the interest is allocable to the real property. Even if a loan is not secured by real property, or is undersecured, the income that it generates may nonetheless qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test. For these purposes, the term interest generally does not include any amount received or accrued, directly or indirectly, if the determination of all or some of the amount depends in any way on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from the term interest solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales.

### *Dividend Income*



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

## **Table of Contents**

we receive from another REIT, however, will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income tests.

### *Fee Income*

Any fee income that we earn generally will not be qualifying income for purposes of either gross income test. Any fees earned by a TRS, however, will not be included for purposes of our gross income tests.

### *Hedging Transactions*

Any income or gain that we or our pass-through subsidiaries derive from instruments that hedge certain risks, such as the risk of changes in interest rates, will be excluded from gross income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, provided that specified requirements are met, including the requirement that the instrument is entered into during the ordinary course of our business, the instrument hedges risks associated with indebtedness issued by us or our pass-through subsidiary that is incurred or to be incurred to acquire or carry real estate assets (as described below under *Asset Tests*), and the instrument is properly identified as a hedge along with the risk that it hedges within prescribed time periods. Certain items of income or gain attributable to hedges of foreign currency fluctuations with respect to income that satisfies the REIT gross income requirements may also be excluded from the 95% and 75% gross income tests. Most likely, income and gain from all other hedging transactions will not be qualifying income for either the 95% or 75% gross income test.

### *Failure to Satisfy the Gross Income Tests*

If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may still qualify to be taxed as a REIT for such year if we are entitled to relief under applicable provisions of the Code. These relief provisions will be generally available if (i) our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and (ii) following our identification of the failure to meet the 75% or 95% gross income test for any taxable year, we file a schedule with the IRS setting forth each item of our gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test for such taxable year. It is not possible to state whether we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions in all circumstances. If these relief provisions are inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances, we will not qualify to be taxed as a REIT. Even if these relief provisions apply, and we retain our status as a REIT, the Code imposes a tax based upon the amount by which we fail to satisfy the particular gross income test.

## **Asset Tests**

At the close of each calendar quarter, we must also satisfy five tests relating to the nature of our assets. First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by some combination of real estate assets, cash, cash items, U.S. government securities, and, under some circumstances, stock or debt instruments purchased with new capital. For this purpose, real estate assets include interests in real property and stock of other corporations that qualify as REITs, debt issued by publicly traded REITs, personal property to the extent that rents attributable to such personal property are treated as rents from real property under the income tests discussed above under *Income Tests Rents from Real Property*, as well as some kinds of mortgage-backed securities and mortgage loans. Assets that do not qualify for purposes of the 75% asset test are subject to the additional asset tests described below.

Second, other than a TRS, the value of any one issuer's securities that we own may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets.

Third, we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding securities, as measured by either voting power or value. The 5% and 10% asset tests do not apply to securities of TRSs and qualified REIT

## Table of Contents

subsidiaries and the 10% asset test does not apply to straight debt having specified characteristics and to certain other securities described below. Solely for purposes of the 10% asset test, the determination of our interest in the assets of a partnership or limited liability company in which we own an interest will be based on our proportionate interest in any securities issued by the partnership or limited liability company, excluding for this purpose certain securities described in the Code.

Fourth, the aggregate value of all securities of TRSs that we hold may not, in the aggregate, exceed 25% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) of the value of our total assets.

Fifth, no more than 25% of the value of our total assets may consist of certain debt instruments issued by publicly traded REITs.

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

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

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

However, certain relief provisions are available to allow REITs to satisfy the asset requirements or to maintain REIT qualification notwithstanding certain violations of the asset and other requirements. For example, if we should fail to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a calendar quarter such a failure would not cause us to lose our REIT qualification if (i) we satisfied the asset tests at the close of the preceding calendar quarter and (ii) the discrepancy between the

value of our assets and the asset requirements was not wholly or partly caused by an acquisition of non-qualifying assets, but instead arose from changes in the relative market values of our assets. If the condition described in (ii) were not satisfied, we still could avoid disqualification by eliminating any

## **Table of Contents**

discrepancy within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which it arose or by making use of the relief provisions described below (to the extent such relief provisions are available).

