

REDWOOD TRUST INC

Form 424B5

August 14, 2017

Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration Statement No. 333-211267

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion. Dated August 14, 2017.

Preliminary prospectus supplement to prospectus dated May 10, 2016.

\$225,000,000

% Convertible Senior Notes due 2023

Interest payable February 15 and August 15

Issue Price: %

We are offering \$225,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our % convertible senior notes due 2023 (the notes). The notes will bear interest at a rate of % per year, payable semi-annually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year, beginning on February 15, 2018. The notes will mature on August 15, 2023, unless earlier repurchased, redeemed or converted.

Holders may convert their notes into shares of our common stock at any time prior to the close of business on the second scheduled trading day prior to the maturity date, unless the notes have been previously repurchased or redeemed by us. The initial conversion rate for the notes will be shares of our common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$ per share of our common stock. The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment in some events, but will not be adjusted for accrued interest. In addition, if a make-whole fundamental change (as defined herein) occurs prior to the maturity date, we will in some cases increase the conversion rate for a holder that elects to convert its notes in connection with such make-whole fundamental change.

If we undergo a fundamental change (as defined herein), holders may require us to repurchase the notes in whole or in part for cash at a fundamental change repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date.

We may not redeem the notes prior to their maturity, except to the extent necessary to preserve our status as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as further described in this prospectus supplement. No sinking fund will be provided for the notes.

The notes will be our general unsecured obligations and will rank equal in right of payment with our other existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness and senior in right of payment to any indebtedness that is contractually subordinated to the notes. The notes, however, will be effectively subordinated in right of payment to our existing and future secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness, and structurally subordinated to the claims of our subsidiaries' creditors, including trade creditors.

We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange. Our common stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol RWT. On August 11, 2017, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE was \$16.83 per share.

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In order to protect us against the risk of losing our qualification as a REIT due to concentration of ownership of our outstanding stock, our charter generally prohibits any single stockholder, or any group of affiliated stockholders, from beneficially owning more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of any class of our stock, unless our board of directors waives or modifies this ownership limit. See *Description of Notes Ownership Limit; Limitation on Stock Issuable Upon Conversion*. In addition, our charter contains various other restrictions on the ownership and transfer of shares of our common stock. See *Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer and Repurchase of Shares* beginning on page 29 of the accompanying prospectus.

See Risk Factors beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement and on page 3 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and page 100 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 to read about important factors that you should consider before investing in the notes.

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

	Per note	Total
Public offering price	%	\$
Underwriting discount	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to Redwood Trust, Inc.	%	\$

The offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest, if any. Interest on the notes will accrue from the date of original issuance, expected to be August , 2017.

To the extent the underwriters sell more than \$225,000,000 principal amount of notes, the underwriters will have the option to purchase within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement up to an additional \$33,750,000 principal amount of notes from us at the public offering price less the underwriting discount, solely to cover over-allotments.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company on or about August , 2017.

Joint-book running managers

J.P. Morgan

Wells Fargo Securities

Lead manager

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

Co-manager

JMP Securities

, 2017.

Table of Contents**Table of contents**

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About this prospectus supplement</u>	S-ii
<u>Forward-looking statements</u>	S-iii
<u>Prospectus supplement summary</u>	S-1
<u>The offering</u>	S-4
<u>Summary consolidated financial data</u>	S-8
<u>Risk factors</u>	S-10
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	S-20
<u>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges</u>	S-21
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-22
<u>Price range of common stock</u>	S-23
<u>Distribution policy</u>	S-23
<u>Description of notes</u>	S-24
<u>Supplemental U.S. federal income tax considerations</u>	S-51
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-54
<u>Legal matters</u>	S-60
<u>Experts</u>	S-60
<u>Where you can find more information</u>	S-60
<u>Incorporation of certain information by reference</u>	S-61
Prospectus	
<u>About this prospectus</u>	1
<u>Risk factors</u>	3
<u>Cautionary statement</u>	4
<u>Redwood Trust, Inc</u>	5
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	7
<u>Accounting treatment relating to trust preferred securities</u>	7
<u>Ratios of earnings to fixed charges and earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends</u>	7
<u>General description of securities</u>	8
<u>Description of debt securities</u>	9
<u>Description of common stock</u>	16
<u>Description of preferred stock</u>	17
<u>Description of securities warrants</u>	18
<u>Description of rights to purchase shares of common or preferred stock</u>	19

<u>Description of trust preferred securities</u>	20
<u>Description of units</u>	25
<u>Global securities</u>	26
<u>Restrictions on ownership and transfer and repurchase of shares</u>	29
<u>Certain provisions of Maryland law and of our charter and bylaws</u>	31
<u>Material U.S. federal income tax considerations</u>	33
<u>Plan of distribution</u>	59
<u>Validity of the securities</u>	60
<u>Experts</u>	60
<u>Incorporation of certain information by reference</u>	61
<u>Where you can find more information</u>	62

Table of Contents

About this prospectus supplement

You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering when making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in the section of this prospectus supplement entitled *Where You Can Find More Information*. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement on Form S-3 we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not contain all of the information in the registration statement. We have omitted certain parts of the registration statement, as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. You may inspect and copy the registration statement, including exhibits, on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov or at the SEC's public reference room. See *Where You Can Find More Information* in the accompanying prospectus.

Unless otherwise mentioned or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus supplement to Redwood, we, us, our or similar references mean Redwood Trust, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

If the information set forth in this prospectus supplement differs in any way from the information set forth in the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information set forth in this prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained or incorporated by reference herein or therein. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it.

We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell the notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering is accurate only as of the date of those respective documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects may have changed since that date. Neither this prospectus supplement nor the accompanying prospectus constitutes an offer, or an invitation on our behalf or on behalf of the underwriters, to subscribe for and purchase any of the securities, and may not be used for or in connection with an offer or solicitation by anyone, in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation.

Table of Contents

Forward-looking statements

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. You can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as may, will, expect, intend, anticipate, believe, estimate, plan, could, should, continue or the negative of such terms or words or expressions. These forward-looking statements may also use different phrases.

We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events. These forward-looking statements, which are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us, may include, among other things, statements that address our strategy and operating performance and events or developments that we expect or anticipate will occur in the future, including, but not limited to, our statements in Summary The Offering on page S-4 and Use of Proceeds on page S-20 regarding our intended use of the proceeds of this offering.

These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict; therefore, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in any forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties include those described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and in our subsequent filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as well as those referenced in Risk Factors below. These are factors that we think could cause our actual results to differ materially from expected results. Other factors besides those listed could also adversely affect us. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made, and we undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict which factors will arise. In addition, we cannot assess the impact of each factor on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

Important factors, among others, that may affect our actual results include: the pace at which we redeploy our available capital into new investments; interest rate volatility, changes in credit spreads, and changes in liquidity in the market for real estate securities and loans; changes in the demand from investors for residential mortgages and investments, and our ability to distribute residential mortgages through our whole-loan distribution channel; our ability to finance our investments in securities and our acquisition of residential mortgages with short-term debt; changes in the values of assets we own; general economic trends, the performance of the housing, real estate, mortgage, credit, and broader financial markets, and their effects on the prices of earning assets and the credit status of borrowers; federal and state legislative and regulatory developments, and the actions of governmental authorities, including the new U.S. presidential administration, and in particular those affecting the mortgage industry or our business (including, but not limited to, the Federal Housing Finance Agency's rules relating to FHLB membership requirements and the implications for our captive insurance subsidiary's membership in the FHLB); strategic business and capital deployment decisions we make; developments related to the fixed income and mortgage finance markets and the Federal Reserve's statements regarding its future open market activity and monetary policy; our exposure to credit risk and the timing of credit losses within our portfolio; the concentration of the credit risks we are exposed to, including due to the structure of assets we hold and the geographical concentration of real estate underlying assets we own; our exposure to adjustable-rate mortgage loans; the efficacy and expense of our efforts to manage or hedge credit risk, interest rate risk, and other financial and operational risks; changes in credit ratings on assets we own and changes in the rating agencies' credit rating methodologies; changes in interest rates;

Table of Contents

changes in mortgage prepayment rates; changes in liquidity in the market for real estate securities and loans; our ability to finance the acquisition of real estate-related assets with short-term debt; the ability of counterparties to satisfy their obligations to us; our involvement in securitization transactions, the profitability of those transactions, and the risks we are exposed to in engaging in securitization transactions; exposure to claims and litigation, including litigation arising from our involvement in securitization transactions; ongoing litigation against various trustees of RMBS transactions; whether we have sufficient liquid assets to meet short-term needs; our ability to successfully compete and retain or attract key personnel; our ability to adapt our business model and strategies to changing circumstances; changes in our investment, financing, and hedging strategies and new risks we may be exposed to if we expand our business activities; our exposure to a disruption or breach of the security of our technology infrastructure and systems; exposure to environmental liabilities; our failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations; our failure to maintain appropriate internal controls over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures; the impact on our reputation that could result from our actions or omissions or from those of others; changes in accounting principles and tax rules; our ability to maintain our status as a REIT for tax purposes; limitations imposed on our business due to our REIT status and our status as exempt from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940; decisions about raising, managing, and distributing capital; our expectations regarding the use of the net proceeds from this offering including with respect to the repurchase of our 4.625% convertible senior notes due 2018 (2018 Notes); and other factors not presently identified.

Table of Contents

Prospectus supplement summary

*This summary highlights selected information appearing elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any free-writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus include information about the notes we are offering as well as information regarding our business and financial data. You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including information incorporated by reference, and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering, in their entirety. Investors should carefully consider the information set forth under *Risk Factors* in this prospectus supplement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Unless otherwise stated, all information contained in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise of the underwriters over-allotment option to purchase additional notes in this offering.*

About Redwood Trust, Inc.

Redwood Trust, Inc., together with its subsidiaries, focuses on investing in mortgages and other real estate-related assets and engaging in mortgage banking activities. We seek to invest in real estate-related assets that have the potential to generate attractive cash flow returns over time and to generate income through our mortgage banking activities. We operate our business in two segments: Investment Portfolio and Residential Mortgage Banking. Our primary sources of income are net interest income from our investment portfolio and non-interest income from our mortgage banking activities. Net interest income consists of the interest income we earn on investments less the interest expense we incur on borrowed funds and other liabilities. Income from mortgage banking activities consists of the profit we seek to generate through the acquisition of loans and their subsequent sale or securitization.

Redwood Trust, Inc. has elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Internal Revenue Code), beginning with its taxable year ended December 31, 1994. We generally refer, collectively, to Redwood Trust, Inc. and those of its subsidiaries that are not subject to subsidiary-level corporate income tax as the REIT or our REIT. We generally refer to subsidiaries of Redwood Trust, Inc. that are subject to subsidiary-level corporate income tax as our operating subsidiaries or our taxable REIT subsidiaries or TRS. Our mortgage banking activities and investments in mortgage servicing rights (MSRs) are generally carried out through our taxable REIT subsidiaries, while our portfolio of mortgage- and other real estate-related investments is primarily held at our REIT. We generally intend to retain profits generated and taxed at our taxable REIT subsidiaries, and to distribute as dividends at least 90% of the taxable income we generate at our REIT.

During the first quarter of 2017, we reorganized our segments to align with changes in how we view our segments for making operating decisions and assessing performance. Specifically, we eliminated our Commercial segment and renamed our Residential Investments segment as the Investment Portfolio segment. This Investment Portfolio segment now includes both residential investments and our commercial investments, which are primarily comprised of investments in multifamily securities. Our Commercial segment previously included our commercial mortgage banking operations and our commercial loan investments, which were wound-down and sold, respectively, during 2016. We conformed the presentation of prior periods, whereby commercial loan investments are included in the Investment Portfolio segment and commercial mortgage banking activities are included in Corporate/Other. Following is a full description of our current segments.

S-1

Table of Contents

Our Investment Portfolio segment primarily consists of investments in residential jumbo loans, real estate securities, and MSRs. Our securities portfolio primarily includes investments in residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) retained from our Sequoia securitizations (described below) and RMBS issued by third parties, credit risk transfer (CRT) securities issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) (government-sponsored enterprises, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, referred to collectively herein as Agency), as well as investments in Agency issued multifamily securities. For the year ended December 31, 2016, we deployed \$419 million of capital toward new investments, including \$56 million in Sequoia and third-party RMBS, \$142 million in CRT securities, and \$84 million in Agency multifamily securities. Our residential loan investments are made through a subsidiary of Redwood Trust that is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBC) that utilizes attractive long-term financing from the FHLBC to make long-term investments directly in residential loans. Under a final rule published by the Federal Housing Finance Agency in January 2016, our FHLBC-member subsidiary will remain an FHLBC member through the five-year transition period for captive insurance companies. Our FHLBC-member subsidiary's existing \$2.0 billion of FHLBC debt, which matures beyond this transition period, is permitted to remain outstanding until its stated maturity. Our MSR investments are primarily associated with residential loans we have sold, securitized, or retained for investment. The Investment Portfolio segment's main sources of revenue are interest income from investment portfolio securities and residential loans held-for-investment, as well as MSR income. Additionally, this segment may realize gains and losses upon the sale of securities. Funding expenses, hedging expenses, direct operating expenses, and tax provisions associated with these activities are also included in this segment.

Our Residential Mortgage Banking segment primarily consists of operating a mortgage loan conduit that acquires residential loans from third-party originators for subsequent sale, securitization, or transfer to our investment portfolio. We typically acquire prime, jumbo mortgages and the related MSRs on a flow basis from our network of loan sellers and distribute those loans through our Sequoia private-label securitization program or to institutions that acquire pools of whole loans. We occasionally supplement our flow purchases with bulk loan acquisitions. Since 2010, we have sold over \$13 billion of residential mortgage loans to portfolio buyers, including our FHLBC-member subsidiary. Beginning in April 2016, to complement our traditional jumbo loan purchase program, Redwood Select, we launched an expanded credit prime loan purchase program called Redwood Choice. The Choice program is a prime credit program that is fully documented, but with credit parameters outside our traditional Select underwriting guidelines allowing for expansion of one but not all of the FICO, loan-to-value, or debt-to-income characteristics described below. The Choice program includes fixed rate and hybrid Qualified Mortgage (QM) and non-QM loans and expands the low end of our FICO range to 661 from 700, while increasing the high end of eligible loan-to-value ratios from 80% to 90%. Additionally, we can acquire interest-only, non-QM loans under the Choice program and non-QM loans with debt-to-income ratios up to 49.9% under the Choice program, up from 43% under the Select program.

Our Residential Mortgage Banking segment also includes various derivative financial instruments that we utilize to manage certain risks associated with residential loans we acquire. Our Residential Mortgage Banking segment's main source of revenue is income from mortgage banking activities, which includes valuation increases (or gains) on the sale or securitization of loans, and valuation changes from hedges used to manage risks associated with these activities. Additionally, this segment may generate interest income on loans held pending securitization or sale. Funding expenses, direct operating expenses, and tax expenses associated with these activities are also included in this segment.

We sponsor our Sequoia securitization program, which we use for the securitization of residential mortgage loans. From April 2010 through June 2017, we have completed 36 Sequoia securitizations backed by loans with an aggregate principal amount of approximately \$13.8 billion. We are required under Generally Accepted

Table of Contents

Accounting Principles in the United States (GAAP) to consolidate the assets and liabilities of certain Sequoia securitization entities we have sponsored for financial reporting purposes. However, each of these entities is independent of Redwood and of each other, and the assets and liabilities of these entities are not owned by us or legal obligations of ours, respectively, although we are exposed to certain financial risks associated with our role as the sponsor or manager of these entities and, to the extent we hold securities issued by, or other investments in, these entities, we are exposed to the performance of these entities and the assets they hold. We refer to certain of these securitization entities as consolidated Sequoia entities, and where applicable, in analyzing our results of operations, we distinguish results from current operations at Redwood and from consolidated Sequoia entities.

Corporate information

We were incorporated in the State of Maryland on April 11, 1994, and commenced operations on August 19, 1994. We operate so as to qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Our executive offices are located at One Belvedere Place, Suite 300, Mill Valley, California 94941. Our telephone number is (415) 389-7373. Our website is www.redwoodtrust.com. Information contained in or that can be accessed through our website is not part of, and is not incorporated into, this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents**The offering**

The following is a brief summary of the terms of this offering and the notes. We provide the following summary solely for your convenience. This summary is not a complete description of this offering or the notes. You should read the full text and more specific details contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. With respect to the discussion of the terms of the notes on the cover page, in this section and in the section entitled Description of Notes, the words Redwood, we, our, us and the company refer only to Redwood Trust, Inc. and not to any of its subsidiaries. For a more detailed description of the notes, see Description of Notes in this prospectus supplement and Description of Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus.

Issuer	Redwood Trust, Inc., a Maryland corporation.
Notes Offered	\$225.0 million principal amount of % convertible senior notes due 2023 (plus up to an additional \$33.75 million principal amount if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase additional notes).
Issue Price	%
Maturity Date	August 15, 2023.
Interest Rate	% per year. Interest will accrue from the date of issuance (which is scheduled for August , 2017), or from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for, and will be payable semi-annually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year, beginning on February 15, 2018.
	We will also be required to pay additional interest on the notes under the circumstances described under Description of Notes Events of Default.
Ranking	The notes will be our general unsecured obligations and will rank equal in right of payment with our other existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness, including our 2018 Notes and our guarantee of the 5.625% exchangeable senior notes due 2019 issued by one of our taxable subsidiaries (2019 Notes), and senior in right of payment to any existing and future indebtedness that is contractually subordinated to the notes. The notes, however, will be effectively subordinated to our existing and future secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness, and structurally subordinated to the claims of our subsidiaries' creditors, including trade creditors and our subsidiary's obligations under the 2019 Notes.

As of June 30, 2017, on a consolidated basis, Redwood and our subsidiaries had \$3.0 billion in outstanding secured indebtedness and \$451 million in outstanding senior unsecured indebtedness, in each case exclusive of trade and other payables. As of June 30, 2017, the aggregate amount of secured liabilities of our subsidiaries was \$3.0 billion and the aggregate amount of unsecured liabilities of our subsidiaries was \$272 million, in each case including trade and other payables and excluding intercompany liabilities. The indenture does not limit the amount of debt that may be issued by us or our subsidiaries under the indenture or otherwise.

S-4

Table of Contents**Conversion Rights**

Holders may convert any of their notes into shares of our common stock at the applicable conversion rate at any time prior to the close of business on the second scheduled trading day prior to the maturity date, unless the notes have been previously repurchased or redeemed by us. Any conversions of notes into shares of our common stock will be subject to certain ownership limitations more fully described in

Description of Notes Ownership Limit; Limitation on Stock Issuable Upon Conversion. The initial conversion rate for the notes will be _____ shares of our common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$ _____ per share of our common stock. The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment in some events, but will not be adjusted for accrued interest. In addition, if certain corporate events occur prior to the maturity date, we will in some cases increase the conversion rate for a holder who elects to convert its notes in connection with such corporate event as described under

Description of Notes Conversion Rights Adjustment to Shares Delivered Upon Conversion Upon Make-Whole Fundamental Change. However, if the price paid (or deemed paid) for our common stock in such a corporate event is greater than \$ _____ per share or less than \$ _____ per share (in each case, subject to adjustment in accordance with the indenture), then we will not be required to increase the conversion rate if a holder converts its notes in connection with such a corporate event.

Settlement Upon Conversion Upon conversion of the notes, a holder will receive, on or prior to the third trading day following the conversion date, a number of shares of our common stock equal to (1) (i) (A) the aggregate principal amount of notes to be converted, divided by (B) \$1,000, multiplied by (ii) the conversion rate in effect on the conversion date, plus (2) cash in lieu of fractional shares, all calculated as described under Description of Notes Conversion Rights Settlement Upon Conversion ; *provided, however*, that with respect to any conversion date that occurs on or after the regular record date for the final payment of interest on the notes (i.e., August 1, 2023), we will deliver such shares and cash on the maturity date.

You will not receive any additional cash payment or additional shares of our common stock representing accrued and unpaid interest upon conversion of a note, except in limited circumstances. Instead, interest will be deemed paid by the shares of our common stock and cash, if any, delivered to you upon conversion.

Redemption of Notes to Preserve REIT Status

We may not redeem the notes prior to their maturity, except to the extent, and only to the extent, necessary to preserve our status as a REIT. If we determine that redeeming the notes is necessary to preserve our status as a REIT, then we may redeem all or part of the notes at a cash redemption price equal to the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date.

Sinking Fund

None.

S-5

Table of Contents

Fundamental Change	If we undergo a fundamental change (as defined under Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes), subject to certain conditions, you may require us to repurchase for cash all or part of your notes. The fundamental change repurchase price will equal 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date.
Events of Default	Except as described under Description of Notes Events of Default, if an event of default with respect to the notes occurs, holders may, upon satisfaction of certain conditions, accelerate the principal amount of the notes plus accrued and unpaid interest. If the event of default relates to our failure to comply with the reporting obligations in the indenture governing the notes, then, at our option, the sole remedy for the first 365 days following such event of default consists exclusively of the right to receive additional interest on the notes as described under Description of Notes Events of Default. In addition, the principal amount of the notes plus accrued and unpaid interest will automatically become due and payable in the case of certain types of bankruptcy or insolvency events as described under Description of Notes Events of Default.
Book-Entry Form	The notes will initially be issued in book-entry form and will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, which we refer to as DTC, and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. Beneficial interests in any of the notes will be shown on, and transfers will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee, and any such interest may not be exchanged for certificated securities, except in limited circumstances.
No Prior Market	The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We have been advised by the representatives of the underwriters that certain underwriters intend to make a market in the notes but are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the notes.
No Listing	We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange. Our common stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RWT.
Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations	For certain material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes and the shares of our common stock into which the notes are convertible, see Supplemental U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations in this prospectus supplement and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations in the accompanying prospectus.

**Trustee, Paying Agent and
Conversion Agent** Wilmington Trust, National Association.

S-6

Table of Contents

Use of Proceeds

We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ million (or approximately \$ million if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full), after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of debt, including a portion of the \$250 million outstanding aggregate principal amount of our 2018 Notes repurchased in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions or repaid at maturity on April 15, 2018. We may also use a portion of the net proceeds to fund our business and investment activity, which may include funding purchases of residential mortgage loans and acquiring mortgage-backed securities for our investment portfolio, as well as for other general corporate purposes.

Pending such uses, we may use a portion of the net proceeds from this offering to temporarily reduce borrowings under our short-term residential loan warehouse facilities and our short-term real estate securities repurchase facilities. We may subsequently re-borrow amounts under our short-term residential loan warehouse facilities and our short-term real estate securities repurchase facilities to fund our business and investment activity, as described above. See Use of Proceeds on page S-20.

Risk Factors

See Risk Factors on page S-10 for a discussion of factors that should be considered before investing in the notes.

Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Common Stock

To assist us in satisfying the requirements for qualification as a REIT, our charter prohibits any person from acquiring or holding beneficial ownership of shares of our common stock representing in excess of 9.8%, in number of shares or value, of the outstanding shares of our common stock (the Charter Limitation), unless our board of directors waives or modifies this ownership limit. We have previously granted limited waivers of this prohibition and, subject to the approval of our board of directors, we may grant additional waivers at any time. The indenture will provide that, notwithstanding any other provision of the indenture, no holder of notes will be entitled to receive shares of our common stock upon conversion to the extent (but only to the extent) that such receipt would cause such converting holder to violate the Charter Limitation. Any purported delivery of shares of common stock upon conversion of notes shall be void and have no effect to the extent (but only to the extent) that such delivery would result in the converting holder violating the Charter Limitation. In addition, our charter contains various other restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our common stock. See Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer and Repurchase of Shares on page 29 of the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents**Summary consolidated financial data**

We derived the summary consolidated financial data for the three years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, and as of December 31, 2016, from our audited consolidated financial statements. We derived the summary unaudited consolidated financial data for the six months ended June 30, 2017 and 2016, and as of June 30, 2017, from our unaudited consolidated interim financial statements. The following information should be read in conjunction with our audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements and consolidated financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Our historical results are not necessary indicative of the results that may be expected in the future, and our interim results are not necessarily indicative of the results for the full year or any future period. For more details on how you can obtain our SEC reports and other information, you should read the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled "Where You Can Find More Information."

	Six months ended		Years ended December 31,		
	2017	June 30, 2016	2016	2015	2014
	(In thousands, except share and per share data)				
Interest Income					
Residential loans	\$ 70,997	\$ 66,554	\$ 137,804	\$ 114,715	\$ 68,949
Commercial loans	345	22,381	30,496	46,933	47,567
Real estate securities	41,643	39,512	76,873	97,448	125,482
Other interest income	867	668	1,182	336	72
Total interest income	113,852	129,115	246,355	259,432	242,070
Interest Expense					
Short-term debt	(13,803)	(12,034)	(22,287)	(30,572)	(25,990)
Asset-backed securities issued	(7,235)	(8,264)	(14,735)	(21,469)	(31,227)
Long-term debt	(24,227)	(26,096)	(51,506)	(43,842)	(30,246)
Total interest expense	(45,265)	(46,394)	(88,528)	(95,883)	(87,463)
Net Interest Income	68,587	82,721	157,827	163,549	154,607
Reversal of (Provision for) loan losses		6,243	7,102	355	(961)
Net Interest Income After Provision	68,587	88,964	164,929	163,904	153,646
Non-interest Income					
Mortgage banking activities, net	29,650	14,946	38,691	10,972	34,994
Mortgage servicing rights income (loss), net	4,491	9,064	14,353	(3,922)	(4,261)
Investment fair value changes, net	9,666	(30,604)	(28,574)	(21,357)	(10,202)
Other income	2,170	2,514	6,338	3,192	1,781
Realized gains, net	7,075	19,422	28,009	36,369	15,478

Edgar Filing: REDWOOD TRUST INC - Form 424B5

Total non-interest income, net	53,052	15,342	58,817	25,254	37,790
Operating expenses	(36,867)	(50,607)	(88,786)	(97,416)	(90,123)
Net Income before Provision for Income Taxes	84,772	53,699	134,960	91,742	101,313
(Provision for) Benefit from income taxes	(11,479)	(355)	(3,708)	10,346	(744)
Net Income	\$ 73,293	\$ 53,344	\$ 131,252	\$ 102,088	\$ 100,569
Basic earnings per common share	\$ 0.93	\$ 0.67	\$ 1.66	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.18
Diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.67	\$ 1.54	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.15
Regular dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.56	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.12
Basic weighted average shares outstanding	76,779,178	76,901,255	76,747,047	82,945,103	82,837,369
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	97,718,550	88,728,380	97,909,090	84,518,395	85,098,579

S-8

Table of Contents

June 30, 2017 **December 31, 2016**
(In thousands, except share and per share data)

Balance sheet data:		
ASSETS⁽¹⁾		
Residential loans, held-for-sale at fair value	\$ 837,371	\$ 835,399
Residential loans, held-for-investment, at fair value	3,067,920	3,052,652
Real estate securities, at fair value	1,218,503	1,018,439
Mortgage servicing rights, at fair value	63,770	118,526
Cash and cash equivalents	217,218	212,844
Total earning assets	5,404,782	5,237,860
Restricted cash	2,006	8,623
Accrued interest receivable	20,101	18,454
Derivative assets	12,264	36,595
Other assets	216,329	181,945
Total Assets	\$ 5,655,482	\$ 5,483,477
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY⁽¹⁾		
Liabilities		
Short-term debt ⁽²⁾	\$ 1,294,807	\$ 791,539
Accrued interest payable	9,939	9,608
Derivative liabilities	69,175	66,329
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	73,185	72,428
Asset-backed securities issued, at fair value	692,606	773,462
Long-term debt, net	2,336,346	2,620,683
Total Liabilities	4,476,058	4,334,049
Equity		
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, 180,000,000 shares authorized; 77,116,875 and 76,834,663 issued and outstanding	771	768
Additional paid-in capital	1,679,475	1,676,486
Accumulated other comprehensive income	69,676	71,853
Cumulative earnings	1,223,228	1,149,935
Cumulative distributions to stockholders	(1,793,726)	(1,749,614)
Total Equity	1,179,424	1,149,428
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 5,655,482	\$ 5,483,477
Recourse senior debt to equity ⁽³⁾	3.0x	2.9x
Recourse debt to equity ⁽⁴⁾	3.1x	3.0x

(1)

Our consolidated balance sheets include assets of consolidated variable interest entities (VIEs) that can only be used to settle obligations of these VIEs and liabilities of consolidated VIEs for which creditors do not have recourse to Redwood Trust, Inc. or its affiliates. At June 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, assets of consolidated VIEs totaled \$713 million and \$798 million, respectively. At June 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, liabilities of consolidated VIEs totaled \$693 million and \$774 million, respectively.

- (2) Includes short-term borrowing facilities and, at June 30, 2017, the \$250 million outstanding principal amount of our 2018 Notes reclassified during the three months ended June 30, 2017 from long-term debt to short-term debt.
- (3) Excludes asset-backed securities issued by securitization entities consolidated for financial reporting purposes of \$693 million and \$774 million at June 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively, for which Redwood Trust does not have recourse liability. Also excludes an aggregate of \$140 million of subordinated debt issued by Redwood Trust at June 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016.
- (4) Excludes asset-backed securities issued by securitization entities consolidated for financial reporting purposes of \$693 million and \$774 million at June 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively, for which Redwood Trust does not have recourse liability.

Table of Contents

Risk factors

Investing in the notes being offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus involves a high degree of risk. Before deciding whether to invest in the notes, you should consider carefully the risk factors described below, the risk factors incorporated herein by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 and the risk factors contained in any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering. If any of these risks actually occur, it may materially harm our business, financial condition, operating results or cash flow. As a result, the market price of our common stock, and, in turn, the trading price of the notes, could decline, and you could lose part or all of your investment. Additional risks and uncertainties that are not yet identified or that we think are immaterial may also materially harm our business, operating results and financial condition and could result in a complete loss of your investment.

Risks related to the notes, our common stock and this offering

The notes are effectively subordinated to any of our existing and future secured debt and structurally subordinated to the liabilities of our subsidiaries.

The notes will be our general unsecured obligations and will rank equal in right of payment with any of our other senior unsecured indebtedness, including our 2018 Notes and our guarantee of the 2019 Notes, and senior in right of payment to any of our existing and future indebtedness that is contractually subordinated to the notes. The notes, however, will be effectively subordinated to our existing and future secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness. As of June 30, 2017, on a consolidated basis, Redwood and our subsidiaries had \$3.0 billion in outstanding secured indebtedness and \$451 million in outstanding senior unsecured indebtedness, in each case exclusive of trade and other payables. The provisions of the indenture governing the notes will not prohibit us from incurring additional secured indebtedness in the future. Consequently, in the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to us, the holders of any secured indebtedness will be entitled to proceed directly against the collateral securing such indebtedness. Therefore, such collateral will not be available for satisfaction of any amounts owed under our unsecured indebtedness, including the notes, until such secured indebtedness is satisfied in full.

Our subsidiaries will not guarantee the notes. Accordingly, the notes will also be structurally subordinated to all existing and future unsecured and secured liabilities and preferred equity of our subsidiaries, including trade creditors and our subsidiary's obligations under the 2019 Notes. In the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to any such subsidiary, we, as a common equity owner of such subsidiary, and, therefore, holders of our debt, including holders of the notes, will be subject to the prior claims of such subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors, and preferred equity holders. As of June 30, 2017, the aggregate amount of secured liabilities of our subsidiaries was \$3.0 billion and the aggregate amount of unsecured liabilities of our subsidiaries was \$272 million, including the 2019 Notes, in each case including trade and other payables and excluding intercompany liabilities, and our operating subsidiaries had no outstanding preferred equity. The provisions of the indenture governing the notes will not prohibit our subsidiaries from incurring additional indebtedness or issuing preferred equity in the future.

Our significant level of indebtedness and liabilities could limit cash flow available for our operations, expose us to risks that could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations and impair our ability to satisfy our obligations under the notes.

We have now and, following the consummation of this offering, will continue to have a significant amount of indebtedness and liabilities. As of June 30, 2017, our total consolidated liabilities (excluding asset-backed

S-10

Table of Contents

securities issued by consolidated Sequoia entities, for which we are not liable) was \$3.8 billion. We will incur \$225.0 million of additional indebtedness if and when we sell the notes, or \$258.75 million of additional indebtedness if the underwriters exercise in full their over-allotment option to purchase additional notes. We may also incur additional indebtedness to meet future financing needs. Our indebtedness could have significant negative consequences for our business, results of operations and financial condition, including:

increasing our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions;

limiting our ability to obtain additional financing;

requiring the dedication of a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to service our indebtedness, thereby reducing the amount of our cash flow available for other purposes;

limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business;

dilution experienced by our existing stockholders as a result of the conversion of any of our convertible debt, including the notes offered hereby, or exchange of any of our exchangeable debt, into shares of common stock; and

placing us at a possible competitive disadvantage with less leveraged competitors and competitors that may have better access to capital resources.

We cannot assure you that we will continue to maintain sufficient cash reserves or that our business will continue to generate cash flow from operations at levels sufficient to permit us to pay principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness, or that our cash needs will not increase. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow or otherwise obtain funds necessary to make required payments, or if we fail to comply with the various requirements of the notes to be offered and sold in this offering, or any other indebtedness then outstanding, we would be in default, which would permit the holders of the affected indebtedness to accelerate the maturity of such indebtedness and could cause defaults under our other indebtedness. Any default under these notes or any other indebtedness could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. For an additional discussion of our outstanding indebtedness, see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Risks Relating to Debt Incurred under Short- and Long-Term Borrowing Facilities included in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 incorporated herein by reference.

We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to repurchase the notes as required upon a fundamental change, and our other then-existing debt may contain limitations on our ability to pay cash upon such repurchase of the notes.

Following a fundamental change as described under Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes, holders of notes will have the right to require us to purchase their notes for cash. A fundamental change would also require us to offer to repurchase all of our outstanding 2018 Notes and all of the outstanding 2019 Notes for cash and may also constitute an event of default or prepayment under, and result in the acceleration of the maturity of, our then-existing indebtedness. We cannot assure you that we will have sufficient

financial resources, or will be able to arrange financing, to pay the fundamental change repurchase price in cash with respect to any notes, 2018 Notes or 2019 Notes surrendered by holders for repurchase upon a fundamental change. In addition, restrictions in our then-existing credit facilities or other indebtedness may not allow us to repurchase the notes, the 2018 Notes and the 2019 Notes upon a fundamental change. Our failure to repurchase the notes, the 2018 Notes and the 2019 Notes upon a fundamental change when required would result in an event of default with respect to the notes, the 2018 Notes or the 2019 Notes, as applicable, which could, in turn, constitute a default under the terms of our other

S-11

Table of Contents

indebtedness. If the repayment of the related indebtedness were to be accelerated after any applicable notice or grace periods, we may not have sufficient funds to repay the indebtedness and repurchase the notes.

