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OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0045
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Page 1 of * 31		EXCHANGE COM STON, D.C. 2054 orm 19b-4	9	File No.*	SR - 2016 - * 15 mendments *)
Filing by BATS Exchange					
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the	Securities Exchange	Act of 1934			
Initial * Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2)	* Section	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		☐ 19b-4(f☐ 19b-4(f	19b-4(f)(5)	
Notice of proposed change pursuan Section 806(e)(1) *	t to the Payment, Cleari	ing, and Settlemen	Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap to the Securities Exch Section 3C(b)(2)	-
	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Do	ocument			
Description Provide a brief description of the act BATS Exchange, Inc. proposes a		•	itial is checked	*).	
Contact Information Provide the name, telephone number prepared to respond to questions and the second sec			staff of the self	-regulatory organization	1
First Name * Chris		Last Name * Sol	gan		
Title * Assistant General C	ounsel				
E-mail * csolgan@bats.com					
Telephone * (646) 856-8723 Fax					
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the has duly caused this filing to be sign	_		-	ized.	
D	Г	Aggiotopt Carre	(Title *)		
Date 02/04/2016		Assistant General	Counsel		
By Chris Solgan					
(Name *) NOTE: Clicking the button at right will dig this form. A digital signature is as legally t signature, and once signed, this form cannot be signed.	oinding as a physical	CS	olgan@bats.co	om	

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information * clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Add Remove View Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Transcripts, Other Communications documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working. **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part Add Remove View of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial

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

1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act" or "Exchange Act"), ¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, ² BATS Exchange, Inc. ("BATS" or the "Exchange") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change to amend its fees and rebates applicable to Members³ and non-members of the Exchange pursuant to Rule 15.1(a) and (c) ("Fee Schedule"). The changes to the Fee Schedule pursuant to this proposal are effective upon filing.

The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5. Material proposed to be added is underlined. Material proposed to be deleted is enclosed in brackets.

- (b) Inapplicable.
- (c) Inapplicable.

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

The Exchange submits the proposed rule change pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors of the Exchange on February 11, 2014. Exchange staff will advise the Exchange's Board of Directors of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change and, therefore, the Exchange's internal procedures with respect to the proposed change are complete.

The persons on the Exchange staff prepared to respond to questions and

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

A Member is defined as "any registered broker or dealer that has been admitted to membership in the Exchange." See Exchange Rule 1.5(n).

comments on the proposed rule change are:

Eric Swanson EVP, General Counsel (913) 815-7000 Chris Solgan Assistant General Counsel (646) 856-8723

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

(a) Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule to: (i) adopt a new tier under footnote 1 called the Market Depth Tier; (ii) eliminate from footnote 2 Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 and rename Step-Up Tier 4 as "Step-Up Tier"; and (iii) modify the tier-based incremental credits for Members that are Lead Market Makers ("LMMs") for their orders that provide displayed liquidity in Tape B securities described under footnote 14.

Proposed Market Maker Depth Tier

Currently, the Exchange determines the liquidity adding rebate that it will provide to Members using the Exchange's tiered pricing structure. Under such pricing structure, a Member will receive a rebate of anywhere between \$0.0020 and \$0.0034 per share executed, depending on the volume tier for which such Member qualifies. The Exchange proposes to adopt a new tier under footnote 1 titled the "Market Depth Tier". Under the Market Depth Tier, the Exchange is proposing to provide a rebate of \$0.0032 per share to Members that add an ADV⁴ of at least: (i) 1% of the TCV⁵; and (ii) 0.10%

⁴ As defined in the Exchange's Fee Schedule.

^{5 &}lt;u>Id</u>.

of the TCV as Non-Displayed Orders⁶ that yield fee codes HA⁷ or HI.⁸ As is the case with any other rebates on the Fee Schedule, to the extent that a Member qualifies for higher rebates than those provided under the proposed Market Depth Tier, the higher rebates shall apply.