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

Even if we did not qualify for the foregoing relief provisions, an additional provision allows a REIT which fails one or more of the asset requirements to nevertheless maintain its REIT qualification if (i) the REIT provides the IRS with a description of each asset causing the failure, (ii) the failure is due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, (iii) the REIT pays a tax equal to the greater of (a) \$50,000 per failure and (b) the product of the net income generated by the assets that caused the failure multiplied by the highest applicable corporate tax rate (currently 35%) and (iv) the REIT either disposes of the assets causing the failure within six months after the last day of the quarter in which it identifies the failure, or otherwise satisfies the relevant asset tests within that time frame.

## **Annual Distribution Requirements**

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

(i) the sum of

(a) 90% of our REIT taxable income, computed without regard to our net capital gains and the deduction for dividends paid; and

(b) 90% of our after-tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property (as described below);

minus

(ii) the excess of the sum of specified items of non-cash income over 5% of our REIT taxable income, computed without regard to our net capital gain and the deduction for dividends paid.

We generally must make these distributions in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before we timely file our tax return for the year and if paid with or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration. These distributions will be treated as received by our shareholders in the year in which paid.

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

and that they include in their taxable income, minus (ii) the tax that we paid on their behalf with respect to that income.

To the extent that we may have available net operating losses carried forward from prior tax years, such losses may reduce the amount of distributions that we must make in order to comply with the REIT distribution requirements. Such losses, however, generally will not affect the tax treatment to our shareholders of any distributions that are actually made. See Taxation of Shareholders Distributions.

## **Table of Contents**

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

We expect that our net taxable income will be less than our cash flow because of depreciation and other non-cash charges included in computing net taxable income. Accordingly, we anticipate that we generally will have sufficient cash or liquid assets to enable us to satisfy the distribution requirements described above. However, from time to time, we may not have sufficient cash or other liquid assets to meet these distribution requirements due to timing differences between the actual receipt of income and actual payment of deductible expenses, and the inclusion of income and deduction of expenses in determining our taxable income. In addition, we may decide to retain our cash, rather than distribute it, in order to repay debt, acquire assets, or for other reasons. If these timing differences occur, we may borrow funds to pay dividends or pay dividends through the distribution of other property (including our shares) in order to meet the distribution requirements, while preserving our cash.

If our taxable income for a particular year is subsequently determined to have been understated, we may be able to rectify a resultant failure to meet the distribution requirements for a year by paying deficiency dividends to shareholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. In this case, we may be able to avoid losing our REIT qualification or being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, subject to the 4% excise tax described above. We will be required to pay interest based on the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

For purposes of the 90% distribution requirement and excise tax described above, any dividend that we declare in October, November or December of any year and that is payable to a shareholder of record on a specified date in any such month will be treated as both paid by us and received by the shareholder on December 31 of such year, provided that we actually pay the dividend before the end of January of the following calendar year.

## **Prohibited Transactions**

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

## **Like-Kind Exchanges**

We may dispose of properties in transactions intended to qualify as like-kind exchanges under the Code. Such like-kind exchanges are intended to result in the deferral of gain for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The failure of any such transaction to qualify as a like-kind exchange could require us to pay U.S. federal income tax, possibly



including the 100% prohibited transaction tax, or a deficiency dividend, depending on the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular transactions.