Management may invest or spend the proceeds of this offering in ways with which you may not agree and in ways that may not yield a return to our stockholders.

Management will retain broad discretion over the use of proceeds from this public offering. Stockholders and holders of the notes may not deem such uses desirable, and our use of the proceeds may not yield a significant return or any return at all for our stockholders. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of debt, including a portion of the \$250 million outstanding aggregate principal amount of our 2018 Notes repurchased in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions or repaid at maturity on April 15, 2018. We may also use a portion of the net proceeds to fund our business and investment activity, which may include funding purchases of residential mortgage loans and acquiring mortgage-backed securities for our investment portfolio, as well as for other general corporate purposes. Pending such uses, we may use a portion of the net proceeds from this offering to temporarily reduce borrowings under our short-term residential loan warehouse facilities and our short-term real estate securities repurchase facilities. We may subsequently re-borrow amounts under our short-term residential loan warehouse facilities and our short-term real estate securities repurchase facilities to fund our business and investment activity, as described above. Because of the number and variability of factors that determine our use of the proceeds from this offering, our actual uses of the proceeds from this offering may vary substantially from our currently planned uses.

The conversion rate of the notes may not be adjusted for all dilutive events.

The conversion rate of the notes is subject to adjustment for certain events, including, but not limited to, certain dividends on our common stock, the issuance of certain rights, options or warrants to holders of our common stock, subdivisions or combinations of our common stock, certain distributions of assets, debt securities, capital stock, cash or other property to holders of our common stock and certain tender or exchange offers, as described under

Description of Notes Conversion Rights Conversion Rate Adjustments in this prospectus supplement. The conversion rate will not be adjusted for other events, such as a payment of certain dividends on our common stock or an issuance of our common stock for cash, that may adversely affect the trading price of the notes and the market price of our common stock. An event may occur that is adverse to the interests of the holders of the notes and their value, but that does not result in an adjustment to the conversion rate.

Some significant restructuring transactions may not constitute fundamental changes, in which case we would not be obligated to offer to repurchase the notes.

Upon the occurrence of specified fundamental changes, you will have the option to require us to repurchase all or any portion of your notes as described under Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes. However, the definition of fundamental change is limited to specified corporate events and may not include other events that might adversely affect our financial condition or the trading price of the notes. For example, events such as leveraged recapitalizations, refinancings, restructurings or acquisitions initiated by us may not constitute a fundamental change requiring us to repurchase the notes. If any such event occurs, the holders of the notes would not have the right to require us to repurchase the notes, even though each of these transactions could increase the amount of our indebtedness, or otherwise adversely affect our capital structure or any credit ratings, thereby adversely affecting the trading price of the notes.

Table of Contents

The adjustment to the conversion rate for notes converted in connection with certain make-whole fundamental change transactions may not adequately compensate holders for the lost option value of their notes as a result of any such transaction. In addition, the definition of a make-whole fundamental change is limited and may not protect you from losing some of the option value of your notes in the event of a variety of transactions that do not constitute a make-whole fundamental change.

If certain transactions that constitute a make-whole fundamental change occur, then, under certain circumstances and subject to certain limitations, we will increase the conversion rate by a number of additional shares of our common stock. This increased conversion rate will apply only to holders who convert their notes in connection with such transaction. The number of additional shares of our common stock will be determined based on the date on which the make-whole fundamental change transaction becomes effective and the price paid (or deemed paid) per share of our common stock in such transaction, as described under Description of Notes Conversion Rights Adjustment to Shares Delivered Upon Conversion Upon Make-Whole Fundamental Change in this prospectus supplement.

While the increase in the conversion rate is designed to compensate holders for the lost option value of the notes as a result of such transaction, the increase in the conversion rate is only an approximation of such lost value and may not adequately compensate holders for such loss. In addition, notwithstanding the foregoing, if the price paid (or deemed paid) for our common stock in any such transaction is greater than \$ per share or less than \$ per share (in each case, subject to adjustment in accordance with the indenture), then we will not be required to adjust the conversion rate if you convert your notes in connection with such transaction. Moreover, in no event will the total number of shares of our common stock issuable upon the conversion of the notes exceed per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances.

Furthermore, the definition of make-whole fundamental change that will be contained in the indenture is limited to certain enumerated transactions. As a result, the make-whole fundamental change provisions of the indenture will not afford protection to holders of the notes in the event that other transactions occur that could adversely affect the option value of the notes. For example, transactions, such as certain spin-offs or sales of a subsidiary with volatile earnings, or a change in our subsidiaries lines of business, could significantly affect the trading characteristics of our common stock and thereby reduce the option value embedded in the notes without triggering a make-whole fundamental change.

Our obligation to increase the conversion rate upon certain make-whole fundamental change transactions could be considered a penalty, in which case its enforceability would be subject to general principles of reasonableness of economic remedies.

The issuance of additional stock will dilute all other stockholdings and could affect the market price of our common stock and, therefore, the trading price of the notes.

As of June 30, 2017, we had an aggregate of approximately 68.3 million shares of common stock authorized but unissued and not reserved for issuance under our equity compensation plans. We may issue all of these shares without any action or approval by our stockholders. The issuance of these unreserved shares, as well as any shares of our common stock issued in connection with the exercise of stock options, restricted stock units or convertible or derivative instruments, or otherwise, would dilute the percentage ownership held by the investors who purchase our notes in this offering. In addition, we may issue a substantial number of shares of our common stock upon conversion of the notes or our other convertible debt or upon exchange of our exchangeable debt.

Table of Contents

There is currently no trading market for the notes, and an active trading market for the notes may not develop or, if it develops, may not be maintained.

The notes will be new securities for which there is no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any securities exchange or for quotation of the notes on any automated dealer quotation system. Although certain of the underwriters have informed us that they intend to make a market in the notes, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue market making at any time without notice. Accordingly, an active trading market may not develop for the notes and, even if one develops, such market may not be maintained. If an active trading market for the notes does not develop or is not maintained, the market price and liquidity of the notes is likely to be adversely affected and holders may not be able to sell their notes at desired times and prices, or at all. If any of the notes are traded after their purchase, they may trade at a discount from their purchase price.

The liquidity of the trading market, if any, and future trading prices of the notes will depend on many factors, including, among other things, the market price of our common stock, prevailing interest rates, our dividend yield, financial condition, results of operations, business, prospects and credit quality relative to our competitors, the market for similar securities and the overall securities market, and may be adversely affected by unfavorable changes in any of these factors, some of which are beyond our control and others of which may not affect debt that is not convertible into capital stock. Historically, the market for convertible debt has been volatile. Market volatility could materially and adversely affect the notes, regardless of our financial condition, results of operations, business, prospects or credit quality.

An increase in market interest rates may reduce the trading price of the notes.

In general, as market interest rates rise, notes bearing interest at fixed rates decline in value. Consequently, if market interest rates increase, the trading price of the notes we are offering may decline. We cannot predict the future level of market interest rates.

Recent and future regulatory actions and other events may adversely affect the trading price and liquidity of the notes.

We expect that many investors in, and potential purchasers of, the notes will employ, or seek to employ, a convertible arbitrage strategy with respect to the notes. Investors would typically implement such a strategy by selling short the common stock underlying the notes and dynamically adjusting their short position while continuing to hold the notes. Investors may also implement this type of strategy by entering into swaps on our common stock in lieu of or in addition to short selling the common stock.

The SEC and other regulatory and self-regulatory authorities have implemented various rules and taken certain actions, and may in the future adopt additional rules and take other actions, that may impact those engaging in short selling activity involving equity securities (including our common stock). Such rules and actions include Rule 201 of SEC Regulation SHO, the adoption by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. of a Limit Up-Limit Down program, the imposition of market-wide circuit breakers that halt trading of securities for certain periods following specific market declines and the implementation of certain regulatory reforms required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. Any governmental or regulatory action that restricts the ability of investors in, or potential purchasers of, the notes to effect short sales of our common stock or enter into swaps on our common stock could adversely affect the trading price and the liquidity of the notes.

In addition, if investors and potential purchasers seeking to employ a convertible arbitrage strategy are unable to borrow or enter into swaps on our common stock, in each case on commercially reasonable terms, the trading price

and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected.

S-14

Table of Contents

Investing in the notes and in our common stock may involve a high degree of risk. Holders of the notes, as potential holders of our common stock, may experience losses, volatility and poor liquidity, and we may reduce our dividends in a variety of circumstances.

An investment in the notes and in our common stock may involve a high degree of risk, particularly when compared to other types of investments. Risks related to the economy, the financial markets, our industry, our investing activity, our other business activities, our financial results, the amount of dividends we distribute, the manner in which we conduct our business and the way we have structured and limited our operations could result in a reduction in, or the elimination of, the value of our common stock, and in turn, of the notes. The level of risk associated with an investment in the notes and in our common stock may not be suitable for the risk tolerance of many investors. Investors may experience volatile returns and material losses. In addition, the trading volume of our common stock (*i.e.*, its liquidity) may be insufficient to allow investors to sell their common stock when they want to or at a price they consider reasonable.

Our earnings, cash flows, book value, and dividends can be volatile and difficult to predict. Investors in the notes and in our common stock should not rely on our estimates, projections or predictions, or on management's beliefs about future events. In particular, the sustainability of our earnings and our cash flows will depend on numerous factors, including our level of investment activity, our access to debt and equity financing, the returns we earn, the amount and timing of credit losses, payment rates on residential mortgage loans we invest in or that underlie the mortgage-backed securities we invest in, the expense of running our business and other factors, including the risk factors described herein and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, as supplemented by our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2017. As a consequence, although we seek to pay a regular common stock dividend rate that is sustainable, we may reduce our regular dividend rate, or stop paying dividends, in the future for a variety of reasons. We may not provide public warnings of dividend reductions prior to their occurrence. Although we have paid special dividends in the past, we have not paid a special dividend since 2007, and we may not do so in the future. Changes to the amount of dividends we distribute may result in a reduction in the value of our common stock and, in turn, of the notes.

A limited number of institutional stockholders own a significant percentage of our common stock, which could have adverse consequences to other holders of our common stock and holders of the notes, as potential holders of our common stock.

As of August 1, 2017, based on filings on Schedule 13G with the SEC, we believe that six institutional stockholders each beneficially owned approximately 5% or more of our outstanding common stock, and we believe based on data obtained from other public sources that, overall, 25 institutional stockholders beneficially owned, in the aggregate, approximately 70% of our outstanding common stock. Furthermore, one or more of these investors or other investors could significantly increase their ownership of our common stock. Significant ownership stakes held by these individual institutions or other investors could have adverse consequences for other stockholders and holders of the notes, as potential holders of our common stock, because each of these stockholders will have a significant influence over the outcome of matters submitted to a vote of our stockholders, including the election of our directors and transactions involving a change in control. In addition, should any of these significant stockholders determine to liquidate all or a significant portion of their holdings of our common stock, it could have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock and, in turn, of the notes.

Although, under our charter, stockholders are generally precluded from beneficially owning more than 9.8% of our outstanding common stock, we have granted limited waivers of this restriction to a limited number of institutional stockholders. We may amend this agreement or enter into other agreements with other

Table of Contents

stockholders in the future, in each case in a manner that may allow for increases in the concentration of the ownership of our common stock held by one or more stockholders.

Future sales of our common stock by us or by our directors or officers could adversely affect the market price of our common stock and, in turn, the trading price of the notes and our ability to raise funds in a new securities offering.

We may issue additional shares of common stock in subsequent public offerings or private placements. In addition, we may issue additional shares of common stock upon conversion of the notes or our other convertible debt or upon exchange of our exchangeable debt, to participants in our direct stock purchase and dividend reinvestment plan and to our directors, officers and employees under our employee stock purchase plan and our incentive plan, including upon the exercise of, or in respect of, distributions on equity awards previously granted thereunder. We are not required to offer any such shares to existing stockholders on a preemptive basis. Therefore, it may not be possible for existing stockholders to participate in future share issuances, which may dilute existing stockholders' interests in us. In addition, if market participants buy shares in issuances by us in the future, it may reduce or eliminate any purchases of our common stock they might otherwise make in the open market, which in turn could have the effect of reducing the volume of shares of our common stock traded in the marketplace, which could reduce the market price and liquidity of our common stock and, in turn, the trading price of the notes and our ability to raise funds in a new securities offering.

As of August 1, 2017, our current directors and executive officers beneficially owned, in the aggregate, approximately 2.4% of our common stock. Certain sales of shares of our common stock by these individuals are required to be publicly reported and are tracked by many market participants as a factor in making their own investment decisions. As a result, future sales by these individuals could negatively affect the market price of our common stock and, in turn, the trading price of the notes and our ability to raise funds in a new securities offering.

We and each of our directors and executive officers have entered into lock up agreements with the underwriters of this offering pursuant to which we and our directors and executive officers, with limited exceptions, for a period of 75 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, may not, without the prior written consent of the representatives of the underwriters, sell or transfer any shares of our common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock. The representatives of the underwriters may, in their sole discretion, at any time from time to time, waive in writing the terms and conditions of these lock up agreements.

Holders of our common stock may not receive dividend distributions, or dividend distributions may decrease over time. Changes in the amount of dividend distributions we pay or in the tax characterization of dividend distributions we pay may adversely affect the market price of our common stock and, in turn, the trading price of the notes and our ability to raise funds in new securities offerings.

Our dividend distributions are driven by a variety of factors, including our minimum dividend distribution requirements under the REIT tax laws and our REIT taxable income as calculated pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code. We generally intend to distribute to our stockholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income, although our reported financial results for GAAP purposes may differ materially from our REIT taxable income.

For 2016 and the first two quarters of 2017, we paid our regular dividend at a rate of \$0.28 per share per quarter. Our ability to continue to pay a dividend of \$0.28 per share per quarter in the future may be adversely affected by a number of factors, including the risk factors described herein and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, as supplemented by our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the

Table of Contents

quarter ended June 30, 2017. These same factors may affect our ability to pay other future dividends. In addition, to the extent we determine that future dividends would represent a return of capital to investors, rather than the distribution of income, we may determine to discontinue dividend payments until such time that dividends would again represent a distribution of income. Any reduction or elimination of our payment of dividend distributions would not only reduce the amount of dividends you would receive as a holder of our common stock, but could also have the effect of reducing the market price of our common stock and, in turn, the trading price of the notes and our ability to raise funds in new securities offerings.

In addition, the characterization of our dividend be it ordinary income, capital gains, or a return of capital could have an impact on the market price of our common stock and, in turn, the trading price of the notes and our ability to raise funds in new stock offerings.

You may be subject to tax upon an adjustment to, or a failure to adjust, the conversion rate of the notes even though you do not receive a corresponding cash distribution.

The conversion rate of the notes is subject to adjustment in certain circumstances, including the payment of certain cash dividends. If the conversion rate is adjusted as a result of a distribution that is taxable to our common stockholders, such as a cash dividend, you may be deemed to have received a dividend subject to U.S. federal income tax without the receipt of any cash. In addition, a failure to adjust (or adjust adequately) the conversion rate after an event that increases your proportionate interest in us could be treated as a deemed taxable dividend to you. If a make-whole fundamental change adjustment event occurs prior to the maturity date of the notes, then, under some circumstances, we will increase the conversion rate for notes converted in connection with such make-whole fundamental change. Such increase may also be treated as a distribution subject to U.S. federal income tax as a dividend. If you are a Non-U.S. Holder (as defined in *Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations* in the accompanying prospectus), any deemed dividend would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable treaty. If we pay withholding taxes on behalf of a holder, we may set off any such payment against payments of cash and common stock payable on the notes (or, in some circumstances, against any payments on the common stock). See *Supplemental U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations*.

Provisions of Maryland law, our charter and bylaws and the indenture governing the notes may impede or discourage a takeover, which could cause the market price of our common stock to decline.

Provisions of our charter and bylaws, as well as provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law, or the MGCL, could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, even if doing so would benefit our stockholders. In order to maintain our qualifications as a REIT, not more than 50% in value of our outstanding capital stock may be owned, actually or constructively, by five or fewer individuals (defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include certain entities). In order to protect us against the risk of losing our qualification as a REIT due to concentration of ownership of our outstanding stock, our charter generally prohibits any single stockholder, or any group of affiliated stockholders, from beneficially owning more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of any class of our stock, unless our board of directors waives or modifies this ownership limit. This limitation may preclude an acquisition of control of us by a third party without the consent of our board of directors.

Certain other provisions contained in our charter and bylaws and in the MGCL may discourage a third-party from making an acquisition proposal for us and may therefore inhibit a change in control. Our charter includes provisions granting our board of directors the authority to cause us to issue preferred stock from time to time and to establish the terms, preferences and rights of the preferred stock without the approval of our stockholders. In addition, provisions in our charter and bylaws and the MGCL restrict our stockholders' ability to

S-17

Table of Contents

remove directors and fill vacancies on our board of directors and restrict the voting rights of shares of our common stock acquired in excess of certain ownership thresholds. These provisions and others may delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change of control that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders and holders of the notes we are offering.

The repurchase rights in the notes triggered by the occurrence of a fundamental change, as described under the heading *Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes*, and the additional shares of our common stock by which the conversion rate may be increased in connection with certain make-whole fundamental change transactions, as described under the heading *Description of Notes Conversion Rights Adjustment to Shares Delivered Upon Conversion Upon Make-Whole Fundamental Change*, could also discourage a potential acquirer.

Ownership limitations in our charter may limit the ability of holders to convert notes into our common stock.

To assist us in satisfying the requirements for qualification as a REIT, our charter prohibits any person from acquiring or holding beneficial ownership of shares of our common stock representing in excess of 9.8%, in number of shares or value, of the outstanding shares of our common stock, or the Charter Limitation, unless our board of directors waives or modifies this ownership limit. Notwithstanding any other provision of the indenture, no holder of notes will be entitled to receive shares of our common stock upon conversion to the extent (but only to the extent) that such receipt would cause such converting holder to violate the Charter Limitation. Any purported delivery of shares of common stock upon conversion of notes shall be void and have no effect to the extent (but only to the extent) that such delivery would result in the converting holder violating the Charter Limitation. If any delivery of shares of our common stock owed to a holder upon conversion of notes is not made, in whole or in part, as a result of the Charter Limitation, our obligation to make such delivery shall not be extinguished, and we will deliver such shares as promptly as practicable after any such converting holder gives notice to us that such delivery would not result in such converting holder being in violation of the Charter Limitation.

The notes may not be rated or may receive a lower rating than anticipated.

We do not intend to seek a rating on the notes. However, if one or more rating agencies rates the notes and assigns the notes a rating lower than the rating expected by investors, or reduces their rating in the future, the trading price of the notes and the market price of our common stock could be harmed. In addition, the trading price of the notes is directly affected by market perceptions of our creditworthiness. Consequently, if a credit ratings agency rates any of our debt in the future or downgrades or withdraws any such rating, or puts us on credit watch, the trading price of the notes is likely to decline.

The notes are not protected by restrictive covenants.

The indenture governing the notes will not contain any financial or operating covenants or restrictions on the payments of dividends, the incurrence of indebtedness or the issuance or repurchase of securities by us or any of our subsidiaries. The indenture governing the notes will not contain any covenants or other provisions to afford protection to holders of the notes in the event of a fundamental change involving us except to the extent described under *Description of Notes Conversion Rights Recapitalizations, Reclassifications and Changes of Our Common Stock*, *Description of Notes Conversion Rights Adjustment to Shares Delivered Upon Conversion Upon Make-Whole Fundamental Change*, *Description of Notes Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes* and *Description of Notes Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets*.

Table of Contents

Holders of the notes will not, as such, be entitled to any rights with respect to our common stock but will be subject to all changes made with respect to our common stock.

Holders of the notes will not, as such, be entitled to any rights with respect to our common stock (including, without limitation, voting rights and rights to receive any dividends or other distributions on our common stock), but holders of the notes will be subject to all changes affecting our common stock. Holders of the notes will not be entitled to the rights of the common stock underlying such notes, except to the extent they convert such notes, and, in such case, will be deemed to be the record holder of such notes as of the related conversion date. For example, if an amendment is proposed to our charter or bylaws requiring stockholder approval and the record date for determining the stockholders of record entitled to vote on the amendment occurs prior to the conversion date of any note, then the holder of such note will not be entitled to vote the shares due upon conversion on the amendment, although such holder will, upon conversion, nevertheless be subject to any changes affecting our common stock.

Table of Contents

Use of proceeds

We estimate that the net proceeds we will receive from this offering will be approximately \$ million (\$ million if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full), after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of debt, including a portion of the \$250 million outstanding aggregate principal amount of our 2018 Notes repurchased in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions or repaid at maturity on April 15, 2018. We may also use a portion of the net proceeds to fund our business and investment activity, which may include funding purchases of residential mortgage loans and acquiring mortgage-backed securities for our investment portfolio, as well as for other general corporate purposes. Including amortization of deferred securities issuance costs, the weighted average interest expense yield on the 2018 Notes is approximately 5.2% per annum.

Pending such uses, we may use a portion of the net proceeds from this offering to temporarily reduce borrowings under our short-term residential loan warehouse facilities and our short-term real estate securities repurchase facilities. At June 30, 2017, we had four residential loan warehouse facilities with an aggregate outstanding balance of approximately \$575.3 million, a weighted average interest rate of 2.80%, and maturities from August 2017 through March 2018, with weighted average days until maturity of 243. At June 30, 2017, we had eight real estate securities repurchase facilities with an aggregate outstanding balance of approximately \$469.5 million, a weighted average interest rate of 2.35%, and maturities from July 2017 through September 2017 with weighted average days until maturity of 22. We may subsequently re-borrow amounts under our short-term residential loan warehouse facilities and our short-term real estate securities repurchase facilities to fund our business and investment activity, as described above.

Affiliates of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC are holders of our 2018 Notes. Such affiliates may receive a portion of the proceeds from this offering to the extent the proceeds are used to repurchase or repay the 2018 Notes. Affiliates of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC are lenders under our short-term residential loan warehouse facilities and our short-term real estate securities repurchase facilities and may receive a portion of the proceeds from this offering from any amounts repaid under such facilities. See [Underwriting](#).

The information disclosed under [Use of Proceeds](#) above and elsewhere in this prospectus supplement is solely for informational purposes and is not an offer to purchase, or the solicitation of an offer to purchase, the 2018 Notes.

Table of Contents**Ratio of earnings to fixed charges**

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the six months ended June 30, 2017 and each of the previous five years ended December 31 were as follows:

	Six months ended June 30,		Years ended December 31,			
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	3.69x	3.04x	2.40x	2.65x	3.90x	2.20x

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges represents the number of times fixed charges are covered by earnings. Fixed charges consist of interest on outstanding long-term debt and asset-backed securities issued, as well as associated amortization of debt discount and deferred issuance costs. The proportion deemed representative of the interest factor of operating lease expense has not been deducted as the total operating lease expense in itself was de minimis and did not affect the ratios in a material way. Earnings consist of consolidated income before income taxes and fixed charges.

Table of Contents**Capitalization**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and our capitalization as of June 30, 2017:

on an actual basis; and

on an as adjusted basis to reflect the sale of the notes, assuming the underwriters do not exercise their over-allotment option to purchase additional notes and after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

The following information should be read in conjunction with our unaudited consolidated financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. For more details on how you can obtain our SEC reports and other information, you should read the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled "Where You Can Find More Information."

(In thousands, except share and per share data)	As of June 30, 2017	
	Actual	As adjusted
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 217,218	\$
Short-term debt:		
4.625% convertible senior notes due 2018 ⁽¹⁾	\$ 250,442	\$ 250,442
Short-term debt facilities	1,044,794	1,044,794
Long-term debt:		
5.625% exchangeable senior notes due 2019 ⁽¹⁾	200,765	200,765
Trust preferred securities and subordinated notes ⁽¹⁾	139,500	139,500
FHLBC borrowings	1,999,999	1,999,999
Principal amount of % convertible senior notes due 2023 offered hereby		225,000
Total debt	3,635,500	3,860,500
Equity:		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share; 180,000,000 shares authorized and 77,116,875 issued and outstanding, actual and as-adjusted	771	771
Additional paid-in capital	1,679,475	1,679,475
Accumulated other comprehensive income	69,676	69,676
Cumulative earnings	1,223,228	1,223,228
Cumulative distributions to stockholders	(1,793,726)	(1,793,726)
Total equity	1,179,424	1,179,424
Total capitalization	\$ 4,814,924	\$ 5,039,924

(1) Amounts shown for 2018 Notes, 2019 Notes, and trust preferred securities and subordinated notes exclude, in the aggregate, \$4,346 in unamortized deferred issuance costs.

The number of shares of common stock, actual and as adjusted, shown in the table above excludes the following as of June 30, 2017:

the shares of our common stock to be reserved for issuance upon conversion of the notes we are offering;

19,572,468 shares of common stock reserved for issuance upon conversion of the 2018 Notes and upon the exchange of the 2019 Notes;

1,791,305 shares of common stock issuable in respect of vested and unvested deferred stock units; and

1,459,136 shares of common stock issuable in respect of unvested performance stock units (assuming maximum vesting under performance-based vesting formula).

S-22

Table of Contents**Price range of common stock**

Our common stock trades on The New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol RWT. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the reported high and low intraday sales prices per share of our common stock on the NYSE:

	High	Low
Year ended December 31, 2015		
First quarter	\$ 20.43	\$ 17.68
Second quarter	\$ 18.66	\$ 15.65
Third quarter	\$ 16.30	\$ 13.68
Fourth quarter	\$ 14.34	\$ 12.34
Year ended December 31, 2016		
First quarter	\$ 13.99	\$ 9.26
Second quarter	\$ 14.69	\$ 12.40
Third quarter	\$ 15.24	\$ 13.22
Fourth quarter	\$ 16.20	\$ 13.48
Year ending December 31, 2017		
First quarter	\$ 17.05	\$ 14.85
Second quarter	\$ 17.43	\$ 16.20
Third quarter (through August 11, 2017)	\$ 17.45	\$ 15.99

The reported last sale price of our common stock on the NYSE on August 11, 2017 was \$16.83 per share. As of July 31, 2017, we had 680 stockholders of record. In addition, we believe that a significant number of beneficial owners of our common stock hold their shares in street name.

Distribution policy

We generally are required to distribute to our stockholders an amount equal to at least 90% of our REIT taxable income determined before applying the deduction for dividends paid and by excluding net capital gains. Such distributions must be made in the tax year to which they relate or, if declared before the timely filing of our tax return for such year and paid not later than the first regular dividend payment after such declaration, in the following tax year.

If we fail to meet the distribution test as a result of a retroactive adjustment to our REIT taxable income, we may be able to avoid disqualification as a REIT by paying a deficiency dividend within a specified time period and in accordance with other requirements set forth in the Internal Revenue Code. We would be liable for interest based on the amount of the deficiency dividend. A deficiency dividend is not permitted if the deficiency is due to fraud with intent to evade tax or to a willful failure to file a timely tax return. We believe we are in compliance with all our dividend distribution requirements.

Table of Contents

Description of notes

We will issue the notes under an indenture, dated as of March 6, 2013 (the **base indenture**), between us and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee, as supplemented by a supplemental indenture, to be dated as of the date of the initial issuance of the notes (the **supplemental indenture**), between us and the trustee. We refer to the base indenture, as supplemented by the supplemental indenture, as the **indenture**.

The following description is a summary of the material provisions of the notes and the indenture and does not purport to be complete. This summary is subject to and is qualified by reference to all the provisions of the notes and the indenture, including the definitions of certain terms used in the indenture. The terms of the notes include those expressly set forth in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, which we refer to as the Trust Indenture Act.

We urge you to read the indenture because it, and not this description, defines your rights as a holder of the notes. You may request a copy of the indenture from us. The base indenture is incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus is a part. We will file the supplemental indenture by means of a Current Report on Form 8-K. See **Where You Can Find More Information** in this prospectus supplement.

For purposes of this description, references to the **Company**, **we**, **our** and **us** refer only to Redwood Trust, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

General

The notes:

will:

be our general unsecured obligations;

rank equal in right of payment with our other existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness, including our 2018 Notes and our guarantee of the 2019 Notes;

rank senior in right of payment to any existing and future indebtedness that is contractually subordinated to the notes;

be effectively subordinated to all of our existing and future secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the collateral securing such indebtedness; and

be structurally subordinated to the claims of our subsidiaries' creditors, including trade creditors and our subsidiary's obligations under the 2019 Notes;

Edgar Filing: REDWOOD TRUST INC - Form 424B5

will be limited to an aggregate principal amount of \$225,000,000 (or \$258,750,000 if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option to purchase additional notes in full) except as set forth below;

will mature on August 15, 2023 (the maturity date), unless earlier repurchased, redeemed or converted;

only to the extent necessary to preserve our status as a REIT, will be redeemable at our election prior to maturity, at a cash redemption price equal to the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date (as described under Redemption of Notes to Preserve REIT Status);

will be subject to optional repurchase by us at your request upon a fundamental change (as described under Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes);

will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000; and

S-24

Table of Contents

will be represented by one or more registered notes in global form, but in certain limited circumstances may be represented by notes in definitive form.

As of June 30, 2017, on a consolidated basis, Redwood and our subsidiaries had \$3.0 billion in outstanding secured indebtedness and \$451 million in outstanding senior unsecured indebtedness, in each case exclusive of trade and other payables. As of June 30, 2017, the aggregate amount of secured liabilities of our subsidiaries was \$3.0 billion and the aggregate amount of unsecured liabilities of our subsidiaries was \$272 million, in each case including trade and other payables and excluding intercompany liabilities. The indenture does not limit the amount of debt that may be issued by us or our subsidiaries under the indenture or otherwise. Our subsidiaries will not guarantee any of our obligations under the notes. See Risk Factors Risks Related to the Notes, our Common Stock and this Offering The notes are effectively subordinated to any of our existing and future secured debt and structurally subordinated to the liabilities of our subsidiaries.

The notes may be converted into shares of our common stock at an initial conversion rate of _____ shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes (equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$ _____ per share of common stock) at any time prior to the close of business on the second scheduled trading day prior to the maturity date, unless the notes have been previously redeemed or repurchased. The conversion rate is subject to adjustment if certain events occur. You will not be entitled to receive any separate cash payment for interest, if any, accrued and unpaid to the conversion date, except under the limited circumstances described below.

Any conversions of notes into shares of our common stock will be subject to certain ownership limitations more fully described in Ownership Limit; Limitation on Stock Issuable Upon Conversion.

We may, without the consent of the holders, issue additional notes under the indenture with the same terms as the notes offered hereby (except for certain differences, such as the date as of which interest begins to accrue and the first interest payment date for such additional notes) in an unlimited aggregate principal amount; *provided* that if any such additional notes are not fungible with the notes initially offered hereby for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such additional notes will be identified by a separate CUSIP number or by no CUSIP number. We may also from time to time repurchase the notes in open market purchases or negotiated transactions without prior notice to holders.

The registered holder of a note will be treated as the owner of it for all purposes under the indenture.

Other than the restrictions described under Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes and Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets below, and, except for the provisions set forth under Conversion Rights Recapitalizations, Reclassifications and Changes of Our Common Stock and Conversion Rights Adjustment to Shares Delivered Upon Conversion Upon Make-Whole Fundamental Change, the indenture will not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to afford holders of the notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us or in the event of a decline in our credit rating as the result of a takeover, recapitalization, highly leveraged transaction or similar restructuring involving us that could adversely affect such holders.

No sinking fund will be provided for the notes.

We do not intend to list the notes on a national securities exchange or interdealer quotation system.

Payments on the notes; paying agent and registrar

The following description replaces the description set forth under Description of Debt Securities Payment and Paying Agent in the accompanying prospectus in its entirety.

S-25

Table of Contents

We will pay the principal of certificated notes at the office or agency designated by us. We have initially designated a corporate trust office of the trustee as our paying agent and registrar as a place where notes may be presented for payment or for registration of transfer. We may, however, change the paying agent or registrar without prior notice to the holders of the notes, and we may act as paying agent or registrar.

Interest on certificated notes will be payable (i) to holders having an aggregate principal amount of \$2.0 million or less, by check mailed to such holders and (ii) to holders having an aggregate principal amount of more than \$2.0 million, either by check mailed to each such holder or, upon application by such holder to the registrar not later than the relevant record date, by wire transfer in immediately available funds to that holder's account within the United States, which application shall remain in effect until the holder notifies, in writing, the registrar to the contrary.

We will pay the principal of, and interest on notes in global form registered in the name of or held by The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, or its nominee in immediately available funds to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of such global notes.

Exchange and transfer

The following description replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities Exchange and Transfer" in the accompanying prospectus in its entirety.

A holder of notes may transfer or exchange such notes at the office of the registrar in accordance with the indenture. The registrar and the trustee may require a holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents. No service charge will be imposed by us, the trustee or the registrar for any registration of transfer or exchange of notes, but we may require a holder to pay a sum sufficient to cover any transfer tax or other similar governmental charge required by law or permitted by the indenture. We are not required to transfer or exchange any note surrendered for conversion. In addition, we are not required to transfer or exchange any note selected for redemption or surrendered for repurchase by us in the circumstances described under "Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes."

Interest

The notes will bear interest at a rate of $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$ % per year from the date of their initial issuance, or from the most recent date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for. Interest will be payable semi-annually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year, beginning February 15, 2018.

Interest will be paid to the person in whose name a note is registered at the close of business on February 1 or August 1, as the case may be, immediately preceding the relevant interest payment date. Interest will accrue on the notes from the date of initial issuance and will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year composed of twelve 30-day months.

If any interest payment date (other than an interest payment date coinciding with the maturity date) of a note falls on a day that is not a business day, such interest payment date will be postponed to the next succeeding business day and no interest will accrue for such intervening period. If the maturity date would fall on a day that is not a business day, the required payment of interest and principal will be made on the next succeeding business day and no interest on such payment will accrue for the period from and after the maturity date to such next succeeding business day. The term "business day" means any day other than a Saturday or Sunday or any day on which banking institutions are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close in New York, New York; provided, however, that solely for purposes of determining the dates on which payments are due on the notes, a day on which banking institutions in the

applicable place of payment are authorized or required by law or executive order to close will be deemed not to be a business day.

S-26

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise stated or unless the context otherwise requires, all references to interest in this prospectus supplement include additional interest, if any, payable at our election as the sole remedy relating to the failure to comply with our reporting obligations as described under Events of Default.