Amendments to Step-Up Tiers

The Exchange also maintains additional Step-Up Tiers that provide Members with additional ways to qualify for enhanced rebates where they increase their liquidity each month over a predetermined baseline. The Exchange currently offers four Step-Up Tiers under footnote 2 of its Fee Schedule. Under Tier 1, a Member receives a rebate of \$0.0025 per share when its Step-Up Add TCV from January 2014 is equal to or greater than 0.07%. Under Tier 2, a Member receives a rebate of \$0.0029 per share when its Step-Up Add TCV from January 2014 is equal to or greater than 0.10%. Under Tier 3, a Member receives a rebate of \$0.0030 per share when its Step-Up Add TCV from January 2014 is equal to or greater than 0.15%. Lastly, under Tier 4, a Members receives a rebate of \$0.0030 per share where their Step-Up Add TCV from August 2015 is equal to or greater than 0.08%; and (2) Member's ADAV⁹ as a percentage of TCV is equal to or greater than 0.35%.

The Exchange proposes to amend footnote 2 to eliminate Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and

⁶ See Exchange Rule 11.9(c)(11).

As set forth in the Exchange's Fee Schedule, fee code HA is attached to Non-Displayed Orders that add liquidity.

As set forth in the Exchange's Fee Schedule, fee code HI is attached to Non-Displayed Orders that receives price improvement and add liquidity.

⁹ <u>Id</u>.

3 and rename Step-Up Tier 4 as Step-Up Tier. The Exchange believes that Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 have successfully encouraged Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange over a January 2014 baseline and that such tiers are no longer necessary. The Exchange notes that Step-Up Tier 4, which is to be renamed Step-Up Tier, provides a contemporary baseline of August 2015 by which Members may seek to increase their liquidity and receive a rebate of \$0.0030 per share. In addition, deletion of Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 would help offset the cost incurred by offering a rebate of \$0.0032 per share under the proposed Market Depth Tier discussed above.

LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B

On April 17, 2014, the Exchange filed a proposal to adopt rules to create an LMM Program (the "Program") on an immediately effective basis. ¹⁰ The Program is designed to strengthen market quality for BATS-listed Exchange Traded Products ("ETPs") ¹¹ by offering enhanced pricing to market makers registered with the Exchange ("Market Makers") ¹² that are also registered as an LMM in an LMM Security ¹³ and meet certain minimum quoting standards ("Minimum Performance Standards"). ¹⁴ In October 2015, the Exchange filed a proposed rule change with the Commission to adopt

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72020 (April 25, 2014), 79 FR 24807 (May 1, 2014) (SR-BATS-2014-015).

As defined in Rule 11.8(e)(1)(A), ETP means any security listed pursuant to Exchange Rule 14.11.

See BATS Rule 11.5.

As defined in Rule 11.8(e)(1)(C), LMM Security means an ETP that has an LMM.

As defined in Rule 11.8(e)(1)(D), Minimum Performance Standards means a set of standards applicable to an LMM that may be determined from time to time by the Exchange.

such enhanced pricing for LMMs under part (A) of footnote 14 of the Fee Schedule¹⁵ and to adopt additional LMM credit tiers under part (B) of footnote 14, also on an immediately effective basis.¹⁶

As described above, the Exchange offers tier-based incremental credits to Members that are LMMs for their orders that provide displayed liquidity in Tape B securities pursuant to paragraph (B) of footnote 14 of the Fee Schedule. Specifically, Members that are LMMs for LMM Securities receive an additional rebate per share (an "LMM Credit") for orders that provide displayed liquidity in Tape B securities traded on the Exchange, including non-BATS-listed securities, except that such LMM Credits are not applied to the rebates provided to LMMs pursuant to part (A) of footnote 14 of the Fee Schedule (the "LMM Rebate"). Currently, the LMM Credits and volume thresholds associated therewith are as follows: (i) an LMM Credit of \$0.0001 per share where an LMM is a Qualified LMM in at least 75 ETPs; (iii) an LMM Credit of \$0.0002 per share where an LMM is a Qualified LMM in at least 150 ETPs; and (iv) an LMM Credit of \$0.0004 per share where an LMM is a Qualified LMM in at least 250 ETPs.

The Exchange now proposes to amend the LMM Credit Tiers under part (B) of

The Exchange does not propose to amend the enhanced pricing available to LMMs under part (A) of footnote 14 of its Fee Schedule.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76147 (October 14, 2015), 80 FR
 63621 (October 20, 2015) (SR-BATS-2015-89).