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**Table of Contents**

**Derivatives and Hedging Transactions**

We may enter into hedging transactions with respect to interest rate exposure on one or more of our assets or liabilities. Any such hedging transactions could take a variety of forms, including the use of derivative instruments such as interest rate swap contracts, interest rate cap or floor contracts, futures or forward contracts, and options. Except to the extent provided by Treasury regulations, any income from a hedging transaction we enter into (i) in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of interest rate changes or currency fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made, or ordinary obligations incurred or to be incurred, to acquire or carry real estate assets, which is clearly identified as specified in Treasury regulations before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, including gain from the sale or disposition of a position in such a transaction and (ii) primarily to manage risk of currency fluctuations with respect to any item of income or gain that would be qualifying income under the 75% or 95% income tests which is clearly identified as such before the close of the day on which it was acquired, originated, or entered into, will not constitute gross income for purposes of the 75% or 95% gross income test. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, such treatment also applies to new transactions entered into to hedge the income or loss from prior hedging transactions where the property or indebtedness that was the subject of the prior hedging transaction was extinguished or disposed of. To the extent that we enter into hedging transactions that are not described in the preceding clause (i) or (ii), the income from these transactions is likely to be treated as non-qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. Moreover, to the extent that a position in a hedging transaction has positive value at any particular point in time, it may be treated as an asset that does not qualify for purposes of the REIT asset tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT. We may conduct some or all of our hedging activities (including hedging activities relating to currency risk) through a TRS or other corporate entity, the income from which may be subject to U.S. federal income tax, rather than by participating in the arrangements directly or through pass-through subsidiaries. No assurance can be given, however, that our hedging activities will not give rise to income or assets that do not qualify for purposes of the REIT tests, or that our hedging activities will not adversely affect our ability to satisfy the REIT qualification requirements.

**Foreclosure Property**

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

**Penalty Tax**

Any redetermined rents, redetermined deductions or excess interest we generate will be subject to a 100% penalty tax. In general, redetermined rents are rents from real property that are overstated as a result of any services furnished to any of our tenants by a TRS, and redetermined deductions and excess interest represent any amounts that are deducted by a TRS for amounts paid to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been deducted based on

arm s-length negotiations or if the interest payments were at a commercially reasonable rate. Rents that we receive will not constitute redetermined rents if they qualify for certain safe harbor provisions contained in the Code.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Failure to Qualify**

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

If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions described above do not apply, we would be subject to tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. We cannot deduct distributions to shareholders in any year in which we are not a REIT, nor would we be required to make distributions in such a year. In this situation, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes), distributions to shareholders would be taxable as regular corporate dividends. Such dividends paid to U.S. shareholders that are individuals, trusts and estates may be taxable at the preferential income tax rates (*i.e.*, the 20% maximum U.S. federal rate) for qualified dividends. In addition, subject to the limitations of the Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless we are entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we would also be disqualified from re-electing to be taxed as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we lost our qualification. It is not possible to state whether, in all circumstances, we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

### **Taxation of Shareholders**

#### *Taxation of Taxable U.S. Shareholders*

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our shares applicable to taxable U.S. shareholders. A U.S. shareholder is any holder of our shares that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, or of any state thereof, or the District of Columbia;

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

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

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

*Distributions*

So long as we qualify to be taxed as a REIT, the distributions that we make to our taxable U.S. shareholders out of current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that we do not designate as capital gain dividends generally will be taken into account by such shareholders as ordinary income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction for corporations. With limited exceptions, our dividends are not eligible for taxation at the preferential income tax rates (*i.e.*, the 20% maximum U.S. federal income tax rate) for qualified dividends received by most U.S. shareholders that are individuals, trusts

**Table of Contents**

and estates from taxable C corporations. Such shareholders, however, are taxed at the preferential rates on dividends designated by and received from REITs to the extent that the dividends are attributable to:

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

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

income in the prior taxable year from the sales of built-in gain property acquired by the REIT from C corporations in carryover basis transactions (less the amount of corporate tax on such income).

Distributions that we designate as capital gain dividends generally will be taxed to our U.S. shareholders as long-term capital gains, to the extent that such distributions do not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which the shareholder that receives such distribution has held its shares. We may elect to retain and pay taxes on some or all of our net long-term capital gains, in which case we may elect to apply provisions of the Code that treat our U.S. shareholders as having received, solely for U.S. federal income tax purposes, our undistributed capital gains, and the shareholders as receiving a corresponding credit for taxes that we paid on such undistributed capital gains. See *Taxation of the Company* and *Annual Distribution Requirements*. Corporate shareholders may be required to treat up to 20% of their capital gain dividends as ordinary income. Currently, long-term capital gains are generally taxable at maximum U.S. federal rates of 20% in the case of U.S. shareholders that are individuals, trusts and estates, and 35% in the case of U.S. shareholders that are corporations. Capital gains attributable to the sale of depreciable real property held for more than 12 months are subject to a 25% maximum U.S. federal income tax rate for taxpayers who are taxed as individuals, to the extent of previously claimed depreciation deductions.