Conversion rights

General

Holders may convert any of their notes into shares of our common stock at the applicable conversion rate at any time prior to the close of business on the second scheduled trading day prior to the maturity date, unless the notes have been previously repurchased or redeemed by us. Any conversions of notes into shares of our common stock will be subject to certain ownership limitations more fully described in Ownership Limit; Limitation on Stock Issuable Upon Conversion. The initial conversion rate for the notes will be shares of our common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$ per share of our common stock.

If you have already delivered a repurchase notice as described under Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes with respect to a note, you may not surrender that note for conversion until you have withdrawn the notice in accordance with the indenture.

Scheduled trading day means a day that is scheduled to be a trading day on the principal U.S. national securities exchange or market on which our common stock is listed or admitted for trading. If our common stock is not so listed or admitted for trading, scheduled trading day means a business day.

Trading day means a day during which (i) trading in our common stock generally occurs on a U.S. national securities exchange or market and (ii) there is no market disruption event (as defined below). If our common stock is not so traded, trading day means a business day.

Market disruption event means the occurrence or existence on any scheduled trading day for our common stock of any suspension or limitation imposed on trading (by reason of movements in price exceeding limits permitted by the stock exchange or otherwise) in our common stock or in any options contracts or futures contracts relating to our common stock, and such suspension or limitation occurs or exists at any time within the 30 minutes prior to the closing time of the relevant exchange on such day.

The conversion rate and the equivalent conversion price in effect at any given time are referred to as the applicable conversion rate and the applicable conversion price, respectively, and will be subject to adjustment as described below. The applicable conversion price at any given time will be computed by dividing \$1,000 by the applicable conversion rate at such time. A holder may convert fewer than all of such holder's notes so long as the notes converted are an integral multiple of \$1,000 principal amount.

Upon conversion, you will not receive any separate cash payment for accrued and unpaid interest unless the conversion date for such conversion occurs after a regular record date for the payment of interest and on or before the interest payment date to which it relates. Our settlement of conversions as described below under Settlement Upon Conversion will be deemed to satisfy our obligation to pay:

the principal amount of the note; and
accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the conversion date.

As a result, accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the conversion date will be deemed to be paid in full rather than cancelled, extinguished or forfeited.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, if the conversion date for a note occurs after a regular record date for the payment of interest, holders of such notes at the close of business on such regular record date will

S-27

Table of Contents

receive, on or before the corresponding interest payment date, the interest payable on such notes on such interest payment date notwithstanding the conversion. Notes surrendered for conversion with a conversion date occurring after any regular record date for the payment of interest and on or before the immediately following interest payment date must be accompanied by funds equal to the amount of interest payable, on such interest payment date, on the notes so converted, except that no such payment need be made:

if we have specified a redemption date that is after a record date for the payment of interest and on or prior to the business day immediately following the corresponding interest payment date;

if we have specified a fundamental change repurchase date (as defined below) that is after a record date for the payment of interest and on or prior to the business day immediately following the corresponding interest payment date;

to the extent of any overdue interest, if any overdue interest exists at the time of conversion with respect to such notes; or

in respect of any conversions that occur with a conversion date that is after the regular record date for the payment of interest immediately preceding the maturity date.

Therefore, for the avoidance of doubt, all holders on the regular record date immediately preceding the maturity date will receive the full interest payment due on the maturity date regardless of whether their notes have been converted following such record date.

If a holder converts notes, we will pay any documentary, stamp or similar issue or transfer tax due on the issue of any shares of our common stock upon the conversion, unless the tax is due because the holder requests any shares to be issued in a name other than the holder's name, in which case the holder will pay that tax.

Conversion procedures

If you hold a beneficial interest in a global note, to convert you must comply with DTC's procedures for converting a beneficial interest in a global note and, if required, pay funds equal to interest payable on the next interest payment date and, if required, pay all taxes or duties, if any.

If you hold a certificated note, to convert, you must:

complete and manually sign the conversion notice on the back of the note, or a facsimile of the conversion notice;

deliver the conversion notice, which is irrevocable, and the note to the conversion agent;

if required, furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents;

if required, pay all transfer or similar taxes; and

if required, pay funds equal to interest payable on the next interest payment date.

The date you comply with the requirements of the preceding two paragraphs, as applicable, is the conversion date under the indenture.

If you have already delivered a repurchase notice as described under Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes with respect to a note, you may not surrender that note for conversion until you have withdrawn the notice in accordance with the indenture. Your right to withdraw such repurchase notice and convert the notes that are subject to such notice will terminate at the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the relevant fundamental change repurchase date.

S-28

Table of Contents***Settlement upon conversion***

Upon conversion of the notes, a holder will receive, on or prior to the third trading day following the conversion date (except as provided below), a number of shares of common stock equal to (i) (A) the aggregate principal amount of notes to be converted, divided by (B) \$1,000, multiplied by (ii) the applicable conversion rate in effect on the conversion date; *provided, however*, that with respect to any conversion date that occurs on or after the regular record date for the final payment of interest on the notes (*i.e.*, August 1, 2023), we will deliver such shares on the maturity date (or, if the maturity date is not a business day, the next following business day). Notwithstanding the foregoing, we will not deliver any fractional shares upon conversion; instead, we will deliver cash in lieu of fractional shares based on the last reported sale price of our common stock on the conversion date (or, if the conversion date is not a trading day, the next following trading day). We refer to the date on which we are required to deliver the consideration due upon conversion as the conversion settlement date.

The last reported sale price of our common stock on any date means the closing sale price (or if no closing sale price is reported, the average of the last bid and ask prices or, if more than one in either case, the average of the average last bid and the average last ask prices) per share on that date as reported in composite transactions on principal U.S. national securities exchange or market on which our common stock is listed or admitted for trading. If our common stock is not so listed or admitted for trading, the last reported share price of our common stock will be the last quoted bid price per share of our common stock in the over-the-counter market on the relevant trading day as reported by OTC Markets Group Inc. or another similar organization selected by us. If our common stock is not so quoted, the last reported sale price of our common stock will be the average of the midpoint of the last bid and ask prices for shares of our common stock on the relevant date from a nationally recognized independent investment banking firm selected by us for this purpose, which may include one or more of the underwriters.

A converting holder will be deemed to be the record holder of the shares of our common stock deliverable on conversion as of the close of business on the conversion date.

Conversion rate adjustments

The conversion rate will be adjusted as described below, except that we will not make any adjustments to the conversion rate if holders of the notes participate (other than in the case of a share split or share combination), solely as a result of holding the notes, and at the same time and upon the same terms as common stockholders participate, in any of the transactions described below without having to convert their notes, as if such holders of the notes held a number of shares of our common stock equal to the applicable conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the adjustment thereof in respect of such transaction, multiplied by the principal amount (expressed in thousands) of notes held by such holders.

- (1) If we exclusively issue shares of our common stock as a dividend or distribution on all or substantially all shares of our common stock, or if we effect a share split or share combination (in each case, excluding a distribution solely pursuant to a common stock change event, as to which the provisions described below under the caption Recapitalizations, Reclassifications and Changes of Our Common Stock will apply), the conversion rate will be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$CR = CR_x \frac{OS}{OS_0}$$

where,

CR_0 = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the close of business on the record date for such dividend or distribution, or immediately prior to the open of business on the effective date of such share split or combination, as the case may be;

S-29

Table of Contents

CR = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the close of business on such record date or immediately after the open of business on such effective date, as the case may be;

OS₀ = the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to the close of business on such record date or immediately prior to the open of business on such effective date, as the case may be; and

OS = the number of shares of our common stock that will be outstanding immediately after giving effect to such dividend or distribution or such share split or combination, as the case may be.

The foregoing adjustment to the conversion rate made under this clause (1) shall become effective immediately after the close of business on the record date for such dividend or distribution or immediately after the open of business on the effective date of such share split or combination, as the case may be. If any dividend or distribution of the type described in this clause (1) is declared but not so paid or made, the conversion rate shall be immediately readjusted, effective as of the date our board of directors or a committee thereof determines not to pay such dividend or distribution, to the conversion rate that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared.

(2) If we distribute to all or substantially all holders of our common stock any rights, options or warrants entitling them for a period of not more than 45 days after the record date for such distribution to subscribe for or purchase shares of our common stock, at a price per share less than the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement of such distribution (other than rights issued or otherwise distributed pursuant to a preferred stock rights plan, as to which the provisions described below in paragraph (3) and under the caption "Treatment of Rights" will apply), the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$CR = CR_0 \times \frac{OS_0 + X}{OS_0 + Y}$$

where,

CR₀ = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the close of business on the record date for such distribution;

CR = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the close of business on such record date;

OS₀ = the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to the close of business on such record date;

X = the total number of shares of our common stock issuable pursuant to such rights, options or warrants; and

Y = the number of shares of our common stock equal to the aggregate price payable to exercise such rights, options or warrants divided by the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading-day period ending on, and including the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement of such distribution.

The foregoing increase in the conversion rate made under this clause (2) will be made successively whenever any such

rights, options or warrants are issued and shall become effective immediately after the close of business on the record date for such issuance. To the extent that shares of common stock are not delivered after the expiration of such rights, options or warrants, the conversion rate shall be immediately decreased to the conversion rate that would then be in effect had the increase with respect to the issuance

S-30

Table of Contents

of such rights, options or warrants been made on the basis of delivery of only the number of shares of common stock actually delivered. If such rights, options or warrants are not so issued, the conversion rate shall be immediately decreased to the conversion rate that would then be in effect if the record date for such issuance had not occurred.

In determining whether any rights, options or warrants entitle the holders of shares of our common stock to subscribe for or purchase shares of our common stock at less than such average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement of such distribution, and in determining the aggregate offering price of such shares of our common stock, there shall be taken into account any consideration received by us for such rights, options or warrants and any amount payable upon exercise or conversion thereof, the value of such consideration, if other than cash, to be determined by our board of directors or a committee thereof.

- (3) If we distribute shares of our capital stock, evidences of our indebtedness or other assets or property of ours or rights, options or warrants to acquire our capital stock or other securities to all or substantially all holders of our common stock, excluding:

dividends, distributions, rights, options or warrants as to which an adjustment was effected (or would be effected without regard to the deferral exception (as described below)) pursuant to clause (1) or (2) above;

rights issued or otherwise distributed pursuant to a preferred stock rights plan, except to the extent provided below under the caption Treatment of Rights ;

dividends or distributions paid exclusively in cash as to which an adjustment was effected (or would be effected without regard to the dividend threshold amount, and without regard to the deferral exception) pursuant to clause (4) below;

a distribution solely pursuant to a common stock change event, as to which the provisions described below under the caption Recapitalizations, Reclassifications and Changes of Our Common Stock will apply; or

spin-offs as to which the provisions set forth below in this clause (3) shall apply, then the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$CR = CR_x \frac{SP_0}{SP_0 + FMV}$$

where,

Edgar Filing: REDWOOD TRUST INC - Form 424B5

- CR_0 = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the close of business on the record date for such distribution;
- CR = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the close of business on such record date;
- SP_0 = the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the ex-dividend date for such distribution; and
- FMV = the fair market value, as determined by our board of directors or a committee thereof, of the shares of capital stock, evidences of indebtedness, assets or property of ours or rights, options or warrants to acquire our capital stock or other securities to be distributed with respect to each outstanding share of our common stock on the ex-dividend date for such distribution.

S-31

Table of Contents

The foregoing increase made in the conversion rate under the portion of this clause (3) above will become effective immediately after the close of business on the record date for such distribution. If such distribution is not so paid or made, the conversion rate shall be immediately decreased to be the conversion rate that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if FMV (as defined above) is equal to or greater than 0 SPs (as defined above), then, in lieu of the foregoing increase, each holder of a note shall receive upon conversion, in respect of each \$1,000 principal amount thereof, the amount and kind of our capital stock, evidences of our indebtedness or other assets or property of ours or rights, options or warrants to acquire our capital stock or other securities that such holder would have received if such holder owned a number of shares of common stock equal to the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the close of business on the record date for the distribution.

With respect to an adjustment pursuant to this clause (3) where there has been a payment of a dividend or other distribution on our common stock in shares of capital stock of any class or series, or similar equity interest, of or relating to a subsidiary or other business unit of ours, where such capital stock or similar equity interest is listed or quoted on a U.S. national securities exchange (or will be so listed or quoted when issued), which we refer to as a spin-off, the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$CR = CR_0 \times \frac{FMV_0 + MP_0}{MP_0}$$

where,

CR_0 = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the close of business on the record date of the spin-off;

CR = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the close of business on such record date;

FMV_0 = the average of the last reported sale prices of the capital stock or similar equity interest distributed to holders of our common stock applicable to one share of our common stock (determined by reference to the definition of last reported sale price set forth above as if references therein to our common stock were to such capital stock or similar equity interest) over the first 10 consecutive trading-day period beginning on, and including, the ex-dividend date of the spin-off (the valuation period); and

MP_0 = the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the valuation period.

The increase in the conversion rate made under the preceding paragraph will be determined as of the close of business on the last trading day of the valuation period but will be given effect immediately after the close of business on the record date of the spin-off; *provided* that in respect of any conversion with a conversion date that occurs during the valuation period, we will, if necessary, delay the settlement of such conversion until the third trading day immediately after the last trading day of the valuation period. If any dividend or distribution that constitutes a spin-off is declared but not so paid or made, the conversion rate shall be immediately decreased, effective as of the date our board of directors or a committee thereof determines not to pay such dividend or distribution, to the conversion rate that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared or announced.

S-32

Table of Contents

- (4) If we pay any cash dividends or distributions to all or substantially all holders of our common stock, the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$CR = CR_0 \times \frac{SP_0 + T}{SP_0 + C}$$

where,

CR_0 = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the close of business on the record date for such dividend or distribution;

CR = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the close of business on such record date;

SP_0 = the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution;

T = the dividend threshold amount, which shall initially be \$0.28 per fiscal quarter, adjusted as described below to take into account events that cause adjustments to the conversion rate and as further adjusted to account for any change in the frequency of payment of our regular dividend; *provided* that the dividend threshold amount shall be deemed to be zero if the dividend is not a regularly scheduled dividend; and

C = the amount in cash per share we distribute to holders of our common stock.

The foregoing increase in the conversion rate made under this clause (4) shall become effective immediately after the close of business on the record date for such dividend or distribution. If such dividend or distribution is not so paid or made, the conversion rate shall be immediately decreased, effective as of the date our board of directors or a committee thereof determines not to make or pay such dividend or distribution, to be the conversion rate that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared.

Whenever the conversion rate is adjusted, T shall be adjusted by multiplying it by a fraction, the numerator of which is the conversion rate prior to adjustment and the denominator of which is the conversion rate following such adjustment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if C (as defined above) is equal to or greater than $0.50 \times SP_0$ (as defined above), then, in lieu of the foregoing increase, each holder of a note shall receive upon conversion, for each \$1,000 principal amount of notes, the amount of cash that such holder would have received if such holder owned a number of shares of our common stock equal to the conversion rate in effect on the record date for such dividend or distribution.

- (5) If we or any of our subsidiaries make a payment in respect of a tender offer or exchange offer for our common stock, to the extent that the cash and value of any other consideration included in the payment per share of our common stock exceeds the last reported sale price of our common stock on the trading day next succeeding the last date (the expiration date) on which tenders or exchanges may be made pursuant to such tender or exchange offer, the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$CR = CR_0 \times \frac{AC + (OS_0 \times SP)}{OS_0 \times SP}$$

where,

CR_0 = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the close of business on the expiration date;

CR = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the close of business on the expiration date;

S-33

Table of Contents

- AC = the aggregate value of all cash and any other consideration, as determined by our board of directors or a committee thereof, paid or payable for shares purchased in such tender or exchange offer;
- OS₀ = the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to the time such tender or exchange offer expires (before giving effect to such tender offer or exchange offer);
- OS = the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after the time such tender or exchange offer expires (after giving effect to such tender offer or exchange offer); and
- SP = the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading-day period (the tender/exchange offer valuation period) commencing on, and including, the trading day next succeeding the expiration date.

The foregoing increase in the conversion rate made under this clause (5) will be determined as of the close of business on the last trading day of the tender/exchange offer valuation period but will be given effect immediately after the close of business on the expiration date; *provided*, that in respect of any conversion where the conversion date occurs during the tender/exchange offer valuation period, we will, if necessary, delay the settlement of such conversion until the third trading day immediately after the last trading day of the tender/exchange offer valuation period.

To the extent such tender or exchange offer is announced but not consummated (including as a result of being precluded from consummating such tender or exchange offer under applicable law), or any purchases or exchanges of shares of common stock in such tender or exchange offer are rescinded, the conversion rate will be readjusted to the conversion rate that would then be in effect had the adjustment been made on the basis of only the purchases or exchanges of shares of common stock, if any, actually made, and not rescinded, in such tender or exchange offer.

If the application of any of the foregoing formulas (other than in connection with a share combination or a readjustment provided for above) would result in a decrease in the conversion rate, no adjustment to the conversion rate will be made.

As used in this section, *ex-dividend date* means the first date on which the shares of our common stock trade on the applicable exchange or in the applicable market, regular way, without the right to receive the issuance, dividend or distribution in question, from us or, if applicable, from the seller of our common stock on such exchange or market (in the form of due bills or otherwise) as determined by such exchange or market. For the avoidance of doubt, any alternative trading convention on the applicable exchange or market in respect of our common stock under a separate ticker symbol or CUSIP number will not be considered *regular way* for this purpose.

As used in this section, *record date* means, with respect to any dividend, distribution or other transaction or event in which the holders of our common stock have the right to receive any cash, securities or other property or in which our common stock is exchanged for or converted into any combination of cash, securities or other property, the date fixed for determination of holders of our common stock entitled to receive such cash, securities or other property (whether such date is fixed by our board of directors or a committee thereof, statute, contract or otherwise).

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the indenture or the notes, if:

a conversion rate adjustment for any dividend or distribution becomes effective on any record date pursuant to the provisions described in clauses (1) through (5), inclusive, above;

Table of Contents

a note is to be converted;

the conversion date for such conversion occurs on such record date;

the consideration due upon such conversion includes any whole shares of our common stock based on a conversion rate that is adjusted for such dividend or distribution; and

such shares would be entitled to participate in such dividend or distribution, then (x) such conversion rate adjustment will not be given effect for such conversion; and (y) the shares of common stock, if any, issuable upon such conversion based on such unadjusted conversion rate will be entitled to participate in such dividend or distribution.

Except as stated herein, we will not adjust the conversion rate for the issuance of shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our common stock or the right to purchase shares of our common stock or such convertible or exchangeable securities. Except as described in this section, in Voluntary Increases of Conversion Rate below or in Adjustment to Shares Delivered Upon Conversion Upon Make-Whole Fundamental Change below, we will not adjust the conversion rate.

Without limiting the preceding paragraph, the applicable conversion rate will not be adjusted:

upon the issuance of any shares of our common stock pursuant to any present or future plan providing for the reinvestment of dividends or interest payable on our securities and the investment of additional optional amounts in shares of our common stock under any plan;

upon the issuance of any shares of our common stock or options or rights to purchase those shares pursuant to any present or future employee, director or consultant benefit plan or program of or assumed by us or any of our subsidiaries;

upon the issuance of any shares of our common stock pursuant to any option, warrant, right or exercisable, exchangeable or convertible security not described in the immediately preceding bullet and outstanding as of the date the notes were first issued;

upon the issuance of any shares of our common stock for cash or as consideration in a merger, purchase or similar transaction;

for a change in the par value of our common stock;

upon any repurchase of shares of common stock in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions by us (including by way of accelerated share repurchase or other derivatives), in each case other than in transactions described under clause (5) above; or

for accrued and unpaid interest.

Adjustments to the applicable conversion rate will be calculated to the nearest 1/10,000th of a share.

If any adjustment of the conversion rate would be less than 1% of the applicable conversion rate, such adjustment will be carried forward and the adjustment with respect thereto will be made at the time of and together with any subsequent adjustment which, together with the original adjustment, aggregate to at least 1% of the applicable conversion rate; *provided, however*, that any carry-forward adjustment will be made upon conversion of any note (solely with respect to the converted note) regardless of the 1% threshold. We refer to the provisions described in this paragraph as the deferral exception.

Table of Contents

Recapitalizations, reclassifications and changes of our common stock

In the event of:

any recapitalization, reclassification or change of our common stock (other than changes resulting from a share split or combination);

a consolidation, merger or combination involving us;

a sale or conveyance to another person of all or substantially all of our property and assets; or

any statutory share exchange,

in each case, in which holders of our outstanding common stock would be entitled to receive cash, securities or other property for their shares of common stock (such an event, a common stock change event, and such cash, securities or other property, the reference property, and the amount and kind of reference property that a holder of one share of our common stock would be entitled to receive on account of such common stock change event (without giving effect to any arrangement not to issue or deliver a fractional portion of any security or other property), a reference property unit), then, at and after the effective time of such common stock change event:

the consideration due upon conversion of any note, and the conditions to any such conversion, will be determined in the same manner as if each reference to any number of shares of common stock in the provisions described under this Conversion Rights caption (or in any related definitions) were instead a reference to the same number of reference property units;

for purposes of the definition of ex-dividend date and record date, the term common stock will be deemed to refer to any class of securities forming part of such reference property;

for purposes of the definition of fundamental change and make-whole fundamental change, the terms common stock and common equity will be deemed to mean the common equity (including depositary receipts representing common equity), if any, forming part of such reference property; and

for these purposes, the last reported sale price of any reference property unit or portion thereof that does not consist of a class of securities will be the fair value of such reference property unit or portion thereof, as applicable, determined in good faith by us (or, in the case of cash denominated in U.S. dollars, the face amount thereof). For purposes of the foregoing, if the reference property of a common stock change event would consist of more than a single type of consideration (determined based in part upon any form of stockholder election), then the composition of the reference property unit will be determined based on (i) the weighted average of the types and amounts of consideration received by the holders of our common stock that affirmatively make such an election or (ii) if no

holders of our common stock affirmatively make such an election, the types and amount of consideration actually received by such holders. We will notify holders and the trustee of the composition of the reference property unit as soon as practicable after such determination is made.

We shall not become a party to any such common stock change event unless its terms are consistent with the preceding.

None of the foregoing provisions shall affect the right of a holder of notes to convert its notes into shares of our common stock prior to the effective date of such common stock change event.

Table of Contents

Treatment of rights

We currently do not have a preferred stock rights plan. To the extent that we have a rights plan in effect upon conversion of the notes into common stock, you will receive, in addition to any common stock, the rights under the rights plan, unless prior to any conversion the rights have separated from our common stock, in which case, and only in such case, the conversion rate will be adjusted at the time of separation as if we distributed, to all holders of our common stock, shares of our capital stock, evidences of indebtedness or assets as described in clause (3) under

Conversion Rate Adjustments above, subject to re-adjustment in the event of the expiration, termination or redemption of such rights.

Voluntary increases of conversion rate

We are permitted, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the listing standards of The New York Stock Exchange, to increase the conversion rate of the notes by any amount for a period of at least 20 days, if our board of directors or a committee thereof determines that such increase would be in our best interest. If we make such determination, it will be conclusive and we will deliver to holders of the notes a notice of the increased conversion rate and the period during which it will be in effect at least 15 days prior to the date the increased conversion rate takes effect, in accordance with applicable law. Subject to the listing standards of The New York Stock Exchange, we may also, but are not required to, increase the conversion rate to avoid or diminish income tax to holders of our common stock or rights to purchase shares of our common stock in connection with a dividend or distribution of shares or rights to acquire shares or similar event.

Tax effect

A holder may, in some circumstances, including the distribution of certain cash dividends to holders of shares of our common stock, be deemed to have received a distribution subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax as a result of an adjustment or the non-occurrence of an adjustment to the conversion rate. Because a deemed distribution would not give rise to any cash from which any applicable withholding could be satisfied, if we pay withholding taxes on behalf of a holder, we may, at our option, set off any such payment against payments of cash and common stock payable on the notes (or, in some circumstances, against any payments on the common stock). See Supplemental U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Adjustments of prices

Whenever any provision of the indenture requires us to calculate last reported sale prices over a span of multiple days (including with respect to the stock price for purposes of a make-whole fundamental change), we will make appropriate adjustments to account for any adjustment to the conversion rate that becomes effective, or any event requiring an adjustment to the conversion rate where the ex-dividend date, record date, effective date or expiration date, as applicable, of the event occurs, at any time during the period during which such prices are to be calculated.

Adjustment to shares delivered upon conversion upon make-whole fundamental change

If the effective date (as defined below) of a fundamental change, as defined below and determined after giving effect to any exceptions to or exclusions from such definition, but without regard to the proviso in clause (2) of the definition thereof (such a fundamental change, a make-whole fundamental change), occurs prior to the maturity date and a holder elects to convert its notes in connection with such make-whole fundamental change, we will, under certain circumstances, increase the conversion rate for the notes so surrendered for conversion by a number of additional shares of common stock (the additional shares), as described below. A conversion

S-37

Table of Contents

of notes will be deemed for these purposes to be in connection with such make-whole fundamental change if the conversion date for such conversion occurs during the period from, and including, the effective date of the make-whole fundamental change up to, and including, the second scheduled trading day immediately prior to the related fundamental change repurchase date (or, in the case of a make-whole fundamental change that would have been a fundamental change but for the proviso in clause (2) of the definition thereof, the 30th scheduled trading day immediately following the effective date of such make-whole fundamental change). The number of additional shares by which the conversion rate will be increased in the event of a make-whole fundamental change will be determined by reference to the table below, based on the date on which the make-whole fundamental change occurs or becomes effective (the effective date) and the price (the stock price) paid per share of our common stock in the make-whole fundamental change. If holders of our common stock receive only cash in the make-whole fundamental change, the stock price will be the cash amount paid per share. Otherwise, the stock price will be the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading-day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the effective date of the make-whole fundamental change.

The stock prices set forth in the first row of the table below (*i.e.*, the column headers) will be adjusted as of any date on which the conversion rate of the notes is otherwise adjusted. The adjusted stock prices will equal the stock prices applicable immediately prior to such adjustment, multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the conversion rate immediately prior to the adjustment giving rise to the stock price adjustment and the denominator of which is the conversion rate as so adjusted. The number of additional shares will be adjusted in the same manner as the conversion rate as set forth under Conversion Rate Adjustments.

The following table sets forth the hypothetical stock prices and the number of additional shares to be added to the conversion rate for the notes converted in connection with a make-whole fundamental change:

Effective date	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Stock price
, 2017									\$
August 15, 2018									
August 15, 2019									
August 15, 2020									
August 15, 2021									
August 15, 2022									
August 15, 2023									

The exact stock prices and effective dates may not be set forth in the table above, in which case:

if the stock price is between two stock prices in the table or the effective date is between two effective dates in the table, the number of additional shares will be determined by a straight-line interpolation between the number of additional shares set forth for the higher and lower stock prices and the two dates, as applicable, based on a 365- or 366-day year, as applicable;

if the stock price is greater than \$ per share (subject to adjustment in the same manner as the stock prices set forth in the table above), no additional shares will be added to the conversion rate; and

if the stock price is less than \$ per share (subject to adjustment in the same manner as the stock prices set forth in the table above), no additional shares will be added to the conversion rate.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event will the total number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion exceed per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, subject to adjustments in the same manner as the conversion rate as set forth under Conversion Rate Adjustments.

S-38

Table of Contents

Our obligation to increase the conversion rate as described above could be considered a penalty, in which case its enforceability would be subject to general principles of equitable remedies.

In the event of a conversion of notes in connection with a make-whole fundamental change that results in an adjustment of the conversion rate, a holder may be deemed to have received a distribution subject to U.S. federal income tax as a dividend. Because a deemed distribution would not give rise to any cash from which any applicable withholding could be satisfied, if we pay withholding taxes on behalf of a holder we may, at our option, set off any such payment against payments of cash and common stock payable on the notes (or, in some circumstances, against any payments on the common stock). See Supplemental U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Redemption of notes to preserve REIT status

We may not redeem the notes prior to their maturity, except to the extent, and only to the extent, necessary to preserve our status as a REIT. If we determine that redeeming the notes is necessary to preserve our status as a REIT, then we may redeem all or part (in a principal amount that is an integral multiple of \$1,000) of the notes at a cash redemption price equal to the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date. However, if the redemption date for a note is after a regular record date for the payment of interest and on or prior to the corresponding interest payment date, then (i) we will pay, on or before such interest payment date, the full amount of accrued and unpaid interest payable on such note on such interest payment date to the holder of record of such note at the close of business on such regular record date; and (ii) the redemption price will not include such accrued and unpaid interest.

We will send to each applicable holder notice of the redemption containing certain information set forth in the indenture, including the redemption price and the redemption date. The redemption date will be a business day of our choosing that is no more than 60, nor less than 30, calendar days after the date we send the related redemption notice.

Notes called for redemption must be delivered to the paying agent (in the case of certificated notes) or DTC's procedures must be complied with (in the case of global notes) for the holder of those notes to be entitled to receive the redemption price.

If only a portion of a note is subject to redemption and that note is converted in part, then the converted portion of that note will be deemed to be from the portion of that note that was subject to redemption.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary above, no notes may be redeemed on any date if the principal amount of the notes has been accelerated, and such acceleration has not been rescinded, on or prior to such date (except in the case of an acceleration resulting from a default by us in the payment of the applicable redemption price with respect to such notes).

Open market and other purchases; no sinking fund

Except as described below under Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes, we will not be required to make any mandatory redemption or sinking fund payments with respect to the notes. We may at any time and from time to time repurchase notes by tender offer, open market purchases, negotiated transactions or otherwise, in accordance with applicable securities laws. We will cause any notes so repurchased (other than notes repurchased pursuant to cash-settled swaps or other derivatives) to be surrendered to the trustee for cancellation, and they will no longer be considered outstanding under the indenture upon their repurchase.

Table of Contents**Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes**

If a fundamental change occurs at any time, you will have the right, at your option, to require us to repurchase all of your notes, or any portion of the principal amount thereof that is equal to \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000, on a business day (the fundamental change repurchase date) of our choosing that is not less than 20 nor more than 35 business days after the date of the fundamental change repurchase right notice (as defined below). The price we are required to pay is equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date, unless such fundamental change repurchase date falls after a regular record date for the payment of interest and on or prior to the corresponding interest payment date, in which case (i) we will pay, on or before such interest payment date, the full amount of accrued and unpaid interest payable on such interest payment date to the holder of record at the close of business on such regular record date; and (ii) the fundamental change repurchase price will not include such accrued and unpaid interest. Any notes repurchased by us will be paid for in cash.

A fundamental change will be deemed to have occurred at the time after the notes are originally issued if any of the following occurs:

- (1) a person or group within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, other than us, our subsidiaries and our and their employee benefit plans, files a Schedule TO or any schedule, form or report under the Exchange Act disclosing, or we otherwise become aware, that such person or group has become the direct or indirect beneficial owner, as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, of our common equity representing more than 50% of the voting power of our common equity;
- (2) the consummation of (A) any recapitalization, reclassification or change of our common stock (other than changes resulting from a subdivision or combination) as a result of which our common stock would be converted into, or exchanged for, cash, securities or other property; (B) any share exchange, consolidation or merger of us pursuant to which our common stock will be converted into cash, securities or other property; or (C) any sale, lease or other transfer in one transaction or a series of transactions of all or substantially all of the property and assets of us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to any person other than one of our subsidiaries; *provided, however,* that a transaction described in clause (A) or (B) in which the holders of all classes of our common equity immediately prior to such transaction own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of all classes of common equity of the continuing or surviving corporation or transferee or the parent thereof immediately after such transaction in substantially the same proportions (relative to each other) as such ownership immediately prior to such transaction shall not be a fundamental change pursuant to this clause (2);
- (3) our stockholders approve any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of us; or
- (4) our common stock ceases to be listed or quoted on any of The New York Stock Exchange, The NASDAQ Global Select Market or The NASDAQ Global Market (or any of their respective successors).

A transaction or transactions described in clauses (1) or (2) above will not constitute a fundamental change, however, if (i) at least 90% of the consideration received or to be received by our common stockholders (excluding cash payments for fractional shares and cash payments made pursuant to dissenters' appraisal rights) in connection with such transaction or transactions consists of shares of common stock or common equity interests that are listed or

quoted (or depositary receipts representing shares of common stock, which depositary receipts are listed or quoted) on any of The New York Stock Exchange, The NASDAQ Global Select Market or The NASDAQ Global Market (or any of their respective successors) or will be so listed or quoted when issued or exchanged in connection with such transaction or transactions; and (ii) as a result of such transaction

S-40

Table of Contents

or transactions, the notes become convertible into such consideration, excluding cash payments for fractional shares and cash payments made pursuant to dissenters' appraisal rights.

After the occurrence of a fundamental change, but on or before the 15th day following such occurrence, we will provide to all holders of the notes and the trustee and paying agent a notice of the occurrence of the fundamental change and of the resulting repurchase right, if any (the "fundamental change repurchase right notice"). Such fundamental change repurchase right notice shall state, among other things:

the events causing a fundamental change and whether such fundamental change also constitutes a make-whole fundamental change;

the date of the fundamental change;

the last date on which a holder may exercise the repurchase right, if applicable;

the fundamental change repurchase price;

the fundamental change repurchase date;

the name and address of the paying agent and the conversion agent, if applicable;

the applicable conversion rate and any related adjustments to the applicable conversion rate;

that the notes with respect to which a fundamental change repurchase notice has been delivered by a holder may be converted only if the holder withdraws the fundamental change repurchase notice in accordance with the terms of the indenture; and

the procedures that holders must follow to require us to repurchase their notes, if applicable.

The term "fundamental change" is limited to specified transactions and may not include other events that might adversely affect our financial condition. In addition, the requirement that we offer to repurchase the notes upon a fundamental change may not protect holders in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, reorganization, merger or similar transaction involving us.

The fundamental change repurchase rights of the holders could discourage a potential acquirer of us. The fundamental change repurchase price and fundamental change repurchase features, however, are not the result of management's knowledge of any specific effort to obtain control of us by any means or part of a plan by management to adopt a series of anti-takeover provisions.

The definition of fundamental change includes a phrase relating to the sale, lease or other transfer of all or substantially all of our property and assets. There is no precise, established definition of the phrase substantially all under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of the notes to require us to repurchase its notes as a result of the sale, lease or other transfer of less than all of our property and assets may be uncertain.

