

EDGA & EDGX STOCK EXCHANGES			
Regulatory Information Circular			
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**Subject:** ProShares USD Covered Bond

#### **Background Information on the Fund**

As more fully explained in the <u>Registration Statement</u> (Nos. 811-21114 and 333-89822) for the ProShares Trust (the "Trust"), the Trust is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), and consists of multiple series, including the ProShares USD Covered Bond.

ProShare Advisors LLC serves as the investment advisor for the Fund ("ProShare Advisors"). SEI Investments Distribution Co. is the distributor for the Fund ("Distributor"). J.P. Morgan Investor Services Co. is the administrator, index receipt agent, and fund accounting agent.

## **Description of the Fund**

ProShares USD Covered Bond (the "Fund") seeks investment results, before fees and expenses, that track the performance of the BNP Paribas Diversified USD Covered Bond Index<sup>TM</sup> (the "Index"). The Index, published by BNP Paribas, seeks to track the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated "Covered Bonds" that are generally rated AAA (or its equivalent). Covered Bonds are debt instruments issued by a financial institution that are secured by a segregated pool of financial assets (the "cover pool"), typically mortgages or public-sector loans. Covered Bonds differ from other debt instruments, including asset-backed securities, in that bondholders have a senior, unsecured claim against the issuing financial institution, which is secured by the cover pool in the event of default by such issuing financial institution. Further, the issuing financial institution typically maintains the cover pool in order to support the claims of Covered Bondholders in the event of default by the issuing financial institution. Currently, the Index is comprised of Covered Bonds issued exclusively by non-U.S. institutions.

The Fund will, under normal circumstances, invest at least 80% of its total assets in Covered Bonds. In addition, the Fund may invest in other securities that ProShare Advisors believes, in combination with Covered Bonds, should track the performance of the Index. The Index aims to include the universe of U.S. dollar-denominated fixed-rate Covered Bonds that conform to the eligibility criteria for the Index. The Covered Bonds must be denominated in USD, have a fixed-rate coupon, have at least 18 months to maturity, have USD 1 billion or more of outstanding face amount and a minimum denomination no greater than \$250,000, be either

registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission or eligible for resale under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, and satisfy the liquidity criteria applicable to the Index. In addition, the Covered Bonds must be rated in the highest category by at least one of the following rating agencies: Fitch Investor Services, Moody's Investor Services and Standard & Poor's Rating Group. Where the Covered Bond is rated by all three agencies, two of the agencies must rate the bond AAA (or its equivalent), where the bond is rated by two of such agencies, both agencies must rate the bond AAA (or its equivalent) and where the bond is rated by only one of such rating agency, that agency must rate the bond AAA (or its equivalent). Covered Bonds containing puts or calls and bonds that are convertible or have equity-like features are not eligible for inclusion in the Index. In addition, the following diversification criteria are applied to the Index when it is rebalanced: no single issuer or guarantor may have value weight greater than 25% of the value of the Index and issuers or guarantors with a value weight of 5% or more may not constitute more than 50% of the value of the Index. If a Covered Bond no longer satisfies the eligibility criteria, it will be removed from the Index when the Index is rebalanced. The Index is rebalanced on the last business day of each quarter. The Index may from time to time include Covered Bonds issued by BNP Paribas or its affiliates.

The Fund will invest in debt securities, primarily Covered Bonds that are issued by a financial institution and are secured by a pool of financial assets, typically mortgages (e.g., residential, commercial and/or ship mortgages) or public-sector loans, which are loans made to national, regional and local authorities to fund public-sector lending (e.g., loans that support public investment and infrastructure projects). In addition, the pool of financial assets may include cash or cash equivalents.

The Fund will issue and redeem shares only to Authorized Participants (typically broker-dealers) in exchange for the deposit or delivery of a basket of assets (securities and/or cash) in large blocks, known as Creation Units, each of which is comprised of 130,000 shares. Retail investors may only purchase and sell shares on a national securities exchange through a broker-dealer. Because the shares trade at market prices rather than net asset value, shares may trade at a price greater than NAV (premium) or less than NAV (discount).

The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") will serve as securities depository for the Shares, which may be held only in book-entry form; stock certificates will not be issued. DTC, or its nominee, is the record or registered owner of all outstanding Shares.

The Fund intends to declare and distribute to its shareholders at least annually virtually all of its net income, if any, as well as net realized capital gains. Subject to approval by the Fund's Board of Trustees, some or all of any net capital gains distribution may be declared payable in either additional shares of the Fund or in cash. If such a distribution is declared payable in that fashion, holders of shares will receive additional shares of the Fund unless they elect to receive cash. Distributions may be declared and paid more frequently to comply with the distribution requirements of the Internal Revenue Code or for other reasons.

The NAV per Share of the Fund will be determined as of the close of trading (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET")) on each day that EDGA Exchange, Inc. and EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchanges) are open for business (a "Business Day"). NAV will be available from the

Distributor and is also available to National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") participants through data made available from NSCC.