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

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

*Dispositions of Shares*

## Edgar Filing: Seritage Growth Properties - Form S-3ASR

If a U.S. shareholder sells or disposes of our shares, it generally will recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on the sale or other disposition, and the shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the shares. In general, capital gains recognized by individuals, trusts and estates upon the sale or disposition of our shares will be subject to a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20% if the shares are held for more than one year, and will be taxed at ordinary income rates (of up to 39.6%) if the shares are held for one year or less. Gains

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**Table of Contents**

recognized by shareholders that are corporations are subject to U.S. federal income tax without regard to whether or not such gains are classified as long-term capital gains, currently at a maximum rate of 35%. Capital losses recognized by a shareholder upon the disposition of our shares that were held for more than one year at the time of disposition will be considered long-term capital losses, and are generally available only to offset capital gain income of the shareholder but not ordinary income (except in the case of individuals, who may also offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income each year). In addition, any loss upon a sale or exchange of our shares by a shareholder who has held the shares for six months or less, after applying holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of actual or deemed distributions that we make that are required to be treated by the shareholder as long-term capital gain.

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

*Redemption of Preferred Shares*

A redemption of our preferred shares will be treated under Section 302 of the Code as a distribution that is taxable as dividend income (to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits), unless the redemption satisfies certain tests set forth in Section 302(b) of the Code enabling the redemption to be treated as a sale of the preferred shares (in which case the redemption will be treated in the same manner as a sale described above in *Disposition of Shares*). The redemption will satisfy such tests if it (i) is substantially disproportionate with respect to the U.S. shareholder's interest in our shares, (ii) results in a complete termination of the U.S. shareholder's interest in all of our classes of shares, or (iii) is not essentially equivalent to a dividend with respect to the shareholder, all within the meaning of Section 302(b) of the Code. In determining whether any of these tests have been met, shares considered to be owned by the holder by reason of certain constructive ownership rules set forth in the Code, as well as shares actually owned, generally must be taken into account. Because the determination as to whether any of the three alternative tests of Section 302(b) of the Code described above will be satisfied with respect to any particular U.S. shareholder of the preferred shares depends upon the facts and circumstances at the time that the determination must be made, prospective investors are urged to consult their tax advisors to determine such tax treatment. If a redemption of our preferred shares does not meet any of the three tests described above, the redemption proceeds will be treated as a dividend, as described above under *Taxation of Taxable U.S. Shareholders*. In that case, a U.S. shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the redeemed preferred shares will be transferred to such U.S. shareholder's remaining shares. If the U.S. shareholder does not retain any of our shares, such basis could be transferred to a related person that holds our shares or it may be lost.

Under proposed Treasury regulations, if any portion of the amount received by a U.S. shareholder on a redemption of our preferred shares is treated as a distribution with respect to our shares but not as a taxable dividend, then such portion will be allocated to all shares of the redeemed class held by the redeemed shareholder just before the redemption on a pro-rata, share-by-share, basis. The amount applied to each share will first reduce the redeemed shareholder's basis in that share and any excess after the basis is reduced to zero will result in taxable gain. If the redeemed shareholder has different bases in its shares, then the amount allocated could reduce some of the basis in certain shares while reducing all the basis and giving rise to taxable gain in others. Thus the redeemed shareholder



could have gain even if such shareholder's basis in all its shares of the redeemed class exceeded such portion.

**Table of Contents**

The proposed Treasury regulations permit the transfer of basis in the redeemed preferred shares to the redeemed shareholder's remaining, unredeemed preferred shares of the same class (if any), but not to any other class of shares held (directly or indirectly) by the redeemed shareholder. Instead, a