To exercise your fundamental change repurchase right, you must deliver, between the date of the fundamental change repurchase right notice and the close of business on the second scheduled trading day prior to the fundamental change repurchase date, the notes to be repurchased, duly endorsed for transfer, together with a written repurchase notice and the form entitled Form of Fundamental Change Repurchase Notice on the reverse side of the notes duly completed, to the paying agent. Your repurchase notice must state:

if certificated, the certificate numbers of your notes to be delivered for repurchase;

the portion of the principal amount of notes to be repurchased, which must be \$1,000 or an integral multiple thereof;
and

S-41

Table of Contents

that the notes are to be repurchased by us pursuant to the applicable provisions of the notes and the indenture. You may withdraw any repurchase notice in whole or in part by a written notice of withdrawal delivered to the paying agent prior to the close of business on the second scheduled trading day prior to the fundamental change repurchase date. The notice of withdrawal shall state:

the principal amount of the withdrawn notes, which must be \$1,000 or an integral multiple thereof;

if such notes are certificated notes, the certificate numbers of the withdrawn notes; and

the principal amount, if any, which remains subject to the repurchase notice.

In the case of global notes, the delivery of the repurchase notice and withdrawal notice must instead comply with appropriate DTC procedures within the deadlines set forth above.

We will be required to repurchase the notes on the fundamental change repurchase date, subject to extension to comply with applicable law. You will receive payment of the fundamental change repurchase price promptly following the later of the fundamental change repurchase date or the time of book-entry transfer or the delivery of the notes. Subject to a holder's right to receive interest on the related interest payment date where the fundamental change repurchase date falls between a regular record date for the payment of interest and the interest payment date to which it relates, if the paying agent holds money or securities sufficient to pay the fundamental change repurchase price of the notes on the fundamental change repurchase date then:

the notes will cease to be outstanding and interest will cease to accrue, whether or not book-entry transfer of the notes is made or whether or not the note is delivered to the paying agent; and

all other rights of the holder will terminate other than the right to receive the fundamental change repurchase price and previously accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon delivery or transfer of the notes.

In connection with any repurchase offer pursuant to a fundamental change repurchase right notice, we will, if required:

comply with the provisions of the tender offer rules under the Exchange Act that may then be applicable;

file a Schedule TO or any other successor or similar schedule, if required, under the Exchange Act; and

otherwise comply with all federal and state securities laws in connection with any offer by us to repurchase the notes,

in each case, so as to permit the rights and obligations under this Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes to be exercised in the time and in the manner specified in the indenture. No notes may be

repurchased on any date at the option of holders on a fundamental change repurchase date if the principal amount of the notes has been accelerated, and such acceleration has not been rescinded, on or prior to such date (except in the case of an acceleration resulting from a default by us in the payment of the applicable fundamental change repurchase price with respect to such notes).

We will not be required to make an offer to repurchase the notes upon a fundamental change if a third party makes such an offer to repurchase in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements set forth in the indenture applicable to an offer to repurchase made by us and such third party purchases all notes properly tendered and not validly withdrawn under such offer.

We may not have enough cash to pay the applicable fundamental change repurchase price. See **Risk Factors** **Risks Related to the Notes**, our **Common Stock** and this **Offering**. We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to repurchase the notes as required upon a fundamental change, and our other then-existing debt may contain limitations on our ability to pay cash upon such repurchase of the notes.

Table of Contents

Ownership limit; limitation on stock issuable upon conversion

To assist us in satisfying the requirements for qualification as a REIT, our charter prohibits any person from acquiring or holding beneficial ownership of shares of our common stock representing in excess of 9.8%, in number of shares or value, of the outstanding shares of common stock (the Charter Limitation), unless our board of directors waives or modifies this ownership limit. We have previously granted limited waivers of this prohibition, and, subject to the approval of our board of directors, we may grant additional waivers at any time. In addition, our charter contains various other restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our common stock. See Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer and Repurchase of Shares on page 29 of the accompanying prospectus.

The indenture will provide that, notwithstanding any other provision of the indenture, no holder of notes will be entitled to receive shares of our common stock upon conversion to the extent (but only to the extent) that such receipt would cause such converting holder to violate the Charter Limitation. Any purported delivery of shares of common stock upon conversion of notes shall be void and have no effect to the extent (but only to the extent) that such delivery would result in the converting holder violating the Charter Limitation. If any delivery of shares of our common stock owed to a holder upon conversion of notes is not made, in whole or in part, as a result of the Charter Limitation, our obligation to make such delivery shall not be extinguished, and we will deliver such shares as promptly as practicable after such converting holder gives notice to us that such delivery would not result in such converting holder being in violation of the Charter Limitation.

Consolidation, merger and sale of assets

The following description replaces the description set forth under Description of Debt Securities Consolidation, Merger, and Sale of Assets in the accompanying prospectus in its entirety.

The indenture provides that we will not consolidate with or merge with or into, or sell, lease or otherwise transfer all or substantially all of the property and assets of us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole to, another person, unless (i) the resulting, surviving or transferee person, if not us, is a person organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any State thereof or the District of Columbia, and such person, if not us, expressly assumes by supplemental indenture all of our obligations under the notes and the indenture; and (ii) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or event of default has occurred and is continuing under the indenture. Upon any such consolidation, merger, sale, lease or transfer, the resulting, surviving or transferee person shall succeed to, and may exercise every right and power of, ours under the indenture and, except in the case of a lease, we will be discharged from our obligations under the indenture and the notes.

Although these types of transactions are permitted under the indenture, certain of the foregoing transactions could constitute a fundamental change permitting each holder to require us to repurchase the notes of such holder as described above. Furthermore, there is no precise, established definition of the phrase substantially all of our property and assets under applicable law. Accordingly, there may be uncertainty as to whether the provisions described above (or under Conversion Rights Recapitalizations, Reclassifications and Changes of Our Common Stock, Conversion Rights Adjustment to Shares Delivered Upon Conversion Upon Make-Whole Fundamental Change or Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes) would apply to a sale, lease or transfer of less than all of our properties and assets.

Events of default

The following description replaces the description set forth under Description of Debt Securities Events of Default in the accompanying prospectus in its entirety.

S-43

Table of Contents

Each of the following is an event of default:

- (1) default in any payment of interest on any note when due and payable and the default continues for a period of 30 days;
- (2) default in the payment of principal of any note when due and payable at its stated maturity, upon redemption or required repurchase, upon declaration of acceleration or otherwise;
- (3) default in our obligation to deliver shares of common stock required to be delivered upon conversion of the notes, together with cash in lieu of any fractional shares, upon conversion of any notes and the default continues for five business days;
- (4) failure by us to comply with our obligations under Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets ;
- (5) failure by us to comply with our notice obligations under Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Repurchase Notes ;
- (6) failure by us for 60 days after written notice from the trustee or the holders of at least 25% principal amount of the notes then outstanding has been received by us to comply with any of our other agreements contained in the notes or indenture;
- (7) default by us or any of our subsidiaries with respect to any mortgage, agreement or other instrument under which there may be outstanding, or by which there may be secured or evidenced any debt for money borrowed (other than non-recourse debt of a subsidiary) in excess of \$25 million in the aggregate of ours and/or any such subsidiary, whether such debt now exists or shall hereafter be created, which default results (i) in such debt becoming or being declared due and payable, and such debt has not been discharged in full or such declaration rescinded or annulled within 60 days; or (ii) from a failure to pay the principal of any such debt when due and payable at its stated maturity, upon required repurchase, upon declaration of acceleration or otherwise, and such defaulted payment shall not have been made, waived or extended within 60 days;
- (8) a final judgment for the payment of \$25 million or more (excluding any amounts covered by insurance) rendered against us or any of our subsidiaries, which judgment is not discharged, stayed, vacated, paid or otherwise satisfied within 60 days after (i) the date on which the right to appeal thereof has expired if no such appeal has commenced; or (ii) the date on which all rights to appeal have been extinguished; or
- (9) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company or any of our significant subsidiaries (as defined below) (the bankruptcy provisions).

A significant subsidiary is a subsidiary that is a significant subsidiary as defined under Rule 1-02(w) of Regulation S-X under the Exchange Act; *provided*, that, in the case of a subsidiary that meets the criteria of clause (3) of the definition thereof but not clause (1) or (2) thereof, such subsidiary shall not be deemed to be a significant subsidiary unless the subsidiary's income from continuing operations before income taxes, extraordinary items and cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle exclusive of amounts attributable to any non-controlling interests for the last completed fiscal year prior to the date of such determination exceeds \$25 million.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee by notice to us, or the holders of at least 25% principal amount of the outstanding notes, by notice to us and the trustee, may, and the trustee at the request of such holders shall, declare 100% of the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on all the notes to be due and payable. Upon such a declaration, such principal and accrued and unpaid interest will be due and payable immediately. However, upon an event of default arising out of the bankruptcy provisions (except with

Table of Contents

respect to any significant subsidiary), the aggregate principal amount and accrued and unpaid interest will be due and payable immediately.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the indenture will provide that, to the extent we elect, the sole remedy for an event of default relating to our failure to comply with our obligations as set forth under Reports below (including Section 314(a) of the Trust Indenture Act) will, for the first 365 days after the occurrence of such an event of default, consist exclusively of the right to receive additional interest on the notes at a rate equal to (i) 0.25% per annum of the principal amount of the notes outstanding for each day during the first 185-day period on which such event of default is continuing beginning on, and including, the date on which such an event of default first occurs and (ii) 0.50% per annum of the principal amount of the notes outstanding for each day during the 180-day period on which such event of default is continuing beginning on, and including, the 181st day on which such event of default is continuing.

If we so elect, such additional interest will be payable in the same manner and on the same dates as the stated interest payable on the notes. On the 366th day after such event of default (if the event of default relating to the reporting obligations is not cured or waived prior to such 366th day), the notes will be subject to acceleration as provided above (and, for the avoidance of doubt, such additional interest will cease to accrue). The provisions of the indenture described in this and the preceding paragraph will not affect the rights of holders of notes in the event of the occurrence of any other event of default. In the event we do not elect to pay the additional interest following an event of default in accordance with this and the preceding paragraph or we elected to make such payment but do not pay the additional interest when due, the notes will be immediately subject to acceleration as provided above. In no event shall additional interest payable pursuant to the foregoing election accrue at a rate per year in excess of the applicable rate specified in the immediately preceding paragraph, regardless of the number of events or circumstances giving rise to requirements to pay such additional interest. With regard to any event of default relating to our failure to comply with our obligations as set forth under Reports below, no additional interest shall accrue after such event of default has been cured.

In order to elect to pay the additional interest as the sole remedy during the first 365 days after the occurrence of an event of default relating to the failure to comply with the reporting obligations in accordance with the immediately preceding two paragraphs, we must notify all holders of notes, the trustee and the paying agent of such election prior to the beginning of such 365-day period. Upon our failure to timely give such notice, the notes will be immediately subject to acceleration as provided above.

The holders of a majority principal amount of the outstanding notes may waive all past defaults (except with respect to non-payment of principal or interest or the failure to deliver amounts due upon conversion) and rescind any such acceleration with respect to the notes and its consequences if (1) rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction and (2) all existing events of default (other than the non-payment of the principal of and interest on the notes or the failure to deliver amounts due upon conversion that have become due solely by such declaration of acceleration) have been cured or waived.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders unless such holders have offered to the trustee indemnity and/or security satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense. Except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal or interest when due or to receive the consideration due to it upon conversion, no holder may pursue any remedy with respect to the indenture or the notes unless:

- (1) such holder has previously given the trustee notice that an event of default is continuing;

(2) holders of at least 25% principal amount of the outstanding notes have requested the trustee to pursue the remedy;

S-45

Table of Contents

- (3) such holders have offered the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense;
- (4) the trustee has not complied with such request within 60 days after the receipt of the request and the offer of security or indemnity; and
- (5) the holders of a majority principal amount of the outstanding notes have not given the trustee a direction that, in the opinion of the trustee, is inconsistent with such request within such 60 day period.

Subject to certain restrictions, the holders of a majority principal amount of the outstanding notes are given the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or of exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee. The indenture provides that in the event an event of default has occurred and is continuing, the trustee will be required in the exercise of its powers to use the degree of care that a prudent person would use in the conduct of its own affairs. The trustee, however, may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the indenture or that the trustee determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of any other holder or that would involve the trustee in personal liability. Prior to taking any action under the indenture, the trustee will be entitled to indemnification and/or security satisfactory to it in its sole discretion against all losses and expenses caused by taking or not taking such action.

The indenture provides that if a default occurs and is continuing and is known to the trustee, the trustee must send to each holder notice of the default within 90 days after the trustee becomes aware thereof. However, except in the case of a default in the payment of principal or interest on any note or conversion default, the trustee may withhold notice if and so long as a committee of trust officers of the trustee in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interests of the holders. In addition, we are required to deliver to the trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, a certificate indicating whether the signers thereof know of any default that occurred during the previous year. We are also required to deliver to the trustee, within 30 days after the occurrence thereof, written notice of any events that would constitute a default, the status of those events and what action we are taking or propose to take in respect thereof.

Payments of any redemption price, fundamental change repurchase price, principal and interest that are not made when due will accrue interest per annum at the then-applicable interest rate from the required payment date.

Modification and amendment

The following description replaces the description set forth under **Description of Debt Securities Modification and Waiver** in the accompanying prospectus in its entirety.

Subject to certain exceptions, the indenture or the notes may be amended with the consent of the holders of at least a majority principal amount of the notes then outstanding, including without limitation, consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, notes, and, subject to certain exceptions, any past default or compliance with any provisions may be waived with the consent of the holders of a majority principal amount of the notes then outstanding, including, without limitation, consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, notes. However, without the consent of each holder of an outstanding note affected, no amendment may, among other things:

- (1) reduce the amount of notes whose holders must consent to an amendment;

- (2) reduce the rate, or extend the stated time for payment, of interest (other than additional interest described above under Events of Default) on any note;

- (3) reduce the principal, or extend the stated maturity, of any note;

S-46

Table of Contents

- (4) make any change that adversely affects the conversion rights of any notes;
- (5) reduce any redemption price or fundamental change repurchase price of any note or amend or modify, in any manner adverse to the holders of notes, our right to redeem the notes or our obligation to repurchase the notes in connection with a fundamental change, whether through an amendment or waiver of provisions in the covenants, definitions or otherwise;
- (6) change the place or currency of payment of principal or interest in respect of any note;
- (7) impair the right of any holder to receive payment of principal of and interest on such holder's notes on or after the due dates therefore or to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to such holder's notes;
- (8) adversely affect the ranking of the notes as our senior unsecured indebtedness; or
- (9) make any change in the amendment provisions which require each holder's consent or in the waiver provisions if such change adversely affects the rights of holders of the notes.

Without the consent of any holder, we and the trustee may amend the indenture and/or the notes to:

- (1) cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency, including to eliminate any conflict with the terms of the Trust Indenture Act;
- (2) provide for the assumption by a successor corporation of our obligations under the indenture;
- (3) add guarantees with respect to the notes;
- (4) secure the notes;
- (5) issue additional notes as described with under **General** ;
- (6) add to our covenants for the benefit of the holders or surrender any right or power conferred upon us;
- (7) provide for the conversion of notes into reference property as described above under **Conversion Rights Recapitalizations, Reclassifications and Changes of Our Common Stock** ;

- (8) make any change that does not adversely affect in any material respect the rights of any holder of the notes (other than any holder that consents to such change);
- (9) comply with any requirement of the SEC in connection with any qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;
- (10) evidence or provide for the acceptance of the appointment of a successor trustee; or
- (11) conform the provisions of the indenture to the Description of Notes section in this preliminary prospectus supplement, as supplemented by the issuer free writing prospectus related to the offering of the notes.
The consent of the holders is not necessary under the indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment.

After an amendment under the indenture becomes effective, we are required to send to the holders a notice briefly describing such amendment. However, the failure to give such notice to all the holders, or any defect in the notice, will not impair or affect the validity of the amendment.

Table of Contents

Satisfaction and discharge

The following description replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities - Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance" in the accompanying prospectus in its entirety.

We may satisfy and discharge our obligations under the indenture by delivering to the securities registrar for cancellation all outstanding notes or by depositing with the trustee or delivering to the holders, as applicable, after the notes have become due and payable, whether at stated maturity or any redemption date or fundamental change repurchase date, or upon conversion or otherwise, cash and/or (in the case of conversion) shares of our common stock (or, if applicable, reference property) sufficient to pay all of the outstanding notes and paying all other sums payable under the indenture by us. Such discharge is subject to terms contained in the indenture.

Calculations in respect of notes

We will be responsible for making all calculations called for under the notes. These calculations include, but are not limited to, determinations of the last reported sale prices of our common stock, accrued interest payable on the notes and the conversion rate of the notes. We will make all these calculations in good faith, and, absent manifest error, our calculations will be final and binding on holders of notes. We will provide a schedule of our calculations to each of the trustee and the conversion agent, and each of the trustee and conversion agent is entitled to rely conclusively upon the accuracy of our calculations without independent verification. The trustee will forward our calculations to any holder of notes upon the written request of that holder.

Trustee

Wilmington Trust, National Association is the trustee, security registrar, paying agent and conversion agent.

Form, denomination and registration

The notes will be issued:

- in fully registered form;
- without interest coupons; and
- in denominations of \$1,000 principal amount and multiples of \$1,000.

Reports

The indenture provides that any documents or reports that we are required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act must be filed by us (with a copy to the trustee) within 15 days after the same are required to be filed with the SEC (giving effect to any grace period provided by Rule 12b-25 under the Exchange Act or any similar or successor provision). Documents filed by us with the SEC via the EDGAR system will be deemed to be filed with the trustee as of the time such documents are filed via EDGAR. We are also required to comply with the provisions of Section 314(a) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Global notes, book-entry form

The following description replaces the description set forth under "Description of Debt Securities - Global Securities" in the accompanying prospectus in its entirety.

S-48

Table of Contents

The notes will be evidenced by one or more global notes. We will deposit the global note or notes with the trustee, as custodian for DTC, and register the global notes in the name of Cede & Co. as DTC's nominee. Except as set forth below, a global note may be transferred, in whole or in part, only to another nominee of DTC or to a successor of DTC or its nominee.

Beneficial interests in a global note may be held directly through DTC if such holder is a participant in DTC, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in DTC, whom we refer to as participants.

Transfers between participants will be effected in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC rules and will be settled in clearinghouse funds. The laws of some states require that some persons take physical delivery of securities in definitive form in order to engage in certain transactions. As a result, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in the global note to such persons may be limited.

Holders who are not participants may beneficially own interests in a global note held by DTC only through participants, or certain banks, brokers, dealers, trust companies and other parties that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly, whom we refer to as indirect participants. So long as Cede & Co., as the nominee of DTC, is the registered owner of a global note, Cede & Co. for all purposes will be considered the sole holder of such global note. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global note will:

- not be entitled to have certificates registered in their names;
- not receive physical delivery of certificates in definitive registered form; and
- not be considered holders of the global note.

We will pay interest on, and the redemption price and fundamental change repurchase price, if any, with respect to a global note to Cede & Co., as the registered owner of the global note, by wire transfer of immediately available funds on each interest payment date, redemption date or fundamental change repurchase date, as the case may be. Neither we, the conversion agent, the trustee nor any paying agent will be responsible or liable for:

- the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in a global note; or
- maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to the beneficial ownership interests.

We have been informed that DTC's practice is to credit participants' accounts upon receipt of funds on a payment date with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount represented by a global note as shown in the records of DTC. Payments by a participant to owners of beneficial interests in the principal amount represented by a global note held through such participant will be the responsibility of such participant, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name.

Because DTC can only act on behalf of participants, who, in turn, act on behalf of indirect participants and beneficial owners, the ability of a person having a beneficial interest in the principal amount represented by the global note to pledge such interest to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of such interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate evidencing such interest.

Neither we, the trustee, registrar, paying agent nor conversion agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations. DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of notes,

including the presentation of notes for exchange, only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account with DTC interests in the related global note are credited, and only in respect of

S-49

Table of Contents

the principal amount of the notes represented by the global note as to which the participant or participants has or have given such direction.

DTC has advised us that it is:

a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York, and a member of the Federal Reserve System;

a clearing corporation within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and

a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between participants through electronic book-entry changes to the accounts of its participants. Participants include securities brokers, dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations and other organizations. Some of the participants or their representatives, together with other entities, own DTC. Indirect access to the DTC system is available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly.

DTC has agreed to the foregoing procedures to facilitate transfers of interests in a global note among participants. However, DTC is under no obligation to perform or continue to perform these procedures, and may discontinue these procedures at any time. If DTC (i) notifies us that it is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or (ii) ceases to be registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and, in either case, a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue notes in certificated form in exchange for global notes. In addition, the owner of a beneficial interest in a global note will be entitled to receive a note in certificated form in exchange for such interest if an event of default has occurred and is continuing. We may also exchange beneficial interests in a global note for one or more certificated securities registered in the name of the owner of the beneficial interest if we and the owner of such beneficial interest agree to such exchange.

No personal liability of directors, officers, employees or stockholders

None of our past, present or future directors, officers, employees or stockholders, as such, will have any liability for any of our obligations under the notes or the indenture or for any claim based on, or in respect or by reason of, such obligations or their creation. By accepting a note, each holder waives and releases all such liability. This waiver and release is part of the consideration for the issue of the notes. However, this waiver and release may not be effective to waive liabilities under U.S. federal securities laws, and it is the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

Governing law

The notes and the indenture will be governed by, and construed under, the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

Supplemental U.S. federal income tax considerations

This discussion is a supplement to, and is intended to be read together with, the discussions under the heading **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations** in the accompanying prospectus. References to **debt securities** in such discussions include the notes offered by this prospectus supplement. This discussion is for general information and is not tax advice.

Prospective investors in our notes should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income and other tax consequences to them of the purchase, ownership, disposition and conversion of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement.

*The following discussion is a supplement to, and should be read together with, the discussion under the heading **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations** **Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities** **Taxation of Holders of Our Debt Securities** **Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Debt Securities** in the accompanying prospectus.*

Conversion of notes

A U.S. Holder generally will not recognize gain or loss upon the conversion of the notes into common stock except to the extent of (i) cash received in lieu of a fractional share and (ii) the fair market value of common stock received with respect to accrued but unpaid interest (which will be taxed in the same manner as interest as described under **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations** **Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities** **Taxation of Holders of Our Debt Securities** **Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Debt Securities** **Payments of Interest** in the accompanying prospectus). The amount of gain or loss a U.S. Holder will recognize on the receipt of cash in lieu of a fractional share will be equal to the difference between the amount of cash the U.S. Holder receives in respect of the fractional share and the portion of the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the note that is allocable to the fractional share. Any such gain or loss generally would be capital gain or loss and would be long-term capital gain or loss if, at the time of the conversion, the note has been held for more than one year. The tax basis of shares of common stock received upon a conversion (other than shares attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, the tax basis of which will equal their fair market value) will equal the adjusted tax basis of the note that was converted (excluding the portion of the adjusted tax basis that is allocable to any fractional share). The U.S. Holder's holding period for the shares of common stock will include the period during which the U.S. Holder held the notes, except that the holding period of any shares received with respect to accrued but unpaid interest will commence on the day after the date of receipt.

Possible effect of the change in conversion consideration after a change in control

In certain situations, the notes may become convertible or exchangeable into shares of an acquirer or other reference property. Depending on the circumstances, such an adjustment could result in a deemed taxable exchange of the notes to a U.S. Holder and the modified notes could be treated as newly issued at that time, potentially resulting in the recognition of taxable gain or loss. Furthermore, depending on the circumstances, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the exchange or conversion of the notes as well as the ownership of the notes and the shares may be different from the U.S. federal income tax consequences addressed in this disclosure.

Constructive distributions

The conversion rate of the notes will be adjusted in certain circumstances. Adjustments (or failures to make adjustments) that have the effect of increasing a U.S. Holder's proportionate interest in our assets or earnings

S-51

Table of Contents

and profits may, in some circumstances, result in a deemed distribution to the U.S. Holder for U.S. federal income tax purposes even though no cash or property is received. Adjustments to the conversion rate made pursuant to a bona fide reasonable adjustment formula that has the effect of preventing the dilution of the interest of the holders of the notes, however, will generally not result in a deemed distribution to a U.S. Holder.

Certain of the conversion rate adjustments provided in the notes (including, without limitation, adjustments in respect of taxable dividends to holders of our common stock) will not qualify as being pursuant to a bona fide reasonable adjustment formula. If such adjustments are made, a U.S. Holder will be deemed to have received a distribution even though the U.S. Holder has not received any cash or property as a result of such conversion rate adjustment. In addition, an adjustment to the conversion rate in connection with a make-whole fundamental change may be treated as a deemed distribution. Any deemed distribution will be taxable as a dividend, return of capital or capital gain as described under **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations** **Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities** **Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Our Capital Stock** **Distributions Generally** in the accompanying prospectus.

It is unclear whether a constructive dividend deemed paid to a non-corporate U.S. Holder would be eligible for the preferential rates on qualified dividend income, although so long as we qualify as a REIT, distributions, including a constructive dividend, generally will not be eligible for these preferential rates, as described under **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations** **Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities** **Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Our Capital Stock** **Distributions Generally** in the accompanying prospectus. Generally, a U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a note will be increased to the extent any such constructive distribution is treated as a dividend. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the impact a constructive distribution may have on their holding period in the notes.

Under the current regulations, we are generally required to report the amount of any deemed distributions on our website or to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to holders of notes not exempt from reporting. On April 12, 2016, the IRS proposed regulations addressing the amount and timing of deemed distributions, as well as obligations of withholding agents and filing and notice obligations of issuers in respect of such deemed distributions. If adopted as proposed, the regulations would generally provide that (i) the amount of a deemed distribution is the excess of the fair market value of the right to acquire stock immediately after the conversion rate adjustment over the fair market value of the right to acquire stock (after the conversion rate adjustment) without the adjustment, (ii) the deemed distribution occurs at the earlier of the date the adjustment occurs under the terms of the note and the date of the actual distribution of cash or property that results in the deemed distribution and (iii) we are required to report the amount of any deemed distributions on our website or to the IRS and to all holders of notes (including holders of notes that would otherwise be exempt from reporting). The final regulations will be effective for deemed distributions occurring on or after the date of adoption, but holders of notes and withholding agents may rely on them prior to that date under certain circumstances.

The following discussion is a supplement to, and should be read together with, the discussion under the heading **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations** **Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities** **Taxation of Holders of Our Debt Securities** **Non-U.S. Holders of Our Debt Securities** in the accompanying prospectus.

Conversion of notes

Any gain recognized by a Non-U.S. Holder upon a conversion of the notes will be determined in the same manner as described above under **Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Debt Securities** **Conversion of Notes** . If such gain is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States (and, if

required by an applicable income tax treaty, the Non-U.S. Holder maintains a permanent

S-52

Table of Contents

establishment in the United States to which such gain is attributable) or the Non-U.S. Holder is a nonresident alien individual present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the disposition and certain other requirements are met, such gain recognized will be subject to tax in the manner described under Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities Taxation of Holders of Our Debt Securities Non-U.S. Holders of Our Debt Securities Sale or Other Taxable Disposition in the accompanying prospectus.

Any amounts (including common stock) which a Non-U.S. Holder receives on a conversion of a note which are attributable to accrued and unpaid interest will generally be treated as interest and may be subject to the rules discussed under Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities Taxation of Holders of Our Debt Securities Non-U.S. Holders of Our Debt Securities Payments of Interest in the accompanying prospectus.

Constructive distributions

A Non-U.S. Holder of convertible debt instruments such as the notes may, in certain circumstances, be deemed to have received distributions of stock as a result of adjustments (or failures to make adjustments) to the conversion rate of such instruments, as described above under Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Debt Securities Constructive Distributions. If such adjustments are made, a Non-U.S. Holder will be deemed to have received constructive distributions taxable in the manner described under Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Our Capital Stock Distributions Generally in the accompanying prospectus even though such holder has not received any cash or property as a result of such adjustments. Such deemed distribution may be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax or backup withholding. Because a deemed distribution would not give rise to any cash from which any applicable withholding could be satisfied, if we pay withholding taxes on behalf of a holder we may, at our option, set off any such payment against payments of cash and common stock payable on the notes (or, in some circumstances, against any payments on the common stock).

Table of Contents**Underwriting**

Subject to the terms and conditions in the underwriting agreement between us and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, as the representatives of the underwriters, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and the underwriters have severally agreed to purchase from us, the principal amount of the notes set forth below.

Underwriter	Principal amount
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	\$
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	
Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC	
JMP Securities LLC	
Total	\$ 225,000,000

The underwriters are offering the notes subject to acceptance of the notes from us and subject to prior sale. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are subject to certain conditions. The underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement if any such notes are taken. However, the underwriters are not required to take or pay for the notes covered by the over-allotment option described below. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of non-defaulting underwriters may also be increased or the offering may be terminated.

The underwriters initially propose to offer the notes directly to the public at the public offering price listed on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. After the initial offering of the notes, the offering price and other selling terms may from time to time be varied by the underwriters. The offering of the notes by the underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part. Sales of notes made outside of the United States may be made by affiliates of the underwriters.

We have granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional \$33,750,000 aggregate principal amount of notes from us to cover sales of notes that exceed the principal amount of notes specified above. If any additional notes are purchased with this over-allotment option, the underwriters will offer such additional notes on the same terms as those on which the notes are being offered and in approximately the same proportion as shown in the table above.

The following table shows the public offering price, underwriting discounts and commissions and proceeds, before estimated offering expenses, to us. The information assumes either no exercise or full exercise by the underwriters of their over-allotment option.

	Per note	Without option	With option
Public offering price	%	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	%	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	%	\$	\$

In addition, we estimate that the expenses of this offering payable by us, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$500,000.

We have agreed that we will indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribute to payments that the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

S-54

Table of Contents

We have agreed that we will not, without the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC on behalf of the underwriters for a period of 75 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, (i) offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any shares of our common stock or publicly announce the intention to do any of the foregoing, or (ii) enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of our common stock, whether any such transaction described in clause (i) or (ii) above is to be settled by delivery of our common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise, other than

notes to be sold pursuant to this prospectus supplement or shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes;

shares of our common stock issued pursuant to our Direct Stock Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan;

shares of our common stock, options to purchase shares of our common stock or other equity-based awards granted under our existing equity incentive plans or any replacement plan under a new registration statement; and

any shares of our common stock issued upon the exercise of options or other awards (including deferred stock units) granted under existing equity incentive plans.

Our directors and executive officers have entered into lock up agreements with the underwriters prior to the commencement of this offering pursuant to which they, with limited exceptions, for a period of 75 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, may not, without the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC on behalf of the underwriters, (1) offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right, or warrant to purchase, or otherwise transfer or dispose of, directly or indirectly, any shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common stock (including without limitation, our common stock which may be deemed to be beneficially owned by the director or executive officer in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and securities which may be issued upon exercise of a stock option or warrant) or publicly announce the intention to do any of the foregoing or (2) enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock, whether any such transaction described in clause (1) or (2) above is to be settled by delivery of our common stock or such other securities, in cash or otherwise. In addition, our directors and executive officers have agreed that, without the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC on behalf of the underwriters, he or she will not, during the period ending 75 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, make any demand for or exercise any right with respect to, the registration of any shares of our common stock or any security convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common stock.

With respect to our directors and executive officers, the foregoing restrictions do not apply to transfers of our common stock (subject to specified limitations):

to an immediate family member;

to one or more trusts of which the sole beneficiaries thereof are the directors and executive officers and/or their respective immediate family members;

as a bona fide gift or gifts;

in a transaction consummated in accordance with a contract, instruction or plan satisfying the requirements of Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act and existing or entered into prior to the date of this prospectus supplement;

S-55

Table of Contents

pursuant to a domestic order or a negotiated divorce settlement; and

to us in satisfaction of any tax withholding obligations pursuant to the terms of any equity compensation plan or arrangement.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the notes on any national securities exchange or for inclusion of the notes on any automated dealer quotation system. We have been advised by the underwriters that they presently intend to make a market in the notes after completion of the offering. However, the underwriters are under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without any notice. We cannot assure the liquidity of the trading market for the notes or that an active public market for the notes will develop. If an active public trading market for the notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected. If the notes are traded, they may trade at a discount from their initial public offering price, depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our performance and other factors.

In connection with the offering of the notes, the underwriters may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions in the notes and shares of our common stock. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a short position for the underwriters. Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase the notes or shares of our common stock in the open market for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the notes. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes or shares of our common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. Stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions may cause the price of the notes or our common stock to be higher than it otherwise would be.

The underwriters have advised us that, pursuant to Regulation M of the Securities Act of 1933, they may also engage in other activities that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the notes, including the imposition of penalty bids. This means that if the representatives of the underwriters purchase notes in the open market in stabilizing transactions or to cover short sales, the representatives can require the underwriters that sold those notes as part of this offering to repay the underwriting discount received by them.

A prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus in electronic format may be made available on websites maintained by the underwriters or by their respective affiliates. The underwriters may agree to allocate a number of notes for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be made by the underwriters on the same basis as other allocations.

The underwriters and their affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, a variety of these services to us and to persons and entities with relationships with us, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their affiliates, officers, directors and employees may purchase, sell or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade securities, derivatives, loans, commodities, currencies, credit default swaps and other financial instruments for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and trading activities may involve or relate to our assets, securities and/or instruments (directly, as collateral securing other obligations or otherwise) and/or persons and entities with relationships with us. The underwriters and their affiliates may also communicate independent investment

recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such assets, securities or instruments and may at any time

S-56

Table of Contents

hold, or recommend to clients that they should acquire, long and/or short positions in such assets, securities and instruments.

Affiliates of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC are holders of our 2018 Notes. Such affiliates may receive a portion of the proceeds from this offering to the extent the proceeds are used to repurchase or repay the 2018 Notes. Affiliates of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC and Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC are lenders under our short-term residential loan warehouse facilities and our short-term real estate securities repurchase facilities and may receive a portion of the proceeds from this offering from any amounts repaid under such facilities. See Use of Proceeds.

Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or the underwriters that would permit a public offering of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The notes offered by this prospectus supplement may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus supplement or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such notes be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any notes offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or a solicitation is unlawful.

You should be aware that the laws and practices of certain countries require investors to pay stamp taxes and other charges in connection with purchases of securities.

Notice to prospective investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a relevant member state) with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that relevant member state (the relevant implementation date), an offer of securities described in this prospectus supplement may not be made to the public in that relevant member state other than:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representative for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive; provided that no such offer of securities shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

Each person in a relevant member state who initially acquires any securities or to whom any offer is made will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that it is a qualified investor within the meaning of the law in that relevant member state implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive. In the case of any securities

being offered to a financial intermediary as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, each such financial intermediary will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that the securities acquired by it in the offer have not been acquired on a non-discretionary basis on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in circumstances which may give rise to

S-57

Table of Contents

an offer of securities to the public other than their offer or resale in a relevant member state to qualified investors as so defined or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the representatives have been obtained to each such proposed offer or resale.