An LMM is a "Qualified LMM" in a security where it provides pricing for orders that add displayed liquidity in an LMM Security that meets the Minimum Performance Standards during the applicable billing month.

footnote 14 to reduce the minimum number of ETPs for which an LMM must be a Qualified LMM in order to qualify for each tier as follows: (i) to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0001 per share, the number of ETPs for which the LMM is a Qualified LMM would be decreased from 50 to 25; (ii) to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0002 per share, the number of ETPs for which the LMM is a Qualified LMM would be decreased from 75 to 50; (iii) to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0003 per share, the number of ETPs for which the LMM is a Qualified LMM would be decreased from 150 to 75; and (iv) to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0004 per share, the number of ETPs for which the LMM is a Qualified LMM would be decreased from 250 to 125.

For example, a Member that is a Qualified LMM in 100 ETPs is currently eligible to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0002 per share in Tape B securities for which it is not a Qualified LMM, in addition to the rebate it would normally receive in accordance with the Exchange's Fee Schedule ("Normal Rebate"). As proposed, however, the Member would instead receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0003 per share in Tape B securities for which it is not a Qualified LMM in addition to the Normal Rebate. 18

Implementation Date

The Exchange proposes to implement these amendments to its Fee Schedule

Where the LMM Credit plus the Normal Rebate is greater than the LMM Rebate, the Member will receive this higher rebate instead of the LMM Rebate, which is consistent with the treatment of all other fees and rebates, as provided in the General Note that states "to the extent a Member qualifies for higher rebates and/or lower fees than those provided by a tier for which such Member qualifies, the higher rebates and/or lower fees shall apply."

immediately. 19

(b) <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6 of the Act, ²⁰ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4), ²¹ in particular, as it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also notes that it operates in a highly-competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive. The proposed rule change reflects a competitive pricing structure designed to incent market participants to direct their order flow to the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposed tier is equitable and non-discriminatory in it would apply uniformly to all Members. The Exchange believes the rates remain competitive with those charged by other venues and, therefore, reasonable and equitably allocated to Members.

Volume-based rebates such as that proposed herein have been widely adopted by equities and options exchanges and are equitable because they are open to all Members on an equal basis and provide additional benefits or discounts that are reasonably related to: (i) the value to an exchange's market quality; (ii) associated higher levels of market activity, such as higher levels of liquidity provision and/or growth patterns; and (iii)

The Exchange initially filed the proposed fee change on January 28, 2016 (SR-BATS-2016-11). On February 4, 2016, the Exchange withdrew SR-BATS-2016-11 and submitted this filing.

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

²¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes.

The Exchange believes that the proposed tier is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because they will provide

Members with an additional incentive to reach certain thresholds on the Exchange.

In particular, the Exchange believes the addition of the Market Depth Tier is a reasonable means to encourage Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange. The Exchange further believes that the proposed Market Depth Tier represents an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges because the thresholds necessary to achieve the tier encourages Members to add displayed liquidity to the BATS Book²² each month, as only the displayed liquidity in this tier is awarded the rebate of \$0.0032 per share. This tier also recognizes the contribution that non-displayed liquidity provides to the marketplace, including: (i) adding needed depth to the Exchange market; (ii) providing price support/depth of liquidity; and (iii) increasing diversity of liquidity to the Exchange. The increased liquidity benefits all investors by deepening the Exchange's liquidity pool, offering additional flexibility for all investors to enjoy cost savings, supporting the quality of price discovery, promoting market transparency and improving investor protection.

Proposed Market Maker Depth Tier

The Exchange also notes that the criteria and rebate under the Market Depth Tier is equitable and reasonable as compared to other tiers offered by the Exchange. For example, under footnote 1 a Member may receive a rebate of \$0.0030 per share under Tier 4 where their: (i) ADAV as a percentage of TCV equal to or greater than .50%; or

See Exchange Rule 1.5(e).

(ii) ADV as a percentage of TCV is equal to or greater than 1.00%. Like the proposed Market Depth Tier, Members must add as a percentage of TCV of 1.00%. However, in order to receive the higher rebate of \$0.0032 per share, the Member must also add an ADV of at least 0.10% of the TCV as Non-Displayed Orders that yield fee codes HA or HI. Therefore, the Exchange believes the proposed Market Depth Tier is consistent with Section 6(b)(4)²³ of the Act as the more stringent criteria correlates with the tier's higher rebate.