The Fund's <u>Registration Statement</u> describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund's Shares. For a more complete description of the Fund and the Index, visit <u>www.proshares.com</u>.

## **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the prospectus (the "<u>Prospectus</u>") for a description of risks associated with an investment in the Shares. These risks include Risk Specific to Covered Bonds; Interest Rate Risk; Private Placement Risk; Mortgage and Public-Sector Loan Risk; Debt Instrument Risk; Correlation Risk; Early Close/Late Close/Trading Halt Risk; Exposure to Foreign Investments Risk; Geographic Concentration Risk; Exposure to European Investments Risk; Financial Services Industry Debt Risk; Liquidity Risk; Market Risk; Market Price Variance Risk; Non-Diversification Risk; Portfolio Turnover Risk and Valuation Risk.

In addition, as noted in the <u>Prospectus</u>, the Shares may trade at market prices that may differ from their NAV. The NAV of the Shares will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings. The market prices of the Shares will fluctuate in accordance with changes in NAV as well as the supply and demand for the Shares.

### **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

The shares are considered equity securities, thus rendering trading in the shares subject to the Exchange's existing rules governing the trading of equity securities.

# **Trading Hours**

Trading in the shares on the Exchanges is on a UTP basis and is subject to the Exchanges equity trading rules. The shares will trade from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Members trading the shares during the Extended Market Sessions (Pre-opening and Post-closing sessions) are exposed to the risk of the lack of the calculation or dissemination of underlying index value or intraday indicative value ("IIV"). For certain derivative securities products, an updated underlying index value or IIV may not be calculated or publicly disseminated in the Extended Market hours. Since the underlying index value and IIV are not calculated or widely disseminated during Extended Market hours, an investor who is unable to calculate implied values for certain derivative securities products during Extended Market hours may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

## **Trading Halts**

The Exchanges will halt trading in the shares in accordance with Exchange Rules 14.1(c)(4). The grounds for a halt under this Rule include a halt by the primary market because it stops trading the shares and/or a halt because dissemination of the IIV or applicable currency spot price has ceased, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, the Exchanges will stop trading the shares if the primary market de-lists the shares.

## **Suitability**

Trading in the shares on the Exchanges will be subject to the provisions of EDGA and EDGX Exchange Rules 3.7. Members recommending transactions in the shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in Exchange Rules 3.7.

Members also should review FINRA Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

# **Delivery of a Prospectus**

Pursuant to federal securities laws, investors purchasing shares must receive a prospectus prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction. Investors purchasing shares directly from the Fund (by delivery of the Deposit Amount) must also receive a prospectus.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the Distributor or on the Fund's <u>website</u>. The Prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Fund, please refer to the Trust's registration statement.

#### **Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations**

The Commission has issued letters dated October 24, 2006, November 21, 2005 and August 17, 2001 (together, the "No- Action Letters") granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of and rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange-traded funds listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria. Members are referred to the No-Action Letters, available at <a href="www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>, for additional information.

## **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have

agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The Commission issued a No-Action Letter by which persons participating in a distribution of shares of a fund may engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution, despite the requirements of from Rule 101 under Regulation M. In addition, the SEC has permitted persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of shares of a fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing creation unit aggregations of fund shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the Commission has clarified that the tender of fund shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Fund's securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The Commission has issued a No-Action Letter relating to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M which allow the redemption of fund shares in creation unit aggregations during the continuous offering of shares.

# **Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares (SEC Rule 10b-10)**

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund shares in Creation Units for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing creation unit aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemptions is subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2. Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c);
- 3. Except for the identity, number and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

## SEC Rule 14e-5

The Commission has permitted any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of fund (1) to redeem fund shares in creation unit aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase fund shares during such tender offer. In addition, a No-Action has been issued under Rule 14e-5 states that if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases

or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more creation unit aggregations of shares, it must be made in conformance with the following:

- 1. such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchased; or
- 2. purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3. such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

# Section 11(d)(1); SEC Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The Commission has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not authorized participants (and, therefore, do not create creation unit aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in shares of a fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer authorized participants that engage in creations of creation unit aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an authorized participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the shares of a fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD (now FINRA) Rule 2830 (I)(5)(A), (B) or (C). See letter dated November 22, 2005 from Brian A Bussey, Assistant Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Barclays Global Investors, N.A., dated November 22, 2005. The Commission has issued a No-Action Letter under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act now states that broker-dealers may treat shares of a fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

## **SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6**

The Commission has issued a No-Action letter with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of fund shares and secondary market transactions therein.

This Regulatory Information Circular is not a statutory Prospectus. Members should consult the Fund's <u>Registration Statement</u>, <u>SAI</u>, <u>Prospectus</u> and the Fund's <u>website</u> for relevant information.

# Appendix A

TickerFund NameCUSIPCOBOProShares USD Covered Bond74348A749