We, the representatives and their affiliates will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the foregoing representations, acknowledgements and agreements.

This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus has been prepared on the basis that any offer of securities in any relevant member state will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of securities. Accordingly any person making or intending to make an offer in that relevant member state of securities which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us or any of the underwriters to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized, nor do they authorize, the making of any offer of securities in circumstances in which an obligation arises for us or the underwriters to publish a prospectus for such offer.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of securities to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the securities, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including Directive 2010/73/EU), and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state.

We have not authorized and do not authorize the making of any offer of securities through any financial intermediary on their behalf, other than offers made by the noteholders with a view to the final placement of the securities as contemplated in this prospectus supplement. Accordingly, no purchaser of the securities, other than the noteholders, is authorized to make any further offer of the securities on behalf of us or the underwriters.

Notice to prospective investors in the United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement has not been approved by an authorised person for the purposes of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) and is, accordingly, only being distributed in the United Kingdom to, and is only directed at (i) investment professionals falling within the description of persons in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the Financial Promotion Order); or (ii) high net worth companies and other persons falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Financial Promotion Order; or (iii) to any other person to whom it may otherwise lawfully be communicated or made in accordance with the Financial Promotion Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons).

The notes are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such notes will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

An invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of FSMA) in connection with the issue or sale of any notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement will only be communicated or caused to be communicated in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of FSMA does not apply to the issuer.

Table of Contents

Notice to prospective investors in Switzerland

The notes may not be publicly offered in Switzerland and will not be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (SIX) or on any other stock exchange or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. This document has been prepared without regard to the disclosure standards for issuance prospectuses under art. 652a or art. 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations or the disclosure standards for listing prospectuses under art. 27 ff. of the SIX Listing Rules or the listing rules of any other stock exchange or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. Neither this document nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the notes or the offering may be publicly distributed or otherwise made publicly available in Switzerland.

Neither this document nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the offering, us or the notes have been or will be filed with or approved by any Swiss regulatory authority. In particular, this document will not be filed with, and the offer of notes will not be supervised by, the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA, and the offer of notes has not been and will not be authorized under the Swiss Federal Act on Collective Investment Schemes (CISA). The investor protection afforded to acquirers of interests in collective investment schemes under the CISA does not extend to acquirers of notes.

Notice to prospective investors in Hong Kong

The notes may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made thereunder, or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32 of the Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors in Hong Kong as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Table of Contents

Legal matters

Certain legal matters relating to this offering will be passed upon for us by Latham & Watkins LLP. Clifford Chance US LLP is acting as counsel to the underwriters in connection with certain legal matters relating to the notes being offered hereby. Venable LLP will issue an opinion to us regarding certain matters of Maryland law, including the validity of our common stock.

Experts

The audited consolidated financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Where you can find more information

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of the registration statement on Form S-3 we filed with the SEC under the Securities Act, and do not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus to any of our contracts, agreements or other documents, the reference may not be complete and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement or the exhibits to the reports or other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a copy of such contract, agreement or other document. We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. Our public filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov> and on our website at www.redwoodtrust.com.

Table of Contents

Incorporation of certain information by reference

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents instead of having to repeat the information in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below (SEC File No. 001-13759):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, which was filed with the SEC on February 24, 2017;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017, which were filed with the SEC on May 5, 2017 and August 4, 2017, respectively;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on May 19, 2017 and August 11, 2017;

our Definitive Proxy Statement with respect to the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 21, 2017 (solely to the extent specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K);

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, which was filed with the SEC on January 7, 1998; and

all documents filed by Redwood Trust, Inc. with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering (but excluding any items, documents, or portions of items or documents which are deemed furnished and not filed with the SEC). We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus is delivered, without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, including exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into such documents. Requests should be directed to Redwood Trust, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, at One Belvedere Place, Suite 300, Mill Valley, California 94941, telephone: (866) 269-4976.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

Redwood Trust, Inc.

Debt Securities

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants

Stockholder Rights

Units

Redwood Capital Trust II

Trust Preferred Securities

fully and unconditionally guaranteed by

Redwood Trust, Inc.

We may from time to time offer, in one or more classes or series, separately or together, and in amounts, at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus, the following securities:

debt securities, which may consist of debentures, notes, or other types of debt;

shares of our common stock;

shares of our preferred stock;

warrants to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock;

rights issuable to our stockholders to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock, to purchase warrants exercisable for shares of our common stock or preferred stock, or to purchase units consisting of

two or more of the foregoing;

trust preferred securities; and

units consisting of two or more of the foregoing.

We refer to the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants, rights, trust preferred securities and units registered hereunder collectively as the securities in this prospectus. The specific terms of each series or class of the securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and will include, where applicable:

in the case of debt securities, the specific title, aggregate principal amount, currency, form (which may be certificated or global), authorized denominations, maturity, rate (or manner of calculating the rate) and time of payment of interest, terms for redemption at our option or repayment at the holder's option, terms for sinking payments, terms for conversion into shares of our common stock or preferred stock, covenants, and any initial public offering price;

in the case of preferred stock, the specific designation, preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to transferability, dividends and other distributions, and terms and conditions of redemption and any initial public offering price;

in the case of warrants or rights, the duration, offering price, exercise price, and detachability;

in the case of trust preferred securities, the designation, annual distribution rate, distribution payment dates, whether distributions will be cumulative and compounding, amounts paid out of assets of the trust to holders upon dissolution, any repurchase, redemption or exchange provisions, any preference or subordination rights upon a default or liquidation, any voting rights, terms for any conversion or exchange, and any rights to defer distributions; and

in the case of units, the constituent securities comprising the units, the offering price, and detachability.

In addition, the specific terms may include limitations on actual or constructive ownership and restrictions on transfer of the securities, in each case as may be appropriate, among other purposes, to preserve the status of our company as a real estate investment trust, or REIT, for federal income tax purposes. The applicable prospectus supplement will also contain information, where applicable, about certain United States federal income tax consequences relating to, and any listing on a securities exchange of, the securities covered by such prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in any of our securities.

The securities may be offered directly by us or by any selling security holder, through agents designated from time to time by us or to or through underwriters or dealers. If any agents, dealers, or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of the securities, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission, or discount arrangement between or among them will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. See the sections entitled Plan of Distribution and About This Prospectus for more information. No securities may be sold without delivery of this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of such series of securities.

Our common stock currently trades on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol RWT . On May 9, 2016, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$13.12 per share.

Investing in the securities involves risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page 3.

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

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

The date of this prospectus is May 10, 2016.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	3
<u>Cautionary Statement</u>	4
<u>Redwood Trust, Inc.</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	7
<u>Accounting Treatment Relating to Trust Preferred Securities</u>	7
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u>	7
<u>General Description of Securities</u>	8
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	9
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	16
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	17
<u>Description of Securities Warrants</u>	18
<u>Description of Rights to Purchase Shares of Common or Preferred Stock</u>	19
<u>Description of Trust Preferred Securities</u>	20
<u>Description of Units</u>	25
<u>Global Securities</u>	26
<u>Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer and Repurchase of Shares</u>	29
<u>Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and of Our Charter and Bylaws</u>	31
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	33
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	59
<u>Validity of the Securities</u>	60
<u>Experts</u>	60
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	61
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	62

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different or additional information. We are offering to sell the securities and seeking offers to buy the securities only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted.

We have not authorized any dealer or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying supplement to this prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any accompanying supplement to this prospectus. This prospectus and any accompanying supplement to this 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 and any

accompanying supplement to this 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 in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus and any accompanying supplement to this prospectus is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of the document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus and any accompanying supplement to this prospectus is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus sets forth certain terms of the securities that we may offer.

Each time we offer securities, we will attach a prospectus supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will contain the specific description of the terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement will supersede this prospectus to the extent it contains information that is different from, or that conflicts with, the information contained in this prospectus.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference herein and therein, in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information contained in the documents identified under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** in this prospectus.

We have not included separate financial statements of Redwood Capital Trust II, a special purpose entity, in this prospectus. We do not consider that such financial statements are material to holders of the trust preferred securities because:

the trust has no operating history or independent operations; and

the trust is not engaged in, nor will it engage in, any activity other than issuing trust preferred and trust common securities, investing in and holding our debt securities and engaging in related activities.

Furthermore, the combination of our obligations under the debt securities, the associated indentures, the trust agreement and the guarantees provide a full, irrevocable and unconditional guarantee of payments of distributions and other amounts due on the trust preferred securities. In addition, we do not expect that Redwood Capital Trust II will file reports with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to **we**, **us**, **our** or **Redwood** mean Redwood Trust, Inc. and our consolidated subsidiaries, except where it is made clear that the terms mean Redwood Trust, Inc. only.

Redwood Capital Trust II was formed solely for the purpose of issuing trust preferred securities and has no operating history or independent operations. Redwood Capital Trust II was created under the Delaware Statutory Trust Act and will be governed by a trust agreement (as it may be amended and restated from time to time) among the trustees of Redwood Capital Trust II and us. The trust agreement will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

When Redwood Capital Trust II issues its trust preferred securities, the holders of the trust preferred securities will own all of the issued and outstanding trust preferred securities of Redwood Capital Trust II. We will acquire all of the issued and outstanding trust common securities of Redwood Capital Trust II, representing an undivided beneficial interest in the assets of Redwood Capital Trust II of at least 3%.

Redwood Capital Trust II exists primarily for the purpose of:

issuing its trust preferred and trust common securities;

investing the proceeds from the sale of its securities in our debt securities; and

engaging in only such other activities as are necessary or incidental to issuing its securities and purchasing and holding our debt securities.

When Redwood Capital Trust II issues its trust preferred securities, the number of trustees of Redwood Capital Trust II will initially be four. Two of the trustees will be individuals who are officers or employees of Redwood. The third trustee will be Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., which will serve as the property trustee under the trust agreement for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. The fourth trustee will be Wells Fargo Delaware Trust Company, N.A., which has its principal place of business in the State of Delaware.

Table of Contents

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., acting in its capacity as guarantee trustee, will hold for your benefit a trust preferred securities guarantee, which will be separately qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, because we will own all of the trust common securities of Redwood Capital Trust II, we will have the exclusive right to appoint, remove or replace trustees and to increase or decrease the number of trustees. In most cases, there will be at least four trustees. The term of Redwood Capital Trust II's amended and restated trust agreement will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, but may dissolve earlier as provided in the trust agreement.

The rights of holders of the trust preferred securities of Redwood Capital Trust II, including economic rights, rights to information and voting rights and the duties and obligations of the trustees of Redwood Capital Trust II, will be contained in and governed by the trust agreement of Redwood Capital Trust II (as it may be amended and restated from time to time), the Delaware Statutory Trust Act and the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Belvedere Place, Suite 300, Mill Valley, California 94941; our telephone number is (415) 389-7373.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider any specific risks set forth under the caption "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement and under the caption "Risk Factors" in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, incorporated into this prospectus by reference, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. You should consider carefully those risk factors together with all of the other information included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus before you decide to purchase our securities. The occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment in the offered securities.

Table of Contents**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT**

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements within the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements involve numerous risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ from our beliefs, expectations, estimates, and projections and, consequently, you should not rely on these forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. Forward-looking statements are not historical in nature and can be identified by words such as anticipate, estimate, will, should, expect, believe, intend, seek, plan, and similar expressions or their negative references to strategy, plans, or intentions. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, including, among other things, those described in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement under the caption Risk Factors. Other risks, uncertainties, and factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected are summarized below and described from time to time in reports we file with the SEC, including under the heading Risk Factors in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

Important factors, among others, that may affect our actual results include: interest rate volatility, changes in credit spreads, and changes in liquidity in the market for real estate securities and loans; changes in the demand from investors for residential mortgages and investments, and our ability to distribute an increased volume of residential mortgages through our whole-loan distribution channel; our ability to finance our investments in securities and our acquisition of residential mortgages with short-term debt; the availability of assets for purchase at attractive risk-adjusted returns and our ability to reinvest cash and the proceeds from the potential sale of securities and investments we hold; changes in the values of assets we own; higher than expected operating expenses due to delays or decreases in the realization of expected operating expense reductions related to the repositioning of our conforming mortgage banking activities and commercial loan origination activities, and other unforeseen expenses; general economic trends, the performance of the housing, commercial real estate, mortgage, credit, and broader financial markets, and their effects on the prices of earning assets and the credit status of borrowers; federal and state legislative and regulatory developments, and the actions of governmental authorities, including those affecting the mortgage industry or our business (including, but not limited to, the Federal Housing Finance Agency's rules relating to FHLB membership requirements and the implications for our captive insurance subsidiary's membership in the FHLB); developments related to the fixed income and mortgage finance markets and the Federal Reserve's statements regarding its future open market activity and monetary policy; our exposure to credit risk and the timing of credit losses within our portfolio; the concentration of the credit risks we are exposed to, including due to the structure of assets we hold and the geographical concentration of real estate underlying assets we own; our exposure to adjustable-rate mortgage loans; the efficacy and expense of our efforts to manage or hedge credit risk, interest rate risk, and other financial and operational risks; changes in credit ratings on assets we own and changes in the rating agencies' credit rating methodologies; changes in interest rates; changes in mortgage prepayment rates; the ability of counterparties to satisfy their obligations to us; our involvement in securitization transactions, the profitability of those transactions, and the risks we are exposed to in engaging in securitization transactions; exposure to claims and litigation, including litigation arising from our involvement in securitization transactions; whether we have sufficient liquid assets to meet short-term needs; our ability to successfully compete and retain or attract key personnel; our ability to adapt our business model and strategies to changing circumstances; changes in our investment, financing, and hedging strategies and new risks we may be exposed to if we expand our business activities; our exposure to a disruption or breach of the security of our technology infrastructure and systems; exposure to environmental liabilities; our failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations; our failure to maintain appropriate internal controls over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures; the impact on our reputation that could result from our actions or omissions or from those of others; changes in accounting principles and tax rules; our ability to maintain our status as a REIT for tax purposes; limitations imposed on our business due to our REIT status and our

status as exempt from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940; decisions about raising, managing, and distributing capital; and other factors not presently identified.

Table of Contents**REDWOOD TRUST, INC.**

Redwood Trust, Inc., together with its subsidiaries, focuses on investing in mortgage- and other real estate-related assets and engaging in mortgage banking activities. We seek to invest in real estate-related assets that have the potential to generate attractive cash flow returns over time and to generate income through our mortgage banking activities. During 2015, we operated our business in three segments: residential mortgage banking, residential investments, and commercial mortgage banking and investments. Redwood Trust, Inc. has elected to be taxed as a real estate investment trust (REIT) under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Internal Revenue Code), beginning with its taxable year ended December 31, 1994. We generally refer, collectively, to Redwood Trust, Inc. and those of its subsidiaries that are not subject to subsidiary-level corporate income tax as the REIT or our REIT. We generally refer to subsidiaries of Redwood Trust, Inc. that are subject to subsidiary-level corporate income tax as our operating subsidiaries or our taxable REIT subsidiaries or TRS. Our mortgage banking activities and investments in mortgage servicing rights (MSRs) are generally carried out through our taxable REIT subsidiaries, while our portfolio of mortgage- and other real estate-related investments is primarily held at our REIT. We generally intend to retain profits generated and taxed at our taxable REIT subsidiaries, and to distribute as dividends at least 90% of the taxable income we generate at our REIT.

Our residential mortgage banking segment primarily consists of operating a mortgage loan conduit that acquires residential loans from third-party originators for subsequent sale, securitization, or transfer to our investment portfolio. We typically acquire prime, jumbo mortgages and the related mortgage servicing rights on a flow basis from our network of loan sellers and distribute those loans through our Sequoia private-label securitization program or to institutions that acquire pools of whole loans. We occasionally supplement our flow purchases with bulk loan acquisitions. This segment also includes various derivative financial instruments and interest only securities retained from our Sequoia securitizations that we utilize to manage certain risks associated with residential loans we acquire. During 2015, we also acquired conforming loans (defined as loans eligible for sale to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the Agencies)) and the related servicing rights on a flow basis from our seller network. Conforming loans we acquired were generally sold to the Agencies. During the first quarter of 2016, as part of our ongoing evaluation of the efficiency and profitability of our businesses, we announced plans to restructure our conforming loan operations by discontinuing the acquisition and aggregation of conforming loans for resale to the Agencies, and instead focus on direct conforming-related investments in mortgage servicing rights and risk-sharing transactions. Our residential mortgage banking segment's main source of revenue is income from mortgage banking activities, which includes valuation increases (or gains) on the sale or securitization of loans, and from hedges used to manage risks associated with these activities. Additionally, this segment may generate interest income on loans held pending securitization or sale. Funding expenses, direct operating expenses, and tax expenses associated with these activities are also included in this segment.

Our residential investments segment includes a portfolio of investments in residential mortgage-backed securities retained from our Sequoia securitizations, as well as residential mortgage-backed securities issued by third parties. In addition, this segment includes a subsidiary of Redwood Trust that is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBC) and that utilizes attractive long-term financing from the FHLBC to make long-term investments directly in residential mortgage loans. Finally, this segment invests in MSRs associated with residential loans we have sold or securitized, as well as MSRs that we purchased from third parties. The residential investments segment's main sources of revenue are interest income from investment portfolio securities and residential loans held-for-investment, as well as MSR income. Additionally, this segment may realize gains upon the sale of securities. Funding expenses, hedging expenses, direct operating expenses, and tax provisions associated with these activities are also included in this segment.

During 2015, our commercial mortgage banking and investments segment consisted primarily of a mortgage loan conduit that originated senior commercial loans for subsequent sale to third-party CMBS sponsors or other investors. In addition to senior loans, during 2015 we offered complementary forms of commercial real estate financing directly to borrowers that included mezzanine loans, subordinate mortgage loans, and other financing solutions. We typically have held the mezzanine and other subordinate loans we originated in our commercial investment portfolio. During the first quarter of 2016, as part of our ongoing evaluation of the efficiency and profitability of our businesses, we announced plans to reposition our commercial business to focus solely on

Table of Contents

investing activities and discontinue commercial loan originations. During 2015, this segment's main sources of revenue were mortgage banking income, which included valuation increases (or gains) on the sale of senior commercial loans and associated hedges, and net interest income from mezzanine or subordinate loans held in our investment portfolio. Funding expenses, direct operating expenses, and tax expenses associated with these activities are also included in this segment.

Throughout our history we have sponsored or managed other investment entities, including a private limited partnership fund that we managed, the Redwood Opportunity Fund, LP (the Fund), as well as Acacia securitization entities, certain of which we continue to manage. The Fund was primarily invested in residential securities and the Acacia entities are primarily invested in a variety of real estate-related assets. During the third quarter of 2011, we engaged in a transaction in which we resecuritized a pool of senior residential securities (the Residential Resecuritization) primarily for the purpose of obtaining permanent non-recourse financing on a portion of the residential securities we hold in our investment portfolio at the REIT. Similarly, during the fourth quarter of 2012, we engaged in a transaction in which we securitized a pool of commercial loans (the Commercial Securitization) primarily for the purpose of obtaining permanent non-recourse financing on a portion of the commercial loans we hold.

Our primary sources of income are net interest income from our investment portfolios and non-interest income from our mortgage banking activities. Net interest income consists of the interest income we earn on investments less the interest expense we incur on borrowed funds and other liabilities. Income from mortgage banking activities consists of the profit we seek to generate through the acquisition of loans and their subsequent sale or securitization.

We were incorporated in the State of Maryland on April 11, 1994, and commenced operations on August 19, 1994. Our principal executive offices are located at One Belvedere Place, Suite 300, Mill Valley, California 94941. Our telephone number is (415) 389-7373. Our website is www.redwoodtrust.com. Information contained in or that can be accessed through our website is not part of, and is not incorporated into, this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for any offering of securities, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities to fund our business and investment activity, which may include funding purchases of residential mortgage loans, funding the origination of commercial loans and acquiring mortgage-backed securities for our investment portfolio, as well as for other general corporate purposes.

ACCOUNTING TREATMENT RELATING TO TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

The financial statements of Redwood Capital Trust II will be consolidated with our financial statements. Following the issuance of trust preferred securities by Redwood Capital Trust II, our financial statements will include a footnote that discloses, among other things, that the assets of the trust consist of our debt securities and will specify the designation, principal amount, interest rate and maturity date of the debt securities.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND**EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and each of the previous five years ended December 31 were as follows:

	Three Months		Year Ended December 31,			
	Ended					
	March 31, 2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.7x	2.40x	2.65x	3.90x	2.20x	1.26x
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	1.7x	2.40x	2.65x	3.90x	2.20x	1.26x

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges represents the number of times fixed charges are covered by earnings. Fixed charges consist of interest on outstanding long-term debt and asset backed securities issued, as well as associated amortization of debt discount and deferred issuance costs. The proportion deemed representative of the interest factor of operating lease expense has not been deducted as the total operating lease expense in itself was de minimis and did not affect the ratios in a material way. Earnings consist of consolidated income before income taxes and fixed charges.

Table of Contents

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

The following is a brief description of the material terms of our securities that may be offered under this prospectus. This description does not purport to be complete and is subject in all respects to applicable Maryland law and to the provisions of our charter and bylaws, including any amendments or supplements thereto, copies of which are on file with the SEC as described under [Where You Can Find Information](#) and are incorporated by reference herein.

We, directly or through agents, dealers, or underwriters designated from time to time, may offer, issue, and sell, together or separately:

debt securities, which may consist of debentures, notes, or other types of debt;

shares of our common stock;

shares of our preferred stock;

warrants to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock;

rights issuable to our stockholders to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock, to purchase warrants exercisable for shares of our common stock or preferred stock, or to purchase units consisting of two or more of the foregoing;

trust preferred securities; and

units consisting of two or more of the foregoing.

We may issue the debt securities as exchangeable for or convertible into shares of common stock, preferred stock, or other securities. The preferred stock may also be exchangeable for and/or convertible into shares of common stock, another series of preferred stock, or other securities. The debt securities, the preferred stock, the common stock, the warrants, the rights, the trust preferred securities and the units are collectively referred to in this prospectus as the securities. When a particular series of securities is offered, a supplement to this prospectus will be delivered with this prospectus, which will set forth the terms of the offering and sale of the offered securities.

Our charter provides that we have authority to issue up to 180,000,000 shares of stock, par value \$0.01 per share, all of which is currently classified as common stock. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and we intend to so list any additional shares of our common stock which are issued and sold hereunder. We may elect to list any future class or series of our securities issued hereunder on an exchange, but we are not obligated to do so. Under Maryland law, our stockholders generally are not liable for our debts or obligations.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities covered by this prospectus will be our debt securities issued under the Indenture, dated as of March 6, 2013, which we refer to as the indenture, between us and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee. This prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplement, will describe all the material terms of a particular series of debt securities. Unless otherwise specified in a supplement to this prospectus, the debt securities will be our direct, unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

The following is a summary of the most important provisions and definitions of the indenture. The summary is not complete. The indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement and you should read the indenture for provisions that may be important to you. Capitalized terms used in the summary have the meaning specified in the indenture.

In this description of debt securities, the words we, us, or our refer only Redwood Trust, Inc. and not to any of our subsidiaries.

General

Debt securities may be issued in separate series without limitation as to aggregate principal amount. We may specify a maximum aggregate principal amount for the debt securities of any series.

The prospectus supplement will set forth:

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated;

the offering price;

the form and terms of any guarantee of any debt securities;

the title;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount;

the person who shall be entitled to receive interest, if other than the record holder on the record date;

the date the principal will be payable;

the interest rate, if any, the date interest will accrue, the interest payment dates, and the regular record dates;

the place where payments may be made;

any mandatory or optional redemption provisions;

if applicable, the method for determining how the principal, premium, if any, or interest will be calculated by reference to an index or formula;

if other than U.S. currency, the currency or currency units in which principal, premium, if any, or interest will be payable, whether we or the holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency and the manner in which the exchange rate with respect to these payments will be determined;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

the form of the debt securities and whether the debt securities will be issuable, in whole or in part, as global debt securities;

the portion of the principal amount that will be payable upon acceleration of stated maturity, if other than the entire principal amount;

if the principal amount payable at stated maturity will not be determinable as of any date prior to stated maturity, the amount which will be deemed to be the principal amount;

Table of Contents

any defeasance provisions if different from those described below under Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance ;

any conversion or exchange provisions;

any obligation to redeem or purchase the debt securities pursuant to a sinking fund;

whether the debt securities will be issuable in the form of a global security;

any subordination provisions;

any deletions of, or changes or additions to, the events of default or covenants; and

any other specific terms of such debt securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement:

the debt securities will be registered debt securities; and

registered debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued in denominations of \$2,000 and an integral multiple of \$1,000 thereafter.

Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates.

Exchange and Transfer

Debt securities may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us.

We will not impose a service charge for any transfer or exchange, but we may require holders to pay any tax or other governmental charges associated with any transfer or exchange.

In the event of any potential redemption of debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, any debt security of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt security of that series selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion being redeemed in part.

We may initially appoint the trustee as the security registrar. Any transfer agent, in addition to the security registrar, initially designated by us will be named in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional transfer agents or change transfer agents or change the office of the transfer agent. However, we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

Global Securities

The debt securities of any series may be represented, in whole or in part, by one or more global securities. Each global security will:

be registered in the name of a depositary that we will identify in a prospectus supplement;

be deposited with the depositary or nominee or custodian; and

bear any required legends.

Each global security will be registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, or the depositary, or a nominee of the depositary. Except as set forth under the heading **Global Securities Book-Entry, Delivery and Form** below, global securities will not be issuable in certificated form.

Table of Contents

No global security may be exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities registered in the name of any person other than the depositary or any nominee unless:

the depositary has notified us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or has ceased to be qualified to act as depositary;

an event of default is continuing; or

any other circumstances described in a prospectus supplement occurs.

As long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a global security, the depositary or nominee will be considered the sole owner and holder of the debt securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except in the above limited circumstances, owners of beneficial interests in a global security:

will not be entitled to have the debt securities registered in their names;

will not be entitled to physical delivery of certificated debt securities; and

will not be considered to be holders of those debt securities under the indenture.

Payments on a global security will be made to the depositary or its nominee as the holder of the global security. Some jurisdictions have laws that require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. These laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

Institutions that have accounts with the depositary or its nominee are referred to as participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to participants and to persons that may hold beneficial interests through participants. The depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of debt securities represented by the global security to the accounts of its participants.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be shown on and effected through records maintained by the depositary, with respect to participants' interests, or any participant, with respect to interests of persons held by participants on their behalf.

Payments, transfers, and exchanges relating to beneficial interests in a global security will be subject to policies and procedures of the depositary.

The depositary policies and procedures may change from time to time. Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for the depositary's or any participant's records with respect to beneficial interests in a global security.

Payment and Paying Agent

The provisions of this paragraph will apply to the debt securities unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement. Payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name the debt security is registered at the close of business on the regular record date. Payment on debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of a paying agent or paying agents designated by us. However, at our option, we may pay interest by mailing a check to the record holder. The corporate trust office will be designated as our sole paying agent.

We may also name any other paying agents in the prospectus supplement. We may designate additional paying agents, change paying agents, or change the office of any paying agent. However, we will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All moneys paid by us to a paying agent for payment on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such payment was due will be repaid to us. Thereafter, the holder may look only to us for such payment.

Table of Contents

Consolidation, Merger, and Sale of Assets

Except as otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may not consolidate with or merge into any other person in a transaction in which we are not the surviving corporation, or convey, transfer, or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless:

we are the surviving corporation or the successor, if any, is a U.S. corporation;

the successor assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing; and

certain other conditions are met.

Notwithstanding the above, any of our subsidiaries may consolidate with, merge into or transfer all or part of its properties to us.

No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions which may afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event we have a change in control or in the event of a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change in control) which could adversely affect holders of debt securities.

Covenants

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement any restrictive covenants applicable to any issue of debt securities.

Events of Default

Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the indenture defines an event of default with respect to any series of debt securities as one or more of the following events:

- (1) failure to pay principal of or any premium on any debt security of that series when due;
- (2) failure to pay any interest on any debt security of that series for 30 days when due;
- (3) failure to deposit any sinking fund payment within 30 days of when due;

- (4) failure to perform any other covenant in the indenture continued for 90 days after being given the notice required in the indenture;
- (5) our bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization; and
- (6) any other event of default specified in the prospectus supplement.

An event of default of one series of debt securities is not necessarily an event of default for any other series of debt securities.

If an event of default, other than an event of default described in clause (5) above, shall occur and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may declare the principal amount of the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately.

If an event of default described in clause (5) above shall occur, the principal amount of all the debt securities of that series will automatically become immediately due and payable.

After acceleration the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal, or other specified amount, have been cured or waived.

Other than the duty to act with the required care during an event of default, the trustee will not be obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request of the holders unless the holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity. Generally, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the

Table of Contents

outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method, and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

A holder will not have any right to institute any proceeding under the indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver or a trustee, or for any other remedy under the indenture, unless:

- (1) the holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series;
- (2) the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request and have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee to institute the proceeding; and
- (3) the trustee has failed to institute the proceeding and has not received direction inconsistent with the original request from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series within 60 days after the original request.

Holders may, however, sue to enforce the payment of principal, premium, or interest on any debt security on or after the due date or to enforce the right, if any, to convert any debt security without following the procedures listed in (1) through (3) above.

We will furnish the trustee an annual statement by our officers as to whether or not we are in default in the performance of the indenture and, if so, specifying all known defaults.

Modification and Waiver

Except as provided in the next two succeeding paragraphs, we and the trustee may make modifications and amendments to the indenture (including, without limitation, through consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, outstanding securities) and may waive any existing default or event of default (including, without limitation, through consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, outstanding securities) with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding securities of each series affected by the modification or amendment.

However, neither we nor the trustee may make any modification or amendment without the consent of the holder of each outstanding security of that series affected by the modification or amendment if such modification or amendment would:

change the stated maturity of any debt security;

reduce the principal of, premium, if any, on or interest on any debt security;

reduce the principal of an original issue discount security or any other debt security payable on acceleration of maturity;

reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest on any debt security;

change the currency in which any debt security is payable;

impair the right to enforce any payment after the stated maturity or redemption date;

waive any default or event of default in payment of the principal of, premium on or interest on any debt security;

waive a redemption payment of any debt security, if a redemption is made at our option;

adversely affect the right, if any, to convert any debt security; or

reduce the principal amount of securities whose holders must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver of provisions in the indenture.

Table of Contents

Notwithstanding the preceding, without the consent of any holder of outstanding securities, we and the trustee may amend or supplement the indenture:

to cure any ambiguity, defect, or inconsistency;

to provide for uncertificated securities in addition to or in place of certificated securities;

to provide for the assumption of our obligations to holders of any debt security in the case of a merger or consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets;

to make any change that would provide any additional rights or benefits to the holders of securities or that does not adversely affect the legal rights under the indenture of any such holder;

to comply with requirements of the SEC in order to effect or maintain the qualification of an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

to conform the text of the indenture to any provision of the Description of Debt Securities to the extent that such provision in the Description of Debt Securities was intended to be a verbatim recitation of a provision of the indenture;

to provide for the issuance of additional securities in accordance with the limitations set forth in the indenture as of the date of the indenture;

to allow any guarantor to execute a supplemental indenture with respect to debt securities and to release guarantors in accordance with the terms of the indenture; or

to add additional obligors under the indenture and the securities.

The consent of holders is not necessary under the indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance

Legal Defeasance. The indenture provides that, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the applicable series of debt securities, we may be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series (except for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of such series, to replace stolen, lost, or mutilated debt securities of such series, and to maintain paying agencies and certain provisions relating to the treatment of funds held by paying agents). We will be so discharged upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other

than U.S. dollars, foreign government obligations, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants or investment bank to pay and discharge each installment of principal, premium, and interest on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities.

This discharge may occur only if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel stating that we have received from, or there has been published by, the United States Internal Revenue Service a ruling or, since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable United States federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based thereon such opinion shall confirm that, the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain, or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance, and discharge and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit, defeasance, and discharge had not occurred.

Defeasance of Certain Covenants. The indenture provides that, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the applicable series of debt securities, upon compliance with certain conditions:

we may omit to comply with the covenant described under the heading Consolidation, Merger, and Sale of Assets and certain other covenants set forth in the indenture, as well as any additional covenants which may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement; and

Table of Contents

any omission to comply with those covenants will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series, or covenant defeasance.

The conditions include:

depositing with the trustee money and/or U.S. government obligations or, in the case of debt securities denominated in a single currency other than U.S. dollars, foreign government obligations, that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay and discharge each installment of principal of, premium and interest on and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of the debt securities of that series on the stated maturity of those payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities; and

delivering to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain, or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and related covenant defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit and related covenant defeasance had not occurred.

Covenant Defeasance and Events of Default. In the event we exercise our option to effect covenant defeasance with respect to any series of debt securities and the debt securities of that series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any event of default, the amount of money and/or U.S. government obligations or foreign government obligations on deposit with the trustee will be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of their stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of the acceleration resulting from the event of default. However, we shall remain liable for those payments.

Notices

Notices to holders will be given by mail to the addresses of the holders in the security register.

No Personal Liability of Directors, Officers, Employees or Stockholders

None of our past, present or future directors, officers, employees or stockholders, as such, will have any liability for any of our obligations under the debt securities or the indenture or for any claim based on, or in respect or by reason of, such obligations or their creation. By accepting a debt security, each holder waives and releases all such liability. This waiver and release is part of the consideration for the issue of the debt securities. However, this waiver and release may not be effective to waive liabilities under U.S. federal securities laws, and it is the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities, including any claim or controversy arising out of or relating to the indenture or the securities, will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

Regarding the Trustee

The indenture limits the right of the trustee, should it become a creditor of us, to obtain payment of claims or secure its claims.

The trustee is permitted to engage in certain other transactions. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, and there is a default under the debt securities of any series for which they are trustee, the trustee must eliminate the conflict or resign.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

All shares of common stock offered by this prospectus will be duly authorized, fully paid, and nonassessable. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends if, as, and when authorized by our board of directors and declared by us out of assets legally available for the payment of dividends. They are also entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, after payment of or adequate provision for all of our known debts and liabilities. These rights are subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of our stock and to the provisions of our charter regarding restrictions on transfer of our stock.

Subject to our charter restrictions on transfer of our stock, each outstanding share of common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors. Except as provided with respect to any other class or series of stock, the holders of our common stock will possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock can elect all of the directors then standing for election, and the holders of the remaining shares will not be able to elect any directors.