Amendments to Step-Up Tiers

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend footnote 2 to delete Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 and rename Step-Up Tier 4 as Step –Up Tier is reasonable, fair, and equitable for several of the reasons stated above. Specifically, the Exchange believes that Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 have successfully encouraged Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange over a January 2014 baseline and that such tiers are no longer necessary. The Exchange notes that Step-Up Tier 4, which is to be renamed Step-Up Tier, provides a contemporary baseline of August 2015 by which Members may seek to increase their liquidity and receive a rebate of \$0.0030 per share. In addition, deletion of Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 would help offset the cost incurred by offering a rebate of \$0.0032 per share under the proposed Market Depth Tier discussed above. As such, the Exchange believes that removing the tier from its fee schedule is reasonable, fair, and equitable. The Exchange also believes that the proposed amendments are non-discriminatory because they apply uniformly to all Members.

LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B

²³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

The proposed reduction to the minimum number of ETPs for which an LMM must be a Qualified LMM in order to qualify for each tier in the LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B is intended to encourage Members to promote price discovery and market quality across all BATS-listed securities for the benefit of all market participants. The Exchange believes that reducing the thresholds for meeting such tiers provides increased incentives to Members to become LMMs in BATS-listed ETPs, to satisfy the Minimum Performance Standards in ETPs each month, and to add liquidity in Tape B securities on the Exchange, and is therefore reasonable because the Exchange believes doing so would encourage more LMMs to register to quote and trade in as many BATS-listed ETPs as possible. In particular, reducing the ETP requirements necessary to receive enhanced rebates tiered based on the number of securities for which a Member is registered as an LMM, would provide an incentive for such Members not only to register as an LMM in more liquid securities, but also to register to quote in lower volume ETPs, which are traditionally less profitable for market makers than more liquid ETPs. Moreover, the Exchange believes that the proposed change will incentivize LMMs to register as an LMM in more ETPs, including less liquid ETPs and, thus, add more liquidity in these and other Tape B securities to the benefit of all market participants. The Exchange believes that the proposed reduction in the threshold is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it remains consistent with the market quality and competitiveness benefits associated with the fee program and because the magnitude of the additional rebate is not unreasonably high in comparison to the requirements associated with receiving such LMM Credit and the rebate paid with respect to other displayed liquidity-providing orders.

4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe its proposed amendment to its Fee Schedule would impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed change represents a significant departure from previous pricing offered by the Exchange or pricing offered by the Exchange's competitors. Additionally, Members may opt to disfavor the Exchange's pricing if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change will impair the ability of Members or competing venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee structures to be unreasonable or excessive. The proposed changes are generally intended to enhance the rebates for liquidity added to the Exchange, which is intended to draw additional liquidity to the Exchange. The Exchange does not believe the proposed amendments would burden intramarket competition as they would apply to all Members uniformly.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed new Market Depth Tier would burden competition, but instead, enhances competition, as it is intended to increase the competitiveness of and draw additional volume to the Exchange. Nor does the Exchange believes eliminating Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 would impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Those tiers have successfully encouraged Members to increase their liquidity on

the Exchange and their elimination would help offset the cost incurred by offering a rebate of \$0.0032 per share under the proposed Market Depth Tier.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed reduction to the minimum number of ETPs for which an LMM must be a Qualified LMM in order to qualify for each tier in the LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B will burden competition, but instead, enhances competition, as these changes are intended to increase LMM participation in Tape B Securities, to incentivize Members to register as LMMs in BATS-listed ETPs, and to encourage Members to meet the Minimum Performance Standards in such ETPs. As such, the proposal is a competitive proposal that is intended to add additional liquidity to the Exchange, which will, in turn, benefit the Exchange and all Exchange participants.

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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments from Members or other interested parties.

- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
 Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>
- (a) This proposed rule change is filed pursuant to paragraph (A) of Section19(b)(3) of the Act.
- (b) This proposed rule change establishes dues, fees or other charges among its members and, as such, may take effect upon filing with the Commission pursuant to

Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act²⁴ and paragraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.²⁵

- (c) Inapplicable.
- (d) Inapplicable.