Holders of our common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund, redemption, or, if listed on the New York Stock Exchange, appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Subject to our charter restrictions on transfer of our stock, all shares of common stock will have equal dividend, liquidation, and other rights.

Transfer Agent, Registrar, and Dividend Disbursing Agent

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is currently Computershare Trust Company, N.A. and its affiliate, Computershare Inc., acts as dividend disbursing agent.

Power to Reclassify Shares of Our Stock; Issuance of Additional Shares

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify and reclassify from time to time any unissued shares of our stock into other classes or series of stock, including preferred stock, and to cause the issuance of such shares. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series, the board of directors is required by Maryland law and by our charter to set, subject to our charter restrictions on transfer of our stock, the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption for each class or series. We believe that the power to issue additional shares of common stock or preferred stock and to classify or reclassify unissued shares of common or preferred stock and thereafter to issue the classified or reclassified shares provides us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs which might arise. These actions can be taken without stockholder approval, unless stockholder approval is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. Although we have no present intention of doing so, we could issue a class or series of stock that could delay, defer, or prevent a transaction or a change in control of Redwood Trust that might involve a premium price for holders of common stock or otherwise be in their best interest. We have no shares of preferred stock presently outstanding.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify from time to time any unissued shares of stock in one or more classes or series of preferred stock and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued preferred stock of any class or series in one or more classes or series. If we offer preferred stock pursuant to this prospectus in the future, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of such preferred stock, including the following, where applicable:

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

the dividend rate (or the method of calculating dividends), if any, on the shares of the class or series and the priority as to payment of dividends with respect to other classes or series of our shares of stock;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends on the preferred stock will accumulate;

the dividend periods (or the method of calculating the dividend periods);

the voting rights of the preferred stock, if any;

the liquidation preference and the priority as to payment of the liquidation preference with respect to other classes or series of our stock and any other rights of the shares of the class or series upon our liquidation or winding-up;

the provision for a sinking fund, if any, for such preferred stock;

whether or not and on what terms the shares of the class or series will be subject to redemption or repurchase at our option;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which such preferred stock will be converted into the common stock, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof);

whether the shares of the class or series of preferred stock will be listed on a securities exchange or quoted on an inter-dealer quotation system;

any limitations on direct or beneficial ownership and restrictions on transfer applicable to the preferred stock, in addition to those already set forth in our charter, that may be necessary to preserve our status as a real estate investment trust; and

the other rights and privileges and any qualifications, limitations, or restrictions of the rights or privileges of the class or series.

Transfer Agent, Registrar, and Dividend Disbursing Agent

The transfer agent and registrar for our preferred stock is currently Computershare Trust Company, N.A. and its affiliate, Computershare Inc., acts as dividend disbursing agent. If different, we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement the transfer agent, registrar, and dividend disbursing agent for any series of preferred stock offered by that prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WARRANTS

We may issue securities warrants for the purchase of common stock or preferred stock, respectively referred to as common stock warrants and preferred stock warrants. Securities warrants may be issued independently or together with any other securities offered by this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other securities. Each issuance of the securities warrants will be issued under a separate securities warrant agreement to be entered into by us and a bank or trust company, as securities warrant agent, all as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular issue of offered securities warrants. Each issue of securities warrants will be evidenced by securities warrant certificates. The securities warrant agent will act solely as an agent of ours in connection with the securities warrant certificates and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holder of securities warrant certificates or beneficial owners of securities warrants.

If we offer securities warrants pursuant to this prospectus in the future, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of such securities warrants, including the following, where applicable:

the offering price;

the aggregate number of shares purchasable upon exercise of such securities warrants, and in the case of securities warrants for preferred stock, the designation, aggregate number, and terms of the class or series of preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of such securities warrants;

the designation and terms of the securities with which such securities warrants are being offered, if any, and the number of such securities warrants being offered with each such security;

the date on and after which such securities warrants and any related securities will be transferable separately;

the number of shares of preferred stock or shares of common stock purchasable upon exercise of each of such securities warrants and the price at which such number of shares of preferred stock or common stock may be purchased upon such exercise;

the date on which the right to exercise such securities warrants shall commence and the expiration date on which such right shall expire;

U.S. federal income tax considerations; and

any other material terms of such securities warrants.

Holders of future securities warrants, if any, will not be entitled by virtue of being such holders, to vote, to consent, to receive dividends, to receive notice with respect to any meeting of stockholders for the election of our directors or any

other matter, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as stockholders of Redwood Trust.

Table of Contents

**DESCRIPTION OF
RIGHTS TO PURCHASE SHARES OF COMMON OR PREFERRED STOCK**

We may issue, as a dividend at no cost, to holders of record of our securities or any class or series thereof on the applicable record date, rights to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock, to purchase warrants exercisable for shares of our common stock or preferred stock, or to purchase units consisting of two or more of the foregoing. In this prospectus, we refer to such rights as stockholder rights. If stockholders rights are so issued to existing holders of securities, each stockholder right will entitle the registered holder thereof to purchase the securities issuable upon exercise of the rights pursuant to the terms set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If stockholder rights are issued, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of such stockholder rights including the following where applicable:

record date;

subscription price;

subscription agent;

aggregate number of shares of preferred stock, shares of common stock, warrants, or units purchasable upon exercise of such stockholder rights and in the case of stockholder rights for preferred stock or warrants exercisable for preferred stock, the designation, aggregate number, and terms of the class or series of preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of such stockholder rights or warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise such stockholder rights shall commence and the expiration date on which such right shall expire;

U.S. federal income tax considerations; and

other material terms of such stockholder rights.

In addition to the terms of the stockholder rights and the securities issuable upon exercise thereof, the prospectus supplement may describe, for a holder of such stockholder rights who validly exercises all stockholder rights issued to such holder, how to subscribe for unsubscribed securities, issuable pursuant to unexercised stockholder rights issued to other holders, to the extent such stockholder rights have not been exercised.

Holders of stockholder rights will not be entitled by virtue of being such holders to vote, to consent, to receive dividends, to receive notice with respect to any meeting of stockholders for the election of our directors or any other matter, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as stockholders of Redwood Trust, except to the extent described in the related prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

Redwood Capital Trust II will only issue trust preferred securities and will not issue debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants, stockholder rights or units. The terms of the trust preferred securities will include those stated in the trust agreement (as it may be amended and restated from time to time) and those made a part of that trust agreement by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. The statements made in this prospectus relating to the trust agreement and the trust preferred securities are summaries of certain anticipated provisions of the trust agreement and the trust preferred securities and are not complete. This summary is subject to and qualified by reference to the description of the particular terms of the trust preferred securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The form of trust agreement has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement and you should read the form of trust agreement for provisions that may be important to you. The actual trust agreement and the terms of any trust preferred securities may differ materially from the form of trust agreement. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement any material differences between the actual trust agreement and trust preferred securities and the form of trust agreement and the description of the trust preferred securities below.

The prospectus supplement relating to the trust preferred securities will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the designation of the trust preferred securities;

the number of trust preferred securities issued by the trust;

the annual distribution rate and any conditions upon which distributions are payable, the distribution payment dates, the record dates for distribution payments and the additional amounts, if any, that may be payable with respect to the trust preferred securities;

whether distributions will be cumulative and compounding and, if so, the dates from which distributions will be cumulative or compounded;

the amounts that will be paid out of the assets of the trust, after the satisfaction of liabilities to creditors of the trust, to the holders of trust preferred securities upon dissolution;

any repurchase, redemption or exchange provisions;

any preference or subordination rights upon a default or liquidation of the trust;

any voting rights of the trust preferred securities in addition to those required by law;

terms for any conversion or exchange of the debt securities or the trust preferred securities into other securities;

any rights to defer distributions on the trust preferred securities by extending the interest payment period on the debt securities; and

any other relevant terms, rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions of the trust preferred securities.

The trust preferred securities may not be convertible into other securities that have not been registered under this registration statement unless the trust preferred securities convertible into such other securities are not legally convertible immediately or within one year of the date of sale of such trust preferred securities.

Except as otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trustees, on behalf of the trust and pursuant to the trust agreement, will issue one class of trust preferred securities and one class of trust common securities. The trust securities will represent undivided beneficial ownership interests in the assets of the trust.

Except as otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trust preferred securities will rank equally in right of payment, and payments will be made thereon proportionately, with the trust common securities. Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the property trustee of the trust will hold legal title to the debt securities in trust for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities. Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we will execute a guarantee agreement for the benefit of the holders of the

Table of Contents

trust preferred securities. The guarantee will guarantee the payment of distributions (as defined below) or any amounts payable on redemption or liquidation of the trust preferred securities when the trust does not have funds on hand available to make such payments.

In the prospectus supplement, we will also describe certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to the trust preferred securities.

The Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we will fully and unconditionally guarantee payments on the trust preferred securities as described in this section. The guarantee covers the following payments:

periodic cash distributions on the trust preferred securities out of funds held by the property trustee of the trust;

payments on dissolution of each trust; and

payments on redemption of trust preferred securities of each trust.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as guarantee trustee, will hold the guarantee for the benefit of the holders of trust preferred securities.

We have summarized selected provisions of the guarantee below. This summary is not complete. For a complete description, we encourage you to read the guarantee, the form of which we have filed as an exhibit to the registration statement.

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we will irrevocably and unconditionally agree to pay holders of the trust preferred securities in full the following amounts to the extent not paid by the trust:

any accumulated and unpaid distributions and any additional amounts with respect to the trust preferred securities and any redemption price for trust preferred securities called for redemption by the trust, if and to the extent that we have made corresponding payments on the debt securities to the property trustee of the trust; and

payments upon the dissolution of the trust equal to the less of (i) the liquidation amount plus all accumulated and unpaid distributions and additional amounts on the trust preferred securities to the extent the trust has funds legally available for those payments and (ii) the amount of assets of the trust remaining legally available for distribution to the holders of trust preferred securities in liquidation of the trust.

We will not be required to make these liquidation payments if:

the trust distributes the debt securities to the holders of trust preferred securities in exchange for their trust preferred securities; or

the trust redeems the trust preferred securities in full upon the maturity or redemption of the debt securities. Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, each guarantee is a guarantee from the time of issuance of the trust preferred securities. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SET FORTH IN THE APPLICABLE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT, THE GUARANTEE ONLY COVERS DISTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER PAYMENTS ON TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES IF AND TO THE EXTENT THAT WE HAVE MADE CORRESPONDING PAYMENTS ON THE DEBT SECURITIES TO THE APPLICABLE PROPERTY TRUSTEE. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SET FORTH IN THE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT, IF WE DO NOT MAKE THOSE CORRESPONDING PAYMENTS ON THE DEBT SECURITIES, THE TRUST WILL NOT HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PAYMENTS AND WE WILL HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO MAKE A GUARANTEE PAYMENT.

Our obligations under the trust agreement, the guarantee, the debt securities and the associated indenture taken together will provide a full and unconditional guarantee of payments due on the trust preferred securities. We will describe the specific terms of the guarantee in a prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Covenants of Redwood

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, in the guarantee, we will agree that, as long as any trust preferred securities issued by the trust are outstanding, we will not make the payments and distributions described below if:

we are in default on our guarantee payments or other payment obligations under the guarantee;

any trust enforcement event under the trust agreement has occurred and is continuing; or

we have elected to defer payments of interest on the related debt securities by extending the interest payment period and that deferral period is continuing.

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, in these circumstances, we will agree that we will not:

declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire, or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of our capital stock, except to the extent required in order to maintain our qualification as a REIT; or

make any payment of principal, interest or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities that rank equally with or junior in right of payment to the debt securities or make any guarantee payments with respect to any guarantee by us of the debt of any of our subsidiaries if such guarantee ranks equally with or junior in right of payment to the debt securities.

However, except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, even during such circumstances, we may:

purchase or acquire our capital stock in connection with the satisfaction by us of our obligations under any employee benefit plans or pursuant to any contract or security outstanding on the first day of any extension period requiring us to purchase our capital stock;

reclassify our capital stock or exchange or convert one class or series of our capital stock for another class or series of our capital stock;

purchase fractional interests in shares of our capital stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged;

declare dividends or distributions payable solely in shares of our capital stock;

redeem or repurchase any rights pursuant to a rights agreement; and

make payments under the guarantee related to the trust preferred securities.

In addition, as long as trust preferred securities issued by any trust are outstanding and except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we will agree that we will:

remain the sole direct or indirect owner of all the outstanding common securities of that trust, except as permitted by the applicable trust agreement;

permit the trust common securities of that trust to be transferred only as permitted by the trust agreement; and

use reasonable efforts to cause that trust to continue to be treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, except in connection with a distribution of debt securities to the holders of trust preferred securities as provided in the trust agreement, in which case the trust would be dissolved.

Amendments and Assignment

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we and the guarantee trustee may amend each guarantee without the consent of any holder of trust preferred securities if the amendment does not adversely affect the rights of the holders in any material respect or in order to conform the text of the guarantee to any provision of this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement to the extent such provision in this

Table of Contents

prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement was intended to be a verbatim recitation of the guarantee. In all other cases and except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we and the guarantee trustee may amend the guarantee only with the prior approval of the holders of at least a majority of outstanding trust preferred securities issued by the applicable trust.

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we may assign our obligations under the guarantee only in connection with a consolidation, merger or asset sale involving us permitted under the indenture governing the debt securities.

Termination of the Guarantee

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the guarantee will terminate upon:

full payment of the redemption price of all trust preferred securities of the trust;

distribution of the related debt securities, or any securities into which those debt securities are convertible, to the holders of the trust preferred securities and trust common securities of the trust in exchange for all the securities issued by the trust; or

full payment of the amounts payable upon liquidation of the trust.

The guarantee will, however, continue to be effective or will be reinstated if any holder of trust preferred securities must repay any amounts paid on those trust preferred securities or under the guarantee.

Status of the Guarantee

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, our obligations under the guarantee will be unsecured and effectively junior in right of payment to all debt and preferred stock of our subsidiaries. **BY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES, YOU AGREE TO ANY SUBORDINATION PROVISIONS AND OTHER TERMS OF THE RELATED GUARANTEE.** We will specify in a prospectus supplement the ranking of the guarantee with respect to our capital stock and other liabilities, including other guarantees.

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the guarantee will be deposited with the guarantee trustee to be held for your benefit. The guarantee trustee will have the right to enforce the guarantee on your behalf. In most cases, the holders of a majority of outstanding trust preferred securities issued by the applicable trust will have the right to direct the time, method and place of:

conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the applicable guarantee trustee; or

exercising any trust or other power conferred upon that guarantee trustee under the applicable guarantee.

The guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not merely of collection. This means that the guarantee trustee may institute a legal proceeding directly against us to enforce the payment rights under the guarantee without

first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity.

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, if the guarantee trustee fails to enforce the guarantee or we fail to make a guarantee payment, you may institute a legal proceeding directly against us to enforce your rights under that guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the applicable trust, the guarantee trustee or any other person or entity.

Periodic Reports Under Guarantee

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, we will be required to provide annually to the guarantee trustee a statement as to our performance of our obligations and our compliance with all conditions under the guarantees.

Table of Contents

Duties of Guarantee Trustee

Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the guarantee trustee normally will perform only those duties specifically set forth in the applicable guarantee. The guarantee does not contain any implied covenants. If a default occurs on the guarantee, the guarantee trustee will be required to use the same degree of care and skill in the exercise of its powers under the guarantee as a prudent person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of his own affairs. Except as otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the guarantee trustee will exercise any of its rights or powers under the guarantee at the request or direction of holders of the applicable series of trust preferred securities only if it is offered security and indemnity satisfactory to it.

Governing Law

New York law will govern the guarantee.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue units consisting of two or more other constituent securities. These units may be issuable as, and for a specified period of time may be transferable only as, a single security, rather than as the separate constituent securities comprising such units. The statements made in this section relating to the units are summaries only. These summaries are not complete. When we issue units, we will provide the specific terms of the units in a prospectus supplement. To the extent the information contained in the prospectus supplement differs from this summary description, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

When we issue units, we will provide in a prospectus supplement the following terms of the units being issued:

the title of any series of units;

identification and description of the separate constituent securities comprising the units;

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

the date, if any, on and after which the constituent securities comprising the units will be separately transferable;

information with respect to any book-entry procedures;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax consequences applicable to an investment in the units; and

any other terms of the units and their constituent securities.

Table of Contents

GLOBAL SECURITIES

Book-Entry, Delivery and Form

Unless we indicate differently in a prospectus supplement, the securities (other than warrant securities) initially will be issued in book-entry form and represented by one or more global notes or global securities, or, collectively, global securities. The global securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, as depository, or DTC, and registered in the name of Cede & Co., the nominee of DTC. Unless and until it is exchanged for individual certificates evidencing securities under the limited circumstances described below, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository to its nominee or by the nominee to the depository, or by the depository or its nominee to a successor depository or to a nominee of the successor depository.

DTC has advised us that it is:

a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law;

a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law;

a member of the Federal Reserve System;

a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code; and

a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among its participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants in DTC include securities brokers and dealers, including underwriters, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, or DTCC. DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others, which we sometimes refer to as indirect participants, that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

Purchases of securities under the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of the actual purchaser of a security, which we sometimes refer to as a beneficial owner, is in turn recorded on the direct and indirect participants' records. Beneficial owners of securities will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchases. However, beneficial owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of their transactions, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct or indirect participants through which they purchased securities. Transfers of ownership interests in global securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the global

securities, except under the limited circumstances described below.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all global securities deposited by direct participants with DTC will be registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other nominee will not change the beneficial ownership of the securities. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the securities. DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts the securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The participants are responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Table of Contents

So long as the securities are in book-entry form, you will receive payments and may transfer securities only through the facilities of the depositary and its direct and indirect participants. We will maintain an office or agency in the location specified in the prospectus supplement for the applicable securities, where notices and demands in respect of the securities and the indenture may be delivered to us and where certificated securities may be surrendered for payment, registration of transfer or exchange.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants and by direct participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any legal requirements in effect from time to time.

Redemption notices will be sent to DTC. If less than all of the securities of a particular series are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each direct participant in the securities of such series to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (or such other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC will mail an omnibus proxy to us as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns the consenting or voting rights of Cede & Co. to those direct participants to whose accounts the securities of such series are credited on the record date, identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy.

So long as securities are in book-entry form, we will make payments on those securities to the depositary or its nominee, as the registered owner of such securities, by wire transfer of immediately available funds. If securities are issued in definitive certificated form under the limited circumstances described below, we will have the option of making payments by check mailed to the addresses of the persons entitled to payment or by wire transfer to bank accounts in the United States designated in writing to the applicable trustee or other designated party at least 15 days before the applicable payment date by the persons entitled to payment, unless a shorter period is satisfactory to the applicable trustee or other designated party.

Redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments on the securities will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from us on the payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC records. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the account of customers in bearer form or registered in street name. Those payments will be the responsibility of participants and not of DTC or us, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC, is our responsibility, disbursement of payments to direct participants is the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of payments to the beneficial owners is the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

Except under the limited circumstances described below, purchasers of securities will not be entitled to have securities registered in their names and will not receive physical delivery of securities. Accordingly, each beneficial owner must rely on the procedures of DTC and its participants to exercise any rights under the securities and the indenture.

The laws of some jurisdictions may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. Those laws may impair the ability to transfer or pledge beneficial interests in securities.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depositary with respect to the securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to us. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depositary is not obtained,

securities certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

Table of Contents

As noted above, beneficial owners of a particular series of securities generally will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in those securities. However, if:

DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a depository for the global security or securities representing such series of securities or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act at a time when it is required to be registered and a successor depository is not appointed within 90 days of the notification to us or of our becoming aware of DTC's ceasing to be so registered, as the case may be;

we determine, in our sole discretion, not to have such securities represented by one or more global securities; or

an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to such series of securities and upon request of a holder,

we will prepare and deliver certificates for such securities in exchange for beneficial interests in the global securities. Any beneficial interest in a global security that is exchangeable under the circumstances described in the preceding sentence will be exchangeable for securities in definitive certificated form registered in the names that the depository directs. It is expected that these directions will be based upon directions received by the depository from its participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the global securities.

We have obtained the information in this section and elsewhere in this prospectus concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system from sources that are believed to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

Table of Contents

RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER AND REPURCHASE OF SHARES

In order that we may meet the requirements for qualification as a REIT at all times, among other purposes, our charter prohibits any person from acquiring or holding beneficial ownership of shares of our common stock or preferred stock (collectively, capital stock) in excess of 9.8%, in number of shares or value, of the outstanding shares of the related class of capital stock. For this purpose, the term beneficial ownership means beneficial ownership, as determined under Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, of capital stock by a person, either directly or constructively, including through application of the constructive ownership provisions of Section 544 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), and related provisions.

Under the constructive ownership rules of Section 544 of the Code, a holder of a warrant generally will be treated as owning the number of shares of capital stock into which such warrant may be converted. In addition, the constructive ownership rules generally attribute ownership of securities owned by a corporation, partnership, estate, or trust proportionately to its stockholders, partners, or beneficiaries, respectively. The rules may also attribute ownership of securities owned by family members to other members of the same family and may treat an option to purchase securities as actual ownership of the underlying securities by the optionholder. The rules further provide when securities constructively owned by a person will be considered to be actually owned for the further application of such attribution provisions. To determine whether a person holds or would hold capital stock in excess of the 9.8% ownership limit, a person will be treated as owing not only shares of capital stock actually owned, but also any shares of capital stock attributed to that person under the attribution rules described above. Accordingly, a person who directly owns less than 9.8% of the shares outstanding may nevertheless be in violation of the 9.8% ownership limit.

Any acquisition or transfer of shares of capital stock or warrants that would cause us to be disqualified as a REIT or that would create a direct or constructive ownership of shares of capital stock in excess of the 9.8% ownership limit, or result in the shares of capital stock being beneficially owned, within the meaning of Section 856(a) of the Code, by fewer than 100 persons, determined without any reference to any rules of attribution, or result in our being closely held within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code, will be null and void, and the intended transferee will acquire no rights to those shares or warrants. These restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if our board of directors determines that it is no longer in our best interests to continue to qualify as a REIT.

If any purported transfer of shares of capital stock or warrants results in a purported transferee owning, directly or constructively, shares in excess of the 9.8% ownership limit due to the unenforceability of the transfer restrictions described above, the amount of shares causing the purported transferee to violate the 9.8% ownership limit will constitute excess securities. Excess securities will be transferred by operation of law to Redwood Trust as trustee for the exclusive benefit of the person or persons to whom the excess securities are ultimately transferred, until such time as the purported transferee retransfers the excess securities. While the excess securities are held in trust, a holder of such securities will not be entitled to vote or to share in any dividends or other distributions with respect to such securities and will not be entitled to exercise or convert such securities into shares of capital stock. Excess securities may be transferred by the purported transferee to any person (if such transfer would not result in excess securities) at a price not to exceed the price paid by the purported transferee (or, if no consideration was paid by the purported transferee, the Market Price (as defined in our charter) of the excess securities on the date of the purported transfer), at which point the excess securities will automatically be exchanged for the stock or warrants, as the case may be, to which the excess securities are attributable. If a purported transferee receives a higher price for designating an ultimate transferee, such purported transferee shall pay, or cause the ultimate transferee to pay, such excess to us. In addition, such excess securities held in trust are subject to purchase by us at a purchase price equal to the lesser of (a) the price per share or per warrant, as the case may be, in the transaction that created such excess securities (or, in the case of a devise or gift, the Market Price at the time of such devise or gift), reduced by the amount of any distributions received in violation of the charter that have not been repaid to us, and (b) the Market Price on the date we elect to purchase the

excess securities, reduced by the amount of any distributions received in violation of the charter that have not been repaid to us.

Table of Contents

Upon a purported transfer of excess securities, the purported transferee shall cease to be entitled to distributions, voting rights, and other benefits with respect to the shares of capital stock or warrants except the right to payment of the purchase price for the shares of capital stock or warrants on the retransfer of securities as provided above. Any dividend or distribution paid to a purported transferee on excess securities prior to our discovery that shares of capital stock have been transferred in violation of our charter shall be repaid to us upon demand. If these transfer restrictions are determined to be void, invalid, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the purported transferee of any excess securities may be deemed, at our option, to have acted as an agent on our behalf in acquiring the excess securities and to hold the excess securities on our behalf.

All certificates representing shares of capital stock and warrants will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

Any person who acquires shares or warrants in violation of our charter, or any person who is a purported transferee such that excess securities result, must immediately give written notice or, in the event of a proposed or attempted transfer that would be void as set forth above, give at least 15 days prior written notice to us of such event and shall provide us such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of the transfer on our status as a REIT. In addition, as required under the REIT provisions of the Code, every record owner of more than 5.0%, during any period in which the number of record stockholders is 2,000, or 1.0%, during any period in which the number of record stockholders is greater than 200 but less than 2,000, or 1/2%, during any period in which the number of record stockholders is 200 or less, of the number or value of our outstanding shares will receive a questionnaire from us by January 30 requesting information as to how the shares are held. In addition, our charter requires that such stockholders must provide written notice to us by 30 days after January 1 stating the name and address of the record stockholder, the number of shares beneficially owned and a description of how the shares are held. In practice, we have generally permitted our stockholders to comply with the foregoing charter requirement by responding to our annual REIT questionnaire. Further, each stockholder upon demand is required to disclose to us in writing such information with respect to the direct and constructive ownership of shares and warrants as our board of directors deems reasonably necessary to comply with the REIT provisions of the Code, to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental agency or to determine any such compliance.

Our board of directors may increase or decrease the 9.8% ownership limit. In addition, to the extent consistent with the REIT provisions of the Code, our board of directors may, pursuant to our charter, waive the 9.8% ownership limit for a purchaser of our stock. As a condition to such waiver the intended transferee must give written notice to the board of directors of the proposed transfer no later than the fifteenth day prior to any transfer which, if consummated, would result in the intended transferee owning shares in excess of the ownership limit. Our board of directors may also take such other action as it deems necessary or advisable to protect our status as a REIT. Pursuant to our charter, our board of directors has, from time to time, waived the ownership limit for certain of our stockholders.

The provisions described above may inhibit market activity and the resulting opportunity for the holders of our capital stock and warrants to receive a premium for their shares or warrants that might otherwise exist in the absence of such provisions. Such provisions also may make us an unsuitable investment vehicle for any person seeking to obtain ownership of more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of our capital stock.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND LAW AND OF OUR CHARTER AND BYLAWS

We have summarized certain terms and provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws. This summary is not complete and is qualified by the provisions of our charter and bylaws, and the Maryland General Corporation Law. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

For restrictions on ownership and transfer of our capital stock contained in our charter, see [Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer and Repurchase of Shares](#).

Maryland Business Combination Act

Under the Maryland Business Combination Act, [business combinations](#) between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder, as such terms are defined in the Act, are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are exempted by provision in the charter of the corporation. Our charter provides that we elect not to be governed by the provisions of the Maryland Business Combination Act.

Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act

The Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act causes persons who acquire beneficial ownership of stock at levels of 10%, 33%, and more than 50% (control share acquisitions) to lose the voting rights of such stock unless voting rights are restored by the stockholders at a meeting by vote of two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter (excluding stock held by the acquiring stockholder or the corporation's officers or employee directors). The Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act affords a cash-out election for stockholders other than the acquiring stockholder, at an appraised value (but not less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiring person in the control share acquisition), payable by the corporation, if voting rights for more than 50% of the outstanding stock are approved for the acquiring person. Under certain circumstances, the corporation may redeem shares acquired in a control share acquisition if voting rights for such shares have not been approved. The statute does not apply (a) to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation, or share exchange if the corporation is a party to the transaction or (b) to acquisitions approved or exempted by the charter or bylaws of the corporation. A corporation's board of directors has an opt-out power, exercisable through amendment of the corporation's bylaws (which could be changed by the stockholders), to exempt in advance any control share acquisition from the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act. Our bylaws contain a provision exempting from the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act acquisitions by certain persons of shares of our common stock in accordance with waivers from the ownership limit in our charter granted to such persons by our board of directors.

The Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act could have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us and of increasing the difficulty of consummating any such offers.

Board of Directors, Vacancies, and Removal of Directors

All directors are elected annually to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualify.

Pursuant to our election to be subject to certain provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law, any vacancy on our board of directors may be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors in office,

even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum, and any director elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the full term of the directorship in which such vacancy occurred and until a successor is elected and qualifies. A director may be removed with or without cause by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast generally for the election of directors.

Table of Contents

Charter Amendments and Extraordinary Corporate Actions

Under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange, convert or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business, unless approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. However, a Maryland corporation may provide in its charter 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 charter provides for approval of these matters by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the total number of shares entitled to vote on the matter.

Advance Notice of Director Nominations and New Business

Our bylaws provide that with respect to an annual meeting of stockholders, nominations of individuals for election to the board of directors and the proposal of business to be considered by stockholders may be made only (i) pursuant to our notice of the meeting, (ii) by the board of directors or (iii) by a stockholder who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has complied with the advance notice procedures of our bylaws. With respect to special meetings of stockholders, only the business specified in our notice of the meeting may be brought before the meeting.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a general summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax considerations regarding our qualification and taxation as a REIT and the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our capital stock and debt securities, but does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax effects. Supplemental U.S. federal income tax considerations relevant to the ownership of certain securities offered by this prospectus may be provided in the prospectus supplement that relates to those securities. Your tax treatment will vary depending upon the terms of the specific securities you acquire, as well as your particular situation. For purposes of this discussion, references to we, our and us mean only Redwood Trust, Inc. and do not include any of its subsidiaries, except as otherwise indicated. This summary is for general information only and is not tax advice. The information in this summary is based on:

the Code;

current, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code;

the legislative history of the Code;

administrative interpretations and practices of the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS); and

court decisions;

in each case, as of the date of this prospectus. In addition, the administrative interpretations and practices of the IRS include its practices and policies as expressed in private letter rulings that are not binding on the IRS except with respect to the particular taxpayers who requested and received those rulings. The sections of the Code and the corresponding Treasury regulations that relate to qualification and taxation as a REIT are highly technical and complex. The following discussion sets forth certain material aspects of the sections of the Code that govern our federal income tax treatment as a REIT and holders of our capital stock. This summary is qualified in its entirety by the applicable Code provisions, Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code, and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof. Future legislation, Treasury regulations, administrative interpretations and practices and/or court decisions may adversely affect the tax considerations contained in this discussion. Any such change could apply retroactively to transactions preceding the date of the change. We have not requested and do not intend to request a ruling from the IRS regarding the matters discussed below, including our qualification as a REIT, and the statements in this prospectus are not binding on the IRS or any court. Thus, we can provide no assurance that the tax considerations contained in this discussion will not be challenged by the IRS or will be sustained by a court if challenged by the IRS. This summary does not discuss any state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences, or any tax consequences arising under any federal tax laws other than federal income tax laws, associated with the acquisition, ownership, or disposition of our capital stock or our election to be taxed as a REIT.

You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences to you of:

the acquisition, ownership or disposition of our capital stock or debt securities, including the federal, state, local, non-U.S. and other tax consequences;

our election to be taxed as a REIT for federal income tax purposes; and

potential changes in applicable tax laws.

Taxation of the Company

General

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under Sections 856 through 860 of the Code commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 1994. We believe we have been organized and have operated in a manner that has allowed us to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Code commencing with such taxable year, and we intend to continue to be organized and to operate in this manner. However, qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Code, including through actual annual operating results, asset composition, distribution levels and diversity of share ownership. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that we have been organized and have operated, or will continue to be organized and operate, in a manner so as to qualify or remain qualified as a REIT. See **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Failure to Qualify**.

Table of Contents

Latham & Watkins LLP has acted as our tax counsel in connection with this prospectus and our federal income tax status as a REIT. Latham & Watkins LLP has rendered an opinion to us to the effect that, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011, we have been organized and have operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code, and our proposed method of operation will enable us to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code. It must be emphasized that this opinion was based on various assumptions and representations as to factual matters, including representations made by us in a factual certificate provided by one or more of our officers. In addition, this opinion was based upon our factual representations set forth in this prospectus. Additionally, to the extent we make certain investments, such as investments in commercial mortgage loan securitizations, the accuracy of such opinion will also depend on the accuracy of certain opinions rendered to us in connection with such transactions. Moreover, our qualification and taxation as a REIT depend upon our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Code, which are discussed below, including through actual annual operating results, asset composition, distribution levels and diversity of stock ownership, the results of which have not been and will not be reviewed by Latham & Watkins LLP. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that our actual results of operations for any particular taxable year will satisfy those requirements. Further, the anticipated federal income tax treatment described in this discussion may be changed, perhaps retroactively, by legislative, administrative or judicial action at any time. Latham & Watkins LLP has no obligation to update its opinion subsequent to the date of such opinion.

Provided we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be required to pay federal corporate income taxes on our REIT taxable income that we currently distribute to our stockholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the double taxation that ordinarily results from investment in a C corporation. A C corporation is a corporation that generally is required to pay tax at the corporate level. 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. We will, however, be required to pay federal income tax as follows:

We will be required to pay tax at regular corporate rates on any undistributed REIT taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains.

We may be required to pay the alternative minimum tax on our items of tax preference under some circumstances.

If we have (1) net income from the sale or other disposition of foreclosure property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business or (2) other nonqualifying income from foreclosure property, we will be required to pay tax at the highest corporate rate on this income. To the extent that income from foreclosure property is otherwise qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, this tax is not applicable. Subject to certain other requirements, foreclosure property generally is defined as property we acquired through foreclosure or after a default on a loan secured by the property or a lease of the property.

We will be required to pay a 100% tax on any net income from prohibited transactions. Prohibited transactions are, in general, sales or other taxable dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.

If we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as described below, but have otherwise maintained our qualification as a REIT because certain other requirements are met, we will be required to pay a tax equal to (1) the greater of (A) the amount by which we fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test and (B) the amount by which we fail to satisfy the 95% gross income test, multiplied by (2) a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

If we fail to satisfy any of the asset tests (other than a *de minimis* failure of the 5% or 10% asset test), as described below, due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, and we nonetheless maintain our REIT qualification because of specified cure provisions, we will be required to pay a tax equal to the greater of \$50,000 or the highest corporate tax rate multiplied by the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets that caused us to fail such test.

Table of Contents

If we fail to satisfy any provision of the Code that would result in our failure to qualify as a REIT (other than a violation of the gross income tests or certain violations of the asset tests, as described below) and the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, we may retain our REIT qualification but we will be required to pay a penalty of \$50,000 for each such failure.

We will be required to pay a 4% excise tax to the extent we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of our ordinary income for the year, (2) 95% of our capital gain net income for the year, and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods.

If we acquire any asset from a corporation that is or has been a C corporation in a transaction in which our basis in the asset is less than the fair market value of the asset, in each case determined as of the date on which we acquired the asset, and we subsequently recognize gain on the disposition of the asset during the five-year period beginning on the date on which we acquired the asset, then we generally will be required to pay tax at the highest regular corporate tax rate on this gain to the extent of the excess of (1) the fair market value of the asset over (2) our adjusted basis in the asset, in each case determined as of the date on which we acquired the asset. The results described in this paragraph with respect to the recognition of gain assume that the C corporation will refrain from making an election to receive different treatment under applicable Treasury regulations on its tax return for the year in which we acquire the asset from the C corporation. Under applicable Treasury regulations, any gain from the sale of property we acquire in an exchange under Section 1031 (a like-kind exchange) or 1033 (an involuntary conversion) of the Code generally are excluded.

We will generally be subject to tax on the portion of any excess inclusion income derived from an investment in residual interests in certain mortgage loan securitization structures (*i.e.*, a taxable mortgage pool or a residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit (a REMIC)) to the extent that our capital stock is held by specified types of tax-exempt organizations known as disqualified organizations that are not subject to tax on unrelated business taxable income. To the extent that we own a REMIC residual interest or a taxable mortgage pool through a TRS (as defined below under Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company General Ownership of Interests in TRSs), we will not be subject to this tax. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company General Taxable Mortgage Pools.

Our subsidiaries that are C corporations, including our TRSs, generally will be required to pay federal corporate income tax on their earnings.

We will be required to pay a 100% tax on any redetermined rents, redetermined deductions, excess interest or (for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015) redetermined TRS service income. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Income Tests Penalty Tax.

We may elect to retain and pay income tax on our net capital gain. In that case, a stockholder would include its proportionate share of our undistributed net capital gain (to the extent we make a timely designation of such gain to stockholders) in its income, would be deemed to have paid the tax that we paid on such gain, and would be allowed a credit for its proportionate share of the tax deemed to have been paid, and an

adjustment would be made to increase the basis of the holders of our capital stock.

If we fail to comply with the requirement to send annual letters to our stockholders requesting information regarding the actual ownership of our beneficial interests, and the failure is not due to reasonable cause or due to willful neglect, we will be subject to a \$25,000 penalty, or if the failure is intentional, a \$50,000 penalty.

Table of Contents

Requirements for Qualification as a REIT

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

1. that is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
2. that issues transferable shares or transferable certificates to evidence its beneficial ownership;
3. that would be taxable as a domestic corporation, but for Sections 856 through 860 of the Code;
4. that is not a financial institution or an insurance company within the meaning of certain provisions of the Code;
5. that is beneficially owned by 100 or more persons;
6. not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, actually or constructively, by five or fewer individuals, including certain specified entities, during the last half of each taxable year; and
7. that meets other tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets and the amount of its distributions.

The Code provides that conditions (1) to (4), inclusive, 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 taxable year of less than 12 months. Conditions (5) and (6) do not apply until after the first taxable year for which an election is made to be taxed as a REIT. For purposes of condition (6), the term *individual* includes a supplemental unemployment compensation benefit plan, a private foundation or a portion of a trust permanently set aside or used exclusively for charitable purposes, but generally does not include a qualified pension plan or profit sharing trust.

We believe that we have been organized and have operated in a manner that has allowed us, and will continue to allow us, to satisfy conditions (1) through (7), inclusive, during the relevant time periods. In addition, our charter provides for restrictions regarding ownership and transfer of our shares which are intended to assist us in continuing to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in conditions (5) and (6) above. A description of the share ownership and transfer restrictions relating to our shares of our capital stock is contained in the discussion under the heading *Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer and Repurchase of Shares*. These restrictions, however, do not ensure that we have previously satisfied, and may not ensure that we will, in all cases, be able to continue 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 requirement described in condition (6) above, we will be treated as having met this requirement. See *Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Failure to Qualify*.

In addition, we may not maintain our status as a REIT unless our taxable year is the calendar year. We have and will continue to have a calendar taxable year.

Ownership of Interests in Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies and Qualified REIT Subsidiaries

In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership, or a member in a limited liability company treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, Treasury regulations provide that the REIT will be deemed to own its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership or limited liability company, as the case may be, based on its interest in the partnership or limited liability company capital, subject to special rules relating to the 10% asset test described below. Also, the REIT will be deemed to be entitled to its proportionate share of the income of that entity. The assets and gross income of the partnership or limited liability company retain the same character in the hands of the REIT for purposes of Section 856 of the Code, including satisfying the gross income tests and the asset tests. Thus, our pro rata share of the assets and items of income of any partnership or limited liability company treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, including such partnership's or limited liability company's share of these items of any partnership or limited liability company treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes in which we own an interest, would be treated as our assets and items of income for

Table of Contents

purposes of applying the requirements described in this discussion, including the gross income and asset tests described below. For purposes of the REIT qualification tests, the treatment of our ownership of partnerships or limited liability companies treated as disregarded entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes is generally the same as described below with respect to qualified REIT subsidiaries.

We have control of our subsidiary limited liability companies and intend to operate them in a manner consistent with the requirements for our qualification as a REIT. If we are 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 requires 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 other corrective action on a timely basis. In that case, we could fail to qualify as a REIT unless we were entitled to relief, as described below.

From time to time, we may own wholly owned subsidiaries that are treated as qualified REIT subsidiaries under the Code. A corporation qualifies as our qualified REIT subsidiary if we own 100% of the corporation's outstanding stock and do not elect with the subsidiary to treat it as a TRS, as described below. A qualified REIT subsidiary is not treated as a separate corporation, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, gain, loss, deduction and credit of a qualified REIT subsidiary are treated as assets, liabilities and items of income, gain, loss, deduction and credit of the parent REIT for all purposes under the Code, including all REIT qualification tests. Thus, in applying the federal tax requirements described herein, any qualified REIT subsidiaries we own are ignored, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, gain, loss, deduction and credit of such corporations are treated as our assets, liabilities and items of income, gain, loss, deduction and credit. A qualified REIT subsidiary is not subject to federal income tax, and our ownership of the stock of a qualified REIT subsidiary will not violate the restrictions on ownership of securities, as described below under **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Asset Tests**.

Ownership of Interests in TRSs

From time to time, we may own interests in one or more taxable REIT subsidiaries (TRSs). A TRS is a corporation, other than a REIT, in which a REIT directly or indirectly holds stock, and that has made a joint election with such REIT to be treated as a TRS. If a TRS owns more than 35% of the total voting power or value of the outstanding securities of another corporation, such other corporation will also be treated as a TRS. A REIT is not treated as holding the assets of a TRS or as receiving any income that the subsidiary earns. Rather, the stock issued by the subsidiary is an asset in the hands of the REIT, and the REIT generally recognizes as income the dividends, if any, that it receives from the subsidiary. A REIT's ownership of securities of a TRS is not subject to the 5% or 10% asset test described below. See **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Asset Tests**.

Other than some activities relating to lodging and health care facilities, a TRS may generally engage in any business. A TRS is subject to federal income tax as a regular C corporation. Non-U.S. TRSs that are not engaged in trade or business in the United States for tax purposes generally are not subject to U.S. corporate income taxation. However, certain U.S. shareholders of such non-U.S. corporations may be required to include in their income currently their proportionate share of the earnings of such a corporation, whether or not such earnings are distributed. This could affect our ability to comply with the REIT income tests and distribution requirement. See **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Income Tests** and **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Annual Distribution Requirements**.

We may hold a significant number of assets in one or more TRSs, subject to the limitation that securities in TRSs may not represent more than 25% of our total assets (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017). We may

engage in securitization transactions through our TRSs, and to the extent that we acquire loans with an intention of selling such loans in a manner that might expose us to a 100% tax on prohibited transactions, such loans may be acquired by a TRS.

Table of Contents

Certain restrictions imposed on TRSs are intended to ensure that such entities will be subject to appropriate levels of U.S. federal income taxation. For example, a TRS generally may not deduct interest payments made in any year to an affiliated REIT to the extent that certain tests regarding the TRS's debt to equity ratio and interest expense are not satisfied (although the TRS may carry forward to, and deduct in, a succeeding year the disallowed interest amount if the applicable test is satisfied in that year). In addition, if amounts are paid to a REIT or deducted by a TRS due to transactions between a REIT, its tenants and/or the TRS, that exceed the amount that would be paid to or deducted by a party in an arm's-length transaction, the REIT generally will be subject to an excise tax equal to 100% of such excess. Furthermore, income of a TRS that is understated as a result of services provided to us or on our behalf generally will be subject to a 100% penalty tax for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015. See *Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Income Tests Penalty Tax*.

Taxable Mortgage Pools

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

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

more than 50% of those debt obligations are real estate mortgages or interests in real estate mortgages as of specified testing dates;

the entity has issued debt obligations that have two or more maturities; and

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

Under applicable Treasury regulations, if less than 80% of the assets of an entity (or a portion of an entity) consist of debt obligations, these debt obligations are considered not to comprise substantially all of its assets, and therefore the entity would not be treated as a TMP. We may enter into financing and securitization arrangements that give rise to TMPs.

A TMP generally is treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, special rules apply to a REIT, a portion of a REIT, or a qualified REIT subsidiary that is a taxable mortgage pool. If a REIT owns directly, or indirectly through one or more qualified REIT subsidiaries or other entities that are disregarded as a separate entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, 100% of the equity interests in the TMP, the TMP will be a qualified REIT subsidiary and, therefore, ignored as an entity separate from the REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes and would not generally affect the tax qualification of the REIT. Rather, the consequences of the taxable mortgage pool classification would generally be limited to the REIT's shareholders. See *Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company General Excess Inclusion Income*.

Excess Inclusion Income

A portion of income from a TMP arrangement, which might be non-cash accrued income, could be treated as excess inclusion income. A REIT's excess inclusion income, including any excess inclusion income from a residual interest in a REMIC, must be allocated among its shareholders in proportion to dividends paid. We generally do not expect to

generate excess inclusion income that would be allocated to our stockholders. In the event we do generate excess inclusion income, we are required to notify our stockholders of the amount of such income allocated to them. A shareholder's share of excess inclusion income:

cannot be offset by any net operating losses otherwise available to the shareholder;

in the case of a shareholder that is a REIT, a RIC, or a common trust fund or other pass through entity, is considered excess inclusion income of such entity;

is subject to tax as unrelated business taxable income in the hands of most types of shareholders that are otherwise generally exempt from U.S. federal income tax;

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

Table of Contents

is taxable (at the highest U.S. federal corporate tax rate, currently 35%) to the REIT, rather than its shareholders, to the extent allocable to the REIT's shares held in record name by disqualified organizations (generally, tax-exempt entities not subject to unrelated business income tax, including governmental organizations).

The manner in which excess inclusion income is calculated, or would be allocated to our stockholders, including allocations among shares of different classes of stock, is not clear under current law. As required by IRS guidance, we intend to make such determinations using a reasonable method.

Tax-exempt investors, RIC or REIT investors, non-U.S. investors and taxpayers with net operating losses should carefully consider the tax consequences described above, and are urged to consult their tax advisors with respect to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in our capital stock.

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

Income Tests

We must satisfy two gross income requirements annually to maintain our qualification as a REIT. First, in each taxable year we must derive directly or indirectly at least 75% of our gross income (excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, certain hedging transactions, and certain foreign currency gains) from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, interest on obligations adequately secured by mortgages on real property, dividends from other REITs, rents from real property, and certain types of temporary investments. Second, in each taxable year we must derive at least 95% of our gross income (excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, certain hedging transactions, and certain foreign currency gains) from the real property investments described above or dividends, interest and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, or any combination of the foregoing.

Interest Income

Interest income constitutes qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test to the extent that the obligation is secured by a mortgage on real property and, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, if an obligation is secured by a mortgage on both real property and personal property and the fair market value of such personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value of all such property. In some cases in the event that we invest in a mortgage loan that is secured by both real property and personal property, we may be required to apportion our interest on the loan between interest on an obligation that is secured by real property (or by an interest in real property) and interest on an obligation that is not so secured. 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.

To the extent that we derive interest income from a loan where all or a portion of the amount of interest payable is contingent, such income generally will qualify for purposes of the gross income tests only if it is based upon the gross receipts or sales and not the net income or profits of any person. This limitation does not apply, however, to a mortgage loan where the borrower derives substantially all of its income from the property from the leasing of substantially all of its interest in the property to tenants, to the extent that the rental income derived by the borrower would qualify as rents from real property had we earned it directly.

To the extent that the terms of a loan provide for contingent interest that is based on the cash proceeds realized upon the sale of the property securing the loan (or a shared appreciation provision), income attributable to the participation feature will be treated as gain from sale of the underlying property, which generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests, provided that the property is not inventory or dealer property of the borrower or ours.

Any amount includible in our gross income with respect to a regular or residual interest in a REMIC generally is treated as interest on an obligation secured by a mortgage on real property. If, however, less than

Table of Contents

95% of the assets of a REMIC consists of real estate assets (determined as if we held such assets), we will be treated as receiving directly our proportionate share of the income of the REMIC for purposes of determining the amount that is treated as interest on an obligation secured by a mortgage on real property.

Among the assets we may hold are certain mezzanine loans secured by equity interests in a pass-through entity that directly or indirectly owns real property, rather than a direct mortgage on the real property. The IRS issued Revenue Procedure 2003-65 (the Revenue Procedure), which provides a safe harbor pursuant to which a mezzanine loan will be treated by the IRS as a real estate asset for purposes of the REIT asset tests, and interest derived from it will be treated as qualifying mortgage interest for purposes of the 75% gross income test. Although the Revenue Procedure provides a safe harbor on which taxpayers may rely, it does not prescribe rules of substantive tax law. From time to time, we may own mezzanine loans that do not meet all of the requirements for reliance on this safe harbor. There can be no assurance that the IRS will not challenge the qualification of any mezzanine loans we may own as real estate assets or the interest generated by such loans as qualifying income under the 75% gross income test. If we make corporate mezzanine loans or acquire other CRE corporate debt, such loans will not qualify as real estate assets and interest income with respect to such loans will not be qualifying income for the 75% gross income test. To the extent that such non-qualification causes us to fail the 75% gross income test, we could be required to pay a penalty tax or fail to qualify as a REIT.

We expect that any CMBS that we may invest in will be treated either as interests in a grantor trust or as interests in a REMIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes and that all interest income, original issue discount and market discount from such CMBS will be qualifying income for the 95% gross income test. In the case of CMBS treated as interests in a REMIC, income derived from REMIC interests will generally be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 75% and 95% gross income tests. As discussed above, if less than 95% of the assets of the REMIC are real estate assets, however, then only a proportionate part of our income derived from the REMIC interest will qualify for purposes of the 75% gross income test. In addition, some REMIC securitizations include imbedded interest swap or cap contracts or other derivative instruments that potentially could produce non-qualifying income for the holder of the related REMIC securities. In the case of CMBS treated as interests in grantor trusts, we would be treated as owning an undivided beneficial ownership interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. The interest, original issue discount and market discount on such mortgage loans would be qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test to the extent that the obligation is secured by real property and, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, if an obligation is secured by a mortgage on both real property and personal property and the fair market value of such personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value of all such property, as discussed above.

We believe that the interest income that we receive from our mortgage-related investments and securities generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests. However, to the extent we own non-REMIC collateralized mortgage obligations or other debt instruments secured by mortgage loans (rather than by real property) or secured by non-real estate assets, or debt securities that are not secured by mortgages on real property or interests in real property, the interest income received with respect to such securities generally will be qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test, but not the 75% gross income test.

Fee Income

We may receive various fees in connection with our operations. The fees generally will be qualifying income for purposes of both the 75% and 95% gross income tests if they are received in consideration for entering into an agreement to make a loan secured by real property and the fees are not determined by income or profits of any person. Other fees are not qualifying income for purposes of either the 75% or 95% gross income test. Any fees earned by a TRS are not included for purposes of the gross income tests.

Dividend Income

We may receive distributions from TRSs or other corporations that are not REITs or qualified REIT subsidiaries. These distributions generally will be classified as dividend income to the extent of the earnings and profits of the distributing corporation. Such distributions generally will constitute qualifying income for purposes

Table of Contents

of the 95% gross income test, but not the 75% gross income test. Any dividends we receive from a REIT will be qualifying income in our hands for purposes of both the 95% and 75% gross income tests.

Income inclusions from equity investments in certain foreign corporations, such as controlled foreign corporations and passive foreign investment companies, as defined in the Code, are technically neither dividends nor any of the other enumerated categories of income specified in the 95% gross income test for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, in private letter rulings (which may not be relied on as precedent, but which generally indicate the IRS's view on the issue), the IRS exercised its authority under Code Section 856(c)(5)(J)(ii) to treat such income as qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test notwithstanding the fact that the income is not included in the enumerated categories of income qualifying for the 95% gross income test. As a result, to the extent consistent with such private letter rulings, we expect to treat any such income inclusions that meet certain requirements as qualifying income for purposes of the 95% gross income test. However, it is possible that the IRS could assert that such income does not qualify for purposes of the 95% gross income test, which, if such income together with other income we earn that does not qualify for the 95% gross income test exceeded 5% of our gross income, could cause us to be subject to a penalty tax and could impact our ability to qualify as a REIT. See [Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Income Tests Failure to Satisfy the Gross Income Tests](#) and [Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Failure to Qualify](#).

Hedging Transactions

From time to time, we may enter into hedging transactions with respect to one or more of our assets or liabilities. Our hedging activities may include entering into interest rate swaps, caps, and floors, options to purchase these items, and futures and forward contracts. Income from a hedging transaction, including gain from the sale or disposition of such a transaction, that is clearly identified as a hedging transaction as specified in the Code will not constitute gross income and thus will be exempt from the 75% and 95% gross income tests. The term *hedging transaction*, as used above, generally means (A) any transaction we enter into in the normal course of our business primarily to manage risk of (1) interest rate changes or fluctuations with respect to borrowings made or to be made by us to acquire or carry real estate assets, or (2) currency fluctuations with respect to an item of qualifying income under the 75% or 95% gross income test or any property which generates such income and (B) for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, new transactions entered into to hedge the income or loss from prior hedging transactions, where the property or indebtedness which was the subject of the prior hedging transaction was extinguished or disposed of. To the extent that we do not properly identify such transactions as hedges or we hedge with other types of financial instruments, the income from those transactions is not likely to be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the gross income tests. We intend to structure any hedging transactions in a manner that does not jeopardize our status as a REIT.

Rents from Real Property

To the extent that we own real property or interests therein, rents we receive will qualify as *rents from real property* in satisfying the gross income tests described above only if several conditions are met, including the following:

The amount of rent is not based in any way 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 or if it is based on the net income of a tenant which derives substantially all of its income with respect to such property from subleasing of substantially all of such property, to the extent that the rents paid by the subtenants would qualify as rents from real

property, if we earned it directly;

Neither we nor an actual or constructive owner of 10% or more of our capital stock 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 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;

Table of Contents

Rent attributable to personal property 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. To the extent that rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property exceeds 15% of the total rent received under the lease, we may transfer a portion of such personal property to a TRS; and

We generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render certain services to the tenants of such property, other than through an independent contractor who is adequately compensated and from which we derive no income or through a TRS. We are permitted, however, to perform 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. In addition, we may directly or indirectly provide non-customary services to tenants of our properties without disqualifying all of the rent from the property if the greater of 150% of our direct cost in furnishing or rendering the services or the payment for such services does not exceed 1% of the total gross income from the property. In such a case, only the amounts for non-customary services are not treated as rents from real property and the provision of the services does not disqualify the related rent.

We intend to structure any leases so that the rent payable thereunder will qualify as rents from real property, but there can be no assurance we will be successful in this regard.

Phantom Income

Due to the nature of the assets in which we may invest, from time to time we may be required to recognize taxable income from those assets in advance of our receipt of cash flow on or proceeds from disposition of such assets, and may be required to report taxable income in early periods that exceeds the economic income ultimately realized on such assets.

If we were to acquire debt instruments in the secondary market for less than their face amount, the amount of such discount generally would be treated as market discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accrued market discount is reported as income when, and to the extent that, any payment of principal of the debt instrument is made, unless we elect to include accrued market discount in income as it accrues. Principal payments on certain loans are made monthly, and consequently accrued market discount may have to be included in income each month as if the debt instrument were assured of ultimately being collected in full. If we collect less on the debt instrument than our purchase price plus the market discount we had previously reported as income, we may not be able to benefit from any offsetting loss deductions in a subsequent taxable year.

If we were to acquire securities issued with original issue discount, we would generally be required to accrue original issue discount based on the constant yield to maturity of the securities, and to treat it as taxable income in accordance with applicable U.S. federal income tax rules even though smaller or no cash payments were received on such debt instrument. As in the case of the market discount discussed in the preceding paragraph, the constant yield in question would be determined and we would be taxed based on the assumption that all future payments due on securities in question will be made, with consequences similar to those described in the previous paragraph if all payments on the securities are not made.

In addition, in the event that any debt instruments or other securities we acquire are delinquent as to mandatory principal and interest payments, or in the event payments with respect to a particular debt instrument are not made when due, we may nonetheless be required to continue to recognize the unpaid interest as taxable income. Similarly, we may be required to accrue interest income with respect to subordinate MBS at the stated rate regardless of whether

corresponding cash payments are received.

Table of Contents

Finally, we may be required under the terms of indebtedness that we incur to private lenders to use cash received from interest payments to make principal payments on that indebtedness, with the effect of recognizing income but not having a corresponding amount of cash available for distribution to our stockholders.

Due to each of these potential timing differences between income recognition or expense deduction and the related cash receipts or disbursements, there is a risk that we may have taxable income in excess of cash available for distribution. In that event, we may need to borrow funds or take other action to satisfy the REIT distribution requirements for the taxable year in which this phantom income is recognized. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Annual Distribution Requirements.

Prohibited Transaction Income

Any gain that we realize on the sale of an asset (other than foreclosure property, as described below) held as inventory or otherwise held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business, either directly or through any qualified REIT subsidiaries, subsidiary partnerships or limited liability companies or by a borrower that has issued a shared appreciation mortgage or similar debt instrument to us, will be treated as income from a prohibited transaction that is subject to a 100% penalty tax, unless certain safe harbor exceptions apply. This prohibited transaction income may also adversely affect our ability to satisfy the gross income tests for qualification as a REIT. Under existing law, whether an asset is held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business is a question of fact that depends on all the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular transaction. We intend to conduct our operations so that no asset we own will be held as inventory or primarily for sale to customers, and that a sale of any assets we own will not be in the ordinary course of business. However, the IRS may successfully assert that some or all of the sales made by us, our subsidiary partnerships or limited liability companies, or by a borrower that has issued a shared appreciation mortgage or similar debt instrument to us are prohibited transactions. We would be required to pay the 100% penalty tax on our allocable share of the gains resulting from any such sales. The 100% tax will not apply to gains from the sale of assets that are held through a TRS, although such income will be subject to tax at regular U.S. federal corporate income tax rates.

Foreclosure Property

Foreclosure property is real property and any personal property incident to such real property (1) that is acquired by a REIT as a result of the REIT having bid on the property at foreclosure or having otherwise reduced the property to ownership or possession by agreement or process of law after there was a default (or default was imminent) on a lease of the property or a mortgage loan held by the REIT and secured by the property, (2) for which the related loan or lease was acquired by the REIT at a time when default was not imminent or anticipated and (3) for which such REIT makes a proper election to treat the property as foreclosure property. REITs generally are subject to tax at the maximum U.S. federal corporate 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 in the hands of the selling REIT. If we believe we will receive any income from foreclosure property that is not qualifying income for purposes of the 75% gross income test, we intend to elect to treat the related property as foreclosure property.

Penalty Tax

Any redetermined deductions, excess interest, redetermined rents or (for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015) redetermined TRS service income we generate will be subject to a 100% penalty tax. In general, redetermined

deductions and excess interest represent any amounts that are deducted by a TRS of ours for amounts paid to us that are in excess of the amounts that would have been deducted based on arm's length negotiations, 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 of ours, and redetermined TRS service income is income of a TRS of ours that is understated as a result of services provided to us or on our behalf.

We do not have any TRSs that provide tenant services, and we intend to set any amounts payable to us by our TRSs at arm's length rates. These determinations are inherently factual, and the IRS has broad discretion to

Table of Contents

assert that amounts paid between related parties should be reallocated to clearly reflect their respective incomes. If the IRS successfully made such an assertion, we would be required to pay a 100% penalty tax on such redetermined deductions or excess interest.

Failure to Satisfy the Gross Income Tests.

We monitor our income and take actions intended to keep our nonqualifying income within the limitations of the gross income tests. Although we expect these actions will be sufficient to prevent a violation of the gross income tests, we cannot guarantee that such actions will in all cases prevent such a violation. If we fail to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, we may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for the year if we are entitled to relief under certain provisions of the Code. We generally may make use of the relief provisions if:

following our identification of the failure to meet the 75% or 95% gross income tests 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 tests for such taxable year in accordance with Treasury regulations to be issued; and

our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect.

It is not possible, however, to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions. For example, if we fail to satisfy the gross income tests because nonqualifying income that we intentionally accrue or receive exceeds the limits on nonqualifying income, the IRS could conclude that our failure to satisfy the tests was not due to reasonable cause. If these relief provisions do not apply to a particular set of circumstances, we will not qualify as a REIT. As discussed above in *Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company General*, even if these relief provisions apply, and we retain our qualification as a REIT, a tax would be imposed with respect to our nonqualifying income. We may not always be able to comply with the gross income tests for REIT qualification despite periodic monitoring of our income.

Asset Tests

At the close of each calendar quarter of our taxable year, we must also satisfy certain tests relating to the nature and diversification of our assets. First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by real estate assets, cash, cash items and U.S. government securities. For purposes of this test, the term *real estate assets* generally means real property (including interests in real property and interests in mortgages on real property) and shares (or transferable certificates of beneficial interest) in other REITs, as well as any stock or debt instrument attributable to the investment of the proceeds of a stock offering or a public offering of debt with a term of at least five years, but only for the one-year period beginning on the date the REIT receives such proceeds. Regular or residual interests in REMICs are generally treated as a real estate asset. If, however, less than 95% of the assets of a REMIC consists of real estate assets (determined as if we held such assets), we will be treated as owning our proportionate share of the assets of the REMIC. In the case of any interests in grantor trusts, we would be treated as owning an undivided beneficial interest in the mortgage loans held by the grantor trust. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, the term *real estate assets* also includes debt instruments of publicly offered REITs, personal property securing a mortgage secured by both real property and personal property if the fair market value of such personal property does not exceed 15% of the total fair market value of all such property and personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property for which the rent attributable to personal property is not greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease.

Second, not more than 25% of the value of our total assets may be represented by securities (including securities of TRSs), other than those securities includable in the 75% asset test.

Third, of the investments included in the 25% asset class, and except for investments in other REITs, our qualified REIT subsidiaries and TRSs, the value of any one issuer's securities may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets, and we may not own more than 10% of the total vote or value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer except, in the case of the 10% value test, securities satisfying the straight debt safe-harbor or securities issued by a partnership that itself would satisfy the 75% gross income test if it were a REIT. Certain types of securities we may own are disregarded as securities solely for purposes of the 10% value test, including, but not limited to, any loan to an individual or an estate, any obligation to pay rents from real property and any

Table of Contents

security issued by a REIT. In addition, solely for purposes of the 10% value 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, not more than 25% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) of the value of our total assets may be represented by the securities of one or more TRSs. We currently own 100% of the stock of a subsidiary that has elected, together with us, to be treated as our TRS. So long as this company qualifies as a TRS, we will not be subject to the 5% asset test, the 10% voting securities limitation or the 10% value limitation with respect to our ownership of its interests. We may acquire securities in other TRSs in the future. We believe that the aggregate value of our TRSs has not exceeded, and in the future will not exceed, 25% (20% for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017) of the aggregate value of our gross assets. We generally do not obtain independent appraisals to support these conclusions. In addition, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not disagree with our determinations of value.

Fifth, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, not more than 25% of the value of our total assets may be represented by debt instruments of publicly offered REITs to the extent those debt instruments would not be real estate assets but for the inclusion of debt instruments of publicly offered REITs in the meaning of real estate assets effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, as described above.

We believe that the assets comprising our mortgage-related investments and securities that we own generally are qualifying assets for purposes of the 75% asset test, and that our ownership of TRSs and other assets have been structured in a manner that will comply with the foregoing REIT asset requirements, and we monitor compliance on an ongoing basis. There can be no assurance, however, that we will always be successful in this effort. In this regard, to determine compliance with these requirements, we need to estimate the value of our assets, and we do not expect to obtain independent appraisals to support our conclusions as to the total value of our assets or the value of any particular security or other asset. Moreover, values of some assets, including our interests in our TRSs, may not be susceptible to a precise determination and are subject to change in the future. Although we will continue to be prudent in making these estimates, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not disagree with these determinations and assert that a different value is applicable, in which case we might not satisfy the REIT asset tests, and could fail to qualify as a REIT.

In the event that we invest in a mortgage loan that is not fully secured by real property, Revenue Procedure 2014-51 provides a safe harbor under which the IRS has stated that it will not challenge a REIT's treatment of a loan as being, in part, a qualifying real estate asset in an amount equal to the lesser of: (1) the greater of (a) the fair market value of the real property securing the loan determined as of the date the REIT committed to acquire the loan or (b) the fair market value of the real property securing the loan on the relevant quarterly REIT asset testing date; or (2) the fair market value of the loan on the date of the relevant quarterly REIT asset testing date. We intend to invest in mortgage loans in a manner consistent with satisfying the asset tests and maintaining our qualification as a REIT.

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 tests. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the IRS will not assert that our interests in subsidiaries or in the securities of other issuers caused a violation of the REIT asset tests.

In addition, we intend to enter into repurchase agreements under which we will nominally sell certain of our assets to a counterparty and simultaneously enter into an agreement to repurchase the sold assets. We believe that we will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as the owner of the assets that are the subject of any repurchase

agreement and that the repurchase agreement will be treated as a secured lending transaction notwithstanding that we may transfer record ownership of the assets to the counterparty during the term of the agreement. It is possible, however, that the IRS could successfully assert that we did not own the assets during the term of the repurchase agreement, in which case we could fail to qualify as a REIT.

Table of Contents

The asset tests must be satisfied at the close of each calendar quarter of our taxable year in which we (directly or through any qualified REIT subsidiary, partnership or limited liability company) acquire securities in the applicable issuer, and also at the close of each calendar quarter in which we increase our ownership of securities of such issuer (including as a result of an increase in our interest in any partnership or limited liability company that owns such securities, or acquiring other assets). For example, our indirect ownership of securities of each issuer may increase as a result of our capital contributions to, or the redemption of other partners' or members' interests in, a partnership or limited liability company in which we have an ownership interest. However, after initially meeting the asset tests at the close of any quarter, we will not lose our status as a REIT for failure to satisfy the asset tests at the end of a later quarter solely by reason of changes in asset values. If we fail to satisfy an asset test because we acquire securities or other property during a quarter (including as a result of an increase in our interest in any partnership or limited liability company), we may cure this failure by disposing of sufficient nonqualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. We believe that we have maintained, and we intend to maintain, adequate records of the value of our assets to ensure compliance with the asset tests. If we fail to cure any noncompliance with the asset tests within the 30-day cure period, we would cease to qualify as a REIT unless we are eligible for certain relief provisions discussed below.

Certain relief provisions may be available to us if we discover a failure to satisfy the asset tests described above after the 30-day cure period. Under these provisions, we will be deemed to have met the 5% and 10% asset tests if the value of our nonqualifying assets (i) does not exceed the lesser of (a) 1% of the total value of our assets at the end of the applicable quarter or (b) \$10,000,000, and (ii) we dispose of the nonqualifying assets or otherwise satisfy such tests within (a) six months after the last day of the quarter in which the failure to satisfy the asset tests is discovered or (b) the period of time prescribed by Treasury regulations to be issued. For violations of any of the asset tests due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect and that are, in the case of the 5% and 10% asset tests, in excess of the *de minimis* exception described above, we may avoid disqualification as a REIT after the 30-day cure period by taking steps including (1) the disposition of sufficient nonqualifying assets, or the taking of other actions, which allow us to meet the asset tests within (a) six months after the last day of the quarter in which the failure to satisfy the asset tests is discovered or (b) the period of time prescribed by Treasury regulations to be issued, (2) paying a tax equal to the greater of (a) \$50,000 or (b) the highest corporate tax rate multiplied by the net income generated by the nonqualifying assets, and (3) disclosing certain information to the IRS.

Although we believe we have satisfied the asset tests described above and plan to ensure that we satisfy such tests for any quarter with respect to which retesting is to occur, there can be no assurance that we will always be successful, or will not require a reduction in our overall interest in an issuer (including in a TRS). If we fail to cure any noncompliance with the asset tests in a timely manner, and the relief provisions described above are not available, we would cease to qualify as a REIT.

Annual Distribution Requirements

To maintain our qualification as a REIT, we are required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to our stockholders in an amount at least equal to the sum of:

90% of our REIT taxable income; and

90% of our after-tax net income, if any, from foreclosure property; minus

the excess of the sum of certain items of non-cash income over 5% of our REIT taxable income.

For these purposes, our REIT taxable income is computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our net capital gain. In addition, for purposes of this test, non-cash income generally means income attributable to leveled stepped rents, original issue discount on purchase money debt, cancellation of indebtedness, or a like-kind exchange that is later determined to be taxable.

In addition, our REIT taxable income will be reduced by any taxes we are required to pay on any gain we recognize from the disposition of any asset we acquired from a corporation which was or had been a C corporation in a transaction in which our tax basis in the asset was less than the fair market value of the asset, in each case determined as of the date on which we acquired the asset, within the five-year period following our acquisition of such asset, as described above under Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company General.

Table of Contents

We generally must pay, or be treated as paying, the distributions described above in the taxable year to which they relate. At our election, a distribution will be treated as paid in a taxable year if it is declared before we timely file our tax return for such year and paid on or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration, provided such payment is made during the 12-month period following the close of such year. These distributions are treated as received by our stockholders in the year in which paid. This is so even though these distributions relate to the prior year for purposes of the 90% distribution requirement. In order to be taken into account for purposes of our distribution requirement, unless we qualify as a publicly offered REIT, the amount distributed must not be preferential *i.e.*, every stockholder of the class of stock to which a distribution is made must be treated the same as every other holder of that class, and no class of stock may be treated other than according to its distribution rights as a class. We believe that we are, and expect we will continue to be, a publicly offered REIT. To the extent that we do not distribute all of our net capital gain, or distribute at least 90%, but less than 100%, of our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, we will be required to pay tax on the undistributed amount at regular corporate tax rates.

We believe that we have made, and we intend to continue to make, timely distributions sufficient to satisfy these annual distribution requirements and to minimize our corporate tax obligations. 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 or for other reasons. If these timing differences occur, we may borrow funds to pay dividends or pay dividends in the form of taxable share dividends in order to meet the distribution requirements, while preserving our cash. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company Income Tests Phantom Income.

Under certain circumstances, we may be able to rectify an inadvertent failure to meet the 90% distribution requirement for a year by paying deficiency dividends to our stockholders in a later year, which may be included in our deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Thus, we may be able to avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, subject to the 4% excise tax described below. However, we will be required to pay interest to the IRS based upon the amount of any deduction claimed for deficiency dividends. While the payment of a deficiency dividend will apply to a prior year for purposes of our REIT distribution requirements, it will be treated as an additional distribution to our stockholders in the year such dividend is paid. In addition, if a dividend we pay is treated as a preferential dividend, in lieu of treating the dividend as not counting toward satisfying the 90% distribution requirement, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, the IRS may provide a remedy to cure such failure if the IRS determines that such failure is (or is of a type that is) inadvertent or due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect.

Furthermore, we will be required to pay a 4% excise tax to the extent we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of 85% of our ordinary income for such year, 95% of our capital gain net income for the year and any undistributed taxable income from prior periods. Any ordinary income and net capital gain on which this excise tax is imposed for any year is treated as an amount distributed during that year for purposes of calculating such tax.

For purposes of the 90% distribution requirement and excise tax described above, dividends declared during the last three months of the taxable year, payable to stockholders of record on a specified date during such period and paid during January of the following year, will be treated as paid by us and received by our stockholders on December 31 of the year in which they are declared.

Failure to Qualify

If we discover a violation of a provision of the Code that would result in our failure to qualify as a REIT, certain specified cure provisions may be available to us. Except with respect to violations of the gross income tests and asset tests (for which the cure provisions are described above), and provided the violation is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, these cure provisions generally impose a \$50,000 penalty for each violation in lieu of a loss of REIT status. If we fail to satisfy the requirements for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions do not apply, we will be required to pay tax, including any applicable

Table of Contents

alternative minimum tax, on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. Distributions to our stockholders in any year in which we fail to qualify as a REIT will not be deductible by us, and we will not be required to distribute any amounts to our stockholders. As a result, we anticipate that our failure to qualify as a REIT would reduce the cash available for distribution to our stockholders. In addition, if we fail to qualify as a REIT, all distributions to our stockholders will be taxable as regular corporate dividends to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. In such event, corporate stockholders may be eligible for the dividends-received deduction. In addition, non-corporate stockholders, including individuals, may be eligible for the preferential tax rates on qualified dividend income. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, we would also be ineligible to elect to be treated as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year for which we lose our qualification. It is not possible to state whether in all circumstances we would be entitled to this statutory relief.

Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock and Debt Securities

The following summary describes certain U.S. federal income tax consequences to you of acquiring, owning and disposing of our capital stock or debt securities. This summary assumes you hold our capital stock or debt securities as capital assets (generally, property held for investment within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code). It does not address all U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to you in light of your particular circumstances. In addition, except where specifically noted, this discussion does not address the tax consequences relevant to persons subject to special rules, including, without limitation:

banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions;

tax-exempt organizations or governmental organizations;

S corporations, partnerships or other entities or arrangements treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes (and investors therein);

persons who hold or receive our capital stock pursuant to the exercise of any employee option or otherwise as compensation;

persons subject to the alternative minimum tax;

regulated investment companies or REITs;

controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, and corporations that accumulate earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax;

brokers, dealers or traders in securities;

U.S. expatriates and former citizens or long-term residents of the United States;

persons holding our capital stock or debt securities as part of a hedge, straddle or other risk reduction strategy or as part of a conversion transaction or other integrated investment;

persons deemed to sell our capital stock or debt securities under the constructive sale provisions of the Code;
or

United States persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar.

If you are considering acquiring our capital stock or debt securities, you should consult your tax advisor concerning the application of federal income tax laws to your particular situation as well as any consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our capital stock or debt securities arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction or under any applicable tax treaty.

Table of Contents

For purposes of this discussion, the term "U.S. Holder" means a holder of our capital stock or debt securities who, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is:

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

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

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust that (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and the control of one or more United States persons or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

If you are an individual, corporation, estate or trust that holds our capital stock or debt securities and you are not a U.S. Holder, you are a "Non-U.S. Holder."

If an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our capital stock or debt securities, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend on the status of the partner, the activities of the partnership and certain determinations made at the partner level. Accordingly, partnerships holding our capital stock or debt securities and the partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences to them.

Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Our Capital Stock

Distributions Generally

Distributions out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits will be treated as dividends and, other than with respect to capital gain dividends and certain amounts which have previously been subject to corporate level tax, as discussed below, will be taxable to our taxable U.S. Holders as ordinary income when actually or constructively received. See "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations – Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock – Tax Rates" below. As long as we qualify as a REIT, these distributions will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction in the case of U.S. Holders that are corporations or, except to the extent described in "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations – Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock – Tax Rates" below, the preferential rates on qualified dividend income applicable to non-corporate U.S. Holders, including individuals. For purposes of determining whether distributions to holders of our capital stock are out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, our earnings and profits will be allocated first to our outstanding preferred stock, if any, and then to outstanding shares of our capital stock.

To the extent that we make distributions on a class of our capital stock in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits allocable to such stock, these distributions will be treated first as a tax-free return of capital to a U.S. Holder. This treatment will reduce the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in such shares of stock by the amount of the distribution, but not below zero. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits and in excess of a U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in its shares will be taxable as capital gain. Such gain will be taxable as

long-term capital gain if the shares have been held for more than one year. Dividends we declare in October, November, or December of any year and which are payable to a holder of record on a specified date in any of these months will be treated as both paid by us and received by the holder on December 31 of that year, provided we actually pay the dividend on or before January 31 of the following year. U.S. Holders may not include in their own income tax returns any of our net operating losses or capital losses.

U.S. Holders that receive taxable stock dividends, including dividends partially payable in our capital stock and partially payable in cash, would be required to include the full amount of the dividend (*i.e.* , the cash and the share portion) as ordinary income (subject to limited exceptions) to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as described above. The amount of any dividend payable in our capital stock generally is equal to the amount of cash that could have been received instead of our capital stock. Depending on the circumstances of a U.S. Holder, the tax on the distribution may exceed the amount of the distribution received in cash, in which case such U.S. Holder would have to pay the tax using cash

Table of Contents

from other sources. If a U.S. Holder sells our capital stock it received in connection with a taxable stock dividend in order to pay this tax and the proceeds of such sale are less than the amount required to be included in income with respect to the share portion of the dividend, such U.S. Holder could have a capital loss with respect to the share sale that could not be used to offset such dividend income. A U.S. Holder that receives our capital stock pursuant to a distribution generally has a tax basis in such capital stock equal to the amount of cash that could have been received instead of such capital stock as described above, and has a holding period in such capital stock that begins on the day immediately following the payment date for the distribution.

Capital Gain Dividends

Dividends that we properly designate as capital gain dividends will be taxable to our taxable U.S. Holders as a gain from the sale or disposition of a capital asset held for more than one year, to the extent that such gain does not exceed our actual net capital gain for the taxable year and, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, may not exceed our dividends paid for the taxable year, including dividends paid the following year that are treated as paid in the current year. U.S. Holders that are corporations may, however, be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain dividends as ordinary income. If we properly designate any portion of a dividend as a capital gain dividend, then, except as otherwise required by law, we presently intend to allocate a portion of the total capital gain dividends paid or made available to holders of all classes of our stock for the year to the holders of each class of our stock in proportion to the amount that our total dividends, as determined for federal income tax purposes, paid or made available to the holders of each such class of our stock for the year bears to the total dividends, as determined for federal income tax purposes, paid or made available to holders of all classes of our stock for the year. In addition, except as otherwise required by law, we will make a similar allocation with respect to any undistributed long term capital gains which are to be included in the long-term capital gains of our stockholders, based on the allocation of the capital gain amount which would have resulted if those undistributed long term capital gains had been distributed as capital gain dividends by us to our stockholders.

Retention of Net Capital Gains

We may elect to retain, rather than distribute as a capital gain dividend, all or a portion of our net capital gains. If we make this election, we would pay tax on our retained net capital gains. In addition, to the extent we so elect, our earnings and profits (determined for federal income tax purposes) would be adjusted accordingly, and a U.S. Holder generally would:

include its pro rata share of our undistributed net capital gains in computing its long-term capital gains in its return for its taxable year in which the last day of our taxable year falls, subject to certain limitations as to the amount that is includable;

be deemed to have paid its share of the capital gains tax imposed on us on the designated amounts included in the U.S. Holder's income as long-term capital gain;

receive a credit or refund for the amount of tax deemed paid by it;

increase the adjusted tax basis of our capital stock by the difference between the amount of includable gains and the tax deemed to have been paid by it; and

in the case of a U.S. Holder that is a corporation, appropriately adjust its earnings and profits for the retained capital gains in accordance with Treasury regulations to be promulgated by the IRS.

Passive Activity Losses and Investment Interest Limitations

Distributions we make and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. Holder of our stock will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. Holders generally will not be able to apply any passive losses against this income or gain. A U.S. Holder may elect to treat capital gain dividends, capital gains from the disposition of our stock and income designated as qualified dividend income, described in *Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Federal Income Tax Considerations for Holders of Our Capital Stock Tax Rates* below, as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation, but in such case, the holder will be taxed at ordinary income rates on such amount. Other distributions we make, to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital, generally will be treated as investment income for purposes of computing the investment interest limitation.

Table of Contents*Dispositions of Our Capital Stock*

If a U.S. Holder sells or disposes of our capital stock, it will recognize gain or loss for 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 U.S. Holder's adjusted basis in our capital stock for tax purposes. This gain or loss, except as provided below, will be a long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder has held such capital stock for more than one year. However, if a U.S. Holder recognizes a loss upon the sale or other disposition of our capital stock that it has held for six months or less, after applying certain holding period rules, the loss recognized will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent the U.S. Holder received distributions from us which were required to be treated as long-term capital gains.

Taxation of Tax-Exempt Holders of Our Capital Stock

Dividend income from our capital stock and gain arising upon a sale of our capital stock generally should not be unrelated business taxable income (UBTI), to a tax-exempt stockholder, except as described below. This income or gain will be UBTI, however, if a tax-exempt holder holds its shares as debt-financed property within the meaning of the Code or if we hold an asset that gives rise to excess inclusion income. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company General Excess Inclusion Income. Generally, debt-financed property is property the acquisition or holding of which was financed through a borrowing by the tax-exempt holder.

For tax-exempt holders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, or qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) or (c)(20) of the Code, respectively, income from an investment in our capital stock will constitute UBTI unless the organization is able to properly claim a deduction for amounts set aside or placed in reserve for specific purposes so as to offset the income generated by its investment in our stock. These prospective investors should consult their tax advisors concerning these set aside and reserve requirements.

Notwithstanding the above, however, a portion of the dividends paid by a pension-held REIT may be treated as UBTI as to certain trusts that hold more than 10%, by value, of the interests in the REIT. A REIT will not be a pension-held REIT if it is able to satisfy the not closely held requirement without relying on the look-through exception with respect to certain trusts or if such REIT is not predominantly held by qualified trusts. As a result of restrictions on ownership and transfer of our stock contained in our charter, we do not expect to be classified as a pension-held REIT, and as a result, the tax treatment described above should be inapplicable to the holders of our capital stock.

Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders of Our Capital Stock

The following discussion addresses the rules governing U.S. federal income taxation of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our capital stock by Non-U.S. Holders. These rules are complex, and no attempt is made herein to provide more than a brief summary of such rules. Accordingly, the discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation and does not address state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences that may be relevant to a Non-U.S. Holder in light of its particular circumstances. We urge Non-U.S. Holders to consult their tax advisors to determine the impact of federal, state, local and non-U.S. income tax laws and any applicable tax treaty on the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our capital stock, including any reporting requirements.

Distributions Generally

Distributions (including any taxable stock dividends) that are neither attributable to gains from sales or exchanges by us of U.S. real property interests (USRPIs) nor designated by us as capital gain dividends (except as described below)

will be treated as dividends of ordinary income to the extent that they are made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. Such distributions ordinarily will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty, unless the distributions are treated as effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, the Non-U.S. Holder maintains a permanent establishment in the United States to which such dividends are attributable). Under certain

Table of Contents

treaties, however, lower withholding rates generally applicable to dividends do not apply to dividends from a REIT. In addition, any portion of the dividends paid to Non-U.S. Holders that are treated as excess inclusion income will not be eligible for exemption from the 30% withholding tax or a reduced treaty rate. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of the Company General Excess Inclusion Income. Certain certification and disclosure requirements must be satisfied for a Non-U.S. Holder to be exempt from withholding under the effectively connected income exemption. Dividends that are treated as effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business (through a U.S. permanent establishment, where applicable) generally will not be subject to withholding but will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis at the regular graduated rates, in the same manner as dividends paid to U.S. Holders are subject to federal income tax. Any such dividends received by a Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation may also be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate (applicable after deducting federal income taxes paid on such effectively connected income) or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

Except as otherwise provided below, we expect to withhold U.S. federal income tax at the rate of 30% on any distributions made to a Non-U.S. Holder unless:

a lower treaty rate applies and the Non-U.S. Holder files with us an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E (or applicable successor form) evidencing eligibility for that reduced treaty rate; or

the Non-U.S. Holder files an IRS Form W-8ECI (or applicable successor form) with us claiming that the distribution is income effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's trade or business.

Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will not be taxable to a Non-U.S. Holder to the extent that such distributions do not exceed the adjusted basis of the holder's shares of our capital stock, but rather will reduce the adjusted basis of such shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the Non-U.S. Holder's adjusted basis in such shares, they will generally give rise to gain from the sale or exchange of such shares, the tax treatment of which is described below. However, recent legislation may cause such excess distributions to be treated as dividend income for certain Non-U.S. Holders. For withholding purposes, we expect to treat all distributions as made out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. However, amounts withheld may be refundable if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, provided that certain conditions are met.

Capital Gain Dividends and Distributions Attributable to a Sale or Exchange of U.S. Real Property Interests

Distributions to a Non-U.S. Holder that we properly designate as capital gain dividends, other than those arising from the disposition of a USRPI, generally should not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation, unless:

the investment in our capital stock is treated as effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, the Non-U.S. Holder maintains a permanent establishment in the United States to which such dividends are attributable), in which case the Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. Holders with respect to such gain, except that a Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation may also be subject to a branch profits tax of up to 30%, as discussed above; or

the Non-U.S. Holder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and certain other conditions are met, in which case the Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% on the Non-U.S. Holder's capital gains (or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty), which may be offset by U.S. source capital losses of such Non-U.S. Holder (even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States), provided the Non-U.S. Holder has timely filed U.S. federal income tax returns with respect to such losses.

Pursuant to the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA) distributions to a Non-U.S. Holder that are attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by us of USRPIs, whether or not designated as capital gain dividends, will cause the Non-U.S. Holder to be treated as recognizing such gain as income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. Non-U.S. Holders would generally be taxed at the regular graduated rates applicable to U.S. Holders, subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum

Table of Contents

tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals. We also will be required to withhold and to remit to the IRS 35% (or 20% to the extent provided in applicable Treasury regulations) of any distribution to Non-U.S. Holders attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by us of USRPIs. Distributions subject to FIRPTA may also be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation. The amount withheld is creditable against the Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. However, any distribution with respect to any class of stock that is regularly traded on an established securities market, within the meaning of applicable Treasury regulations, located in the United States is not subject to FIRPTA, and therefore, not subject to the 35% U.S. withholding tax described above, if the Non-U.S. Holder did not own more than 10% of such class of stock at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution. Instead, such distributions generally will be treated as ordinary dividend distributions and subject to withholding in the manner described above with respect to ordinary dividends.

Retention of Net Capital Gains

Although the law is not clear on the matter, it appears that amounts we designate as retained net capital gains in respect of our capital stock generally should be treated with respect to Non-U.S. Holders in the same manner as actual distributions of capital gain dividends. Under this approach, the Non-U.S. Holders may be able to offset as a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability their proportionate share of the tax that we paid on such retained net capital gains and to receive from the IRS a refund to the extent their proportionate share of such tax that we paid exceeds their actual U.S. federal income tax liability. If we were to designate any portion of our net capital gain as retained net capital gain, Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the taxation of such retained net capital gain.

Sale of Our Capital Stock

Gain recognized by a Non-U.S. Holder upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our capital stock generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless such shares constitute a USRPI. In general, shares of a domestic corporation that constitutes a U.S. real property holding corporation (a USRPHC) will constitute a USRPI unless certain exceptions apply. A domestic corporation will constitute a USRPHC if 50% or more of the corporation's assets on any of certain testing dates during a prescribed testing period consist of interests in real property located within the United States, excluding for this purpose, interests in real property solely in a capacity as creditor. We do not believe we are currently, and do not anticipate becoming, a USRPHC. However, because the determination of whether we are a USRPHC depends, however, on the fair market value of our USRPIs relative to the fair market value of our non-U.S. real property interests and our other business assets, there can be no assurance we currently are not a USRPHC or will not become one in the future.

Even if we are a USRPHC, shares of our capital stock will not constitute a USRPI if we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity. A domestically controlled qualified investment entity includes a REIT in which at all times during a five-year testing period less than 50% in value of its stock is held directly or indirectly by non-U.S. persons, subject to certain rules. For purposes of determining whether a REIT is a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, a person who at all applicable times holds less than 5% of a class of stock that is regularly traded, as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations, on an established securities market, is treated as a U.S. person unless the REIT has actual knowledge that such person is not a U.S. person. Although we believe that we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, because our shares are publicly traded, we cannot make any assurance that we will remain a domestically controlled qualified investment entity.

In addition, even if we are or were to become a USRPHC, gain arising from the sale or other taxable disposition by a Non-U.S. Holder of our capital stock would not be subject to U.S. federal income tax if our capital stock is regularly traded, as defined by applicable Treasury Regulations, on an established securities market, and such Non-U.S. Holder

owned, actually and constructively, 10% or less of our capital stock throughout the shorter of the five-year period ending on the date of the sale or other taxable disposition or the Non-U.S. Holder's holding period.

Moreover, dispositions of our capital stock by qualified shareholders are exempt from FIRPTA, except to the extent owners of such qualified shareholders that are not also qualified shareholders own, actually or constructively, more than 10% of our capital stock. To the extent a distribution with respect to our capital stock is

Table of Contents

treated as a sale or exchange by a qualified shareholder, it may also be treated as a dividend. Furthermore, dispositions of our capital stock by qualified foreign pension funds or entities all of the interests of which are held by qualified foreign pension funds are exempt from FIRPTA. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of these rules.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, gain from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our capital stock not otherwise subject to FIRPTA will be taxable to a Non-U.S. Holder if either (a) the investment in our capital stock is treated as effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, the Non-U.S. Holder maintains a permanent establishment in the United States to which such gain is attributable), in which case the Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. Holders with respect to such gain, except that a Non-U.S. Holder that is a foreign corporation may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax (or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty) on such gain, as adjusted for certain items, or (b) the Non-U.S. Holder is a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and certain other conditions are met, in which case the Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to a 30% tax on the Non-U.S. Holder's capital gains (or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty), which may be offset by U.S. source capital losses of the Non-U.S. Holder (even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States), provided the Non-U.S. Holder has timely filed U.S. federal income tax returns with respect to such losses. In addition, even if we are a domestically controlled qualified investment entity, upon disposition of our capital stock, a Non-U.S. Holder may be treated as having gain from the sale or other taxable disposition of a USRPI if the Non-U.S. Holder (1) disposes of our capital stock within a 30-day period preceding the ex-dividend date of a distribution, any portion of which, but for the disposition, would have been treated as gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI and (2) acquires, or enters into a contract or option to acquire, or is deemed to acquire, other shares during the 61-day period beginning with the first day of the 30-day period described in clause (1), unless such shares are regularly traded and the Non-U.S. Holder did not own more than 5% of the stock at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution described in clause (1).

If gain on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our capital stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, the Non-U.S. Holder would be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return and would be subject to regular U.S. federal income tax with respect to such gain in the same manner as a taxable U.S. Holder (subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals). In addition, if the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our capital stock were subject to taxation under FIRPTA and if shares of our capital stock were not regularly traded on an established securities market, the purchaser of such shares of our capital stock generally would be required to withhold and remit to the IRS 15% of the purchase price.

Taxation of Holders of Our Debt Securities

The following summary describes certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences of acquiring, owning and disposing of our debt securities. This discussion assumes the debt securities will be issued with no more than a *de minimis* amount of original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition, this discussion is limited to persons purchasing the debt securities for cash at original issue and at their original issue price within the meaning of Section 1273 of the Code (*i.e.*, the first price at which a substantial amount of the debt securities is sold to the public for cash).

Taxation of Taxable U.S. Holders of Debt Securities***Payments of Interest***

Interest on a debt security generally will be taxable to a U.S. Holder as ordinary income at the time such interest is received or accrued, in accordance with such U.S. Holder's method of tax accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition

A U.S. Holder will recognize gain or loss on the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a debt security. The amount of such gain or loss will equal the difference between the amount received for the debt security in cash or other property valued at fair market value (less amounts attributable to

Table of Contents

any accrued but unpaid interest, which generally will be taxable as interest to the extent not previously included in income) and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the debt security. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a debt security generally will be equal to the amount the U.S. Holder paid for the debt security. Any gain or loss will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder has held the debt security for more than one year at the time of sale or other taxable disposition. Otherwise, such gain or loss will be short-term capital gain or loss. Long-term capital gains recognized by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders, including individuals, generally will be taxable at a reduced rate. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Non-U.S. Holders of Our Debt Securities

Payments of Interest

Interest paid on a debt security to a Non-U.S. Holder that is not effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding, provided that:

the Non-U.S. Holder does not, actually or constructively, own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our voting stock;

the Non-U.S. Holder is not a controlled foreign corporation with respect to which we are a related person within the meaning of Section 864(d)(4) of the Code; and

either (1) the Non-U.S. Holder certifies in a statement provided to the applicable withholding agent under penalties of perjury that it is not a United States person and provides its name and address; (2) a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business and holds the debt security on behalf of the Non-U.S. Holder certifies to the applicable withholding agent under penalties of perjury that it, or the financial institution between it and the Non-U.S. Holder, has received from the Non-U.S. Holder a statement under penalties of perjury that such holder is not a United States person and provides a copy of such statement to the applicable withholding agent; or (3) the Non-U.S. Holder holds its debt security directly through a qualified intermediary (within the meaning of applicable Treasury regulations) and certain conditions are satisfied.

If a Non-U.S. Holder does not satisfy the requirements above, such Non-U.S. Holder may be entitled to a reduction in or an exemption from withholding on such interest as a result of an applicable tax treaty. To claim such entitlement, the Non-U.S. Holder must provide the applicable withholding agent with a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E (or other applicable documentation) claiming a reduction in or exemption from withholding tax under the benefit of an income tax treaty between the United States and the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides or is established.

If interest paid to a Non-U.S. Holder is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, the Non-U.S. Holder maintains a permanent establishment in the United States to which such interest is attributable), the Non-U.S. Holder will be exempt from the U.S. federal withholding tax described above. To claim the exemption, the Non-U.S. Holder must furnish to the applicable withholding agent a valid IRS Form W-8ECI, certifying that interest paid on a debt security is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with the conduct by the Non-U.S. Holder of a

trade or business within the United States.

Any such effectively connected interest will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates. In addition, a Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation may be subject to a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty) on such effectively connected interest, as adjusted for certain items.

The certifications described above must be provided to the applicable withholding agent prior to the payment of interest and must be updated periodically. Non-U.S. Holders that do not timely provide the applicable withholding agent with the required certification, but that qualify for a reduced rate under an applicable income tax treaty, may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding their entitlement to benefits under any applicable income tax treaty.

Table of Contents

Sale or Other Taxable Disposition

A Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any gain realized upon the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a debt security (such amount excludes any amount allocable to accrued and unpaid interest, which generally will be treated as interest and may be subject to the rules discussed above in *Payments of Interest*) unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, the Non-U.S. Holder maintains a permanent establishment in the United States to which such gain is attributable); or

the Non-U.S. Holder is a nonresident alien individual present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the disposition and certain other requirements are met.

Gain described in the first bullet point above will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at the regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates. A Non-U.S. Holder that is a foreign corporation also may be subject to a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty) on such effectively connected gain, as adjusted for certain items.

Gain recognized by a Non-U.S. Holder described in the second bullet point above will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty), which may be offset by United States source capital losses of the Non-U.S. Holder (even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States), provided the Non-U.S. Holder has timely filed U.S. federal income tax returns with respect to such losses.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

U.S. Holders

A U.S. Holder may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding when such holder receives payments on our capital stock or a debt security or proceeds from the sale or other taxable disposition of our capital stock or a debt security. Certain U.S. Holders are exempt from backup withholding, including corporations and certain tax-exempt organizations. A U.S. Holder will be subject to backup withholding if such holder is not otherwise exempt and such holder:

fails to furnish the holder's taxpayer identification number, which for an individual is ordinarily his or her social security number;

furnishes an incorrect taxpayer identification number;

is notified by the IRS that the holder previously failed to properly report payments of interest or dividends;
or

fails to certify under penalties of perjury that the holder has furnished a correct taxpayer identification number and that the IRS has not notified the holder that the holder is subject to backup withholding.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against a U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding their qualification for an exemption from backup withholding and the procedures for obtaining such an exemption.

Non-U.S. Holders

Payments of dividends or interest on our capital stock will not be subject to backup withholding, provided the applicable withholding agent does not have actual knowledge or reason to know the holder is a United States person and the holder either certifies its non-U.S. status, such as by furnishing a valid IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E or W-8ECI, or otherwise establishes an exemption. However, information returns are required to be filed with the IRS in connection with any dividends on our capital stock or interest paid to the Non-U.S. Holder, regardless of whether any tax was actually withheld. In addition, proceeds of the sale or other taxable disposition of our capital stock or a debt security within the United States or conducted through certain U.S.-related brokers

Table of Contents

generally will not be subject to backup withholding or information reporting, if the applicable withholding agent receives the certification described above and does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that such holder is a U.S. person, or the holder otherwise establishes an exemption. Proceeds of a disposition of our capital stock or a debt security conducted through a non-U.S. office of a non-U.S. broker generally will not be subject to backup withholding or information reporting.

Copies of information returns that are filed with the IRS may also be made available under the provisions of an applicable treaty or agreement to the tax authorities of the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides or is established.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a refund or a credit against a Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Tax Rates

The maximum tax rate for non-corporate taxpayers for (1) long-term capital gains, including certain capital gain dividends, is generally 20% (although depending on the characteristics of the assets which produced these gains and on designations which we may make, certain capital gain dividends may be taxed at a 25% rate) and (2) qualified dividend income is generally 20%. In general, dividends payable by REITs are not eligible for the reduced tax rate on qualified dividend income, except to the extent that certain holding period requirements have been met and the REIT's dividends are attributable to dividends received from taxable corporations (such as its TRSs) or to income that was subject to tax at the corporate/REIT level (for example, if the REIT distributed taxable income that it retained and paid tax on in the prior taxable year). Capital gain dividends will only be eligible for the rate describe above to the extent they are properly designated by the REIT as capital gain dividends. In addition, U.S. Holders that are corporations may be required to treat up to 20% of some capital gain dividends as ordinary income.

Medicare Contribution Tax on Unearned Income

Certain U.S. Holders that are individuals, estates or trusts are required to pay an additional 3.8% tax on, among other things, dividends on shares, interest on debt obligations and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of shares or debt obligations. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this tax on their ownership and disposition of our capital stock.

Additional Withholding Tax on Payments Made to Foreign Accounts

Withholding taxes may be imposed under Sections 1471 to 1474 of the Code (such Sections commonly referred to as the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)) on certain types of payments made to non-U.S. financial institutions and certain other non-U.S. entities. Specifically, a 30% withholding tax may be imposed on dividends on our capital stock, interest on our debt securities, or gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of our capital stock or debt securities paid to a foreign financial institution or a non-financial foreign entity (each as defined in the Code), unless (1) the foreign financial institution undertakes certain diligence and reporting obligations, (2) the non-financial foreign entity either certifies it does not have any substantial United States owners (as defined in the Code) or furnishes identifying information regarding each substantial United States owner, or (3) the foreign financial institution or non-financial foreign entity otherwise qualifies for an exemption from these rules. If the payee is a foreign financial institution and is subject to the diligence and reporting requirements in clause (1) above, it must enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury under which it undertakes, among other things, to identify accounts held by certain specified United States persons or United States-owned foreign entities (each as defined in

the Code), annually report certain information about such accounts, and withhold 30% on certain payments to non-compliant foreign financial institutions and certain other account holders. Foreign financial institutions located in jurisdictions that have an intergovernmental agreement with the United States governing FATCA may be subject to different rules.

Under the applicable Treasury regulations and administrative guidance, withholding under FATCA generally applies to payments of dividends or interest and will apply to payments of gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of our capital stock or debt securities on or after January 1, 2019.

Table of Contents

Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the potential application of withholding under FATCA to their investment in our capital stock or debt securities.

Other Tax Consequences

State, local and non-U.S. income tax laws may differ substantially from the corresponding federal income tax laws, and this discussion does not purport to describe any aspect of the tax laws of any state, local or non-U.S. jurisdiction, or any federal tax other than income tax. You should consult your tax advisor regarding the effect of state, local and non-U.S. tax laws with respect to our tax treatment as a REIT and on an investment in our capital stock.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities offered pursuant to any applicable prospectus supplement directly to one or more purchasers or through dealers, agents, or underwriters, or a combination of the foregoing. We may sell the securities offered pursuant to any applicable prospectus supplement in at-the-market equity offerings or on a negotiated or competitive bid basis through underwriters or dealers or directly to other purchasers or through agents, or a combination of the foregoing. We will name any underwriter, dealer, or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities in the applicable prospectus supplement. We reserve the right to sell the securities directly to investors on our own behalf in those jurisdictions where and in such manner as we are authorized to do so.

We may distribute the securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

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

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

We may also, from time to time, authorize underwriters, dealers, or other persons, acting as our agents, to offer and sell the securities upon the terms and conditions as are set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of the securities, underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions, or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement any underwriting compensation we pay to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of the securities, and any discounts, concessions, or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers. Dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. We may enter into agreements with any underwriters, dealers, and agents which may entitle them to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and to reimbursement for certain expenses. We will describe any indemnification agreements in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, any securities issued hereunder other than shares of our common stock will be a new issue with no established trading market. We may elect to list any of the securities issued hereunder on any exchange, but we are not obligated to do so. It is possible that one or more underwriters or agents may make a market in the securities issued hereunder, including our common stock, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. Therefore, we cannot assure you as to the liquidity of the trading market for the securities.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may authorize underwriters, dealers, or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions or other suitable persons to purchase the securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date or dates stated in the prospectus supplement. We may make delayed delivery with various institutions, including commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, and educational and charitable institutions. Delayed delivery contracts will be subject to the condition that the purchase of the securities covered by the delayed delivery contracts will not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States to which the purchaser is subject. The underwriters and agents will not have any responsibility with respect to the validity or performance of these contracts.

Table of Contents

To facilitate an offering of the securities, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the price of the securities. This may include over-allotments or short sales of the securities, which involves the sale by persons participating in the offering of more securities than we sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover the over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of the securities by bidding for or purchasing securities in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if securities sold by them are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

Certain of the underwriters, dealers, or agents and their respective associates may be customers of, and/or engage in transactions with, and perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

The validity of certain securities will be passed upon for us by Venable LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. The validity of the debt securities and certain tax matters will be passed upon for us by Latham & Watkins LLP. Certain matters relating to Delaware law regarding the validity of the trust preferred securities will be passed upon for us by Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance on the reports of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents instead of having to repeat the information in this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. Any statement contained in a previously filed document incorporated by reference will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus modifies or replaces that statement.

We incorporate by reference our documents listed below and any future filings made by us with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the Exchange Act in this prospectus, between the date of this prospectus and the termination of the offering of the securities described in this prospectus. We are not, however, incorporating by reference any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed below or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including our Compensation Committee report and performance graph or any information furnished pursuant to Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or related exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K.

We incorporate by reference the following documents (SEC File No. 001-13759):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, which was filed with the SEC on February 26, 2016;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2016, which was filed with the SEC on May 9, 2016;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on January 4, 2016, January 28, 2016, February 9, 2016 (solely with respect to Items 2.05 and 5.02), March 25, 2016, and March 28, 2016 (solely with respect to Item 5.02);

our Definitive Proxy Statement with respect to the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 28, 2016 (solely to the extent specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K);

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, which was filed with the SEC on January 7, 1998; and

all documents filed by Redwood Trust, Inc. with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of the underlying securities (but excluding any items, documents, or portions of items or documents which are deemed furnished and not filed with the SEC).

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 we have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act. This prospectus does not contain all of the information in the registration statement. We have omitted certain parts of the registration statement, as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. You may inspect and copy the registration statement, including exhibits, at the SEC's Public Reference Room or on our website at <http://www.redwoodtrust.com>.

Information contained on our website is not and should not be deemed a part of this prospectus or any other report or filing filed with the SEC. Our statements in this prospectus about the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete. You should refer to the copy of each contract or other document we have filed as an exhibit to the registration statement for complete information.

We will furnish without charge to you, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference, including exhibits to these documents. You should direct any requests for documents to:

Redwood Trust, Inc.

Attn: Investor Relations

One Belvedere Place, Suite 300

Mill Valley, CA 94941

(866) 269-4976

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly, and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also obtain copies of the documents at prescribed rates by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Certain of our filings with the SEC are available on our website at <http://www.redwoodtrust.com>. Information contained on our website is not and should not be deemed a part of this prospectus or any other report or filing filed with the SEC.

This prospectus and any prospectus supplement are part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC and do not contain all of the information in the registration statement. The full registration statement may be obtained from the SEC or us, as provided below. The indenture and forms of other documents establishing the terms of the offered securities are or may be filed as exhibits to the registration statement. Statements in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement about these documents are summaries and each statement is qualified in all respects by reference to the document to which it refers. You should refer to the actual documents for a more complete description of the relevant matters. You may inspect a copy of the registration statement at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. or through the SEC's website, as provided above.

Table of Contents

\$225,000,000

% Convertible Senior Notes due 2023

J.P. Morgan

Wells Fargo Securities

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

JMP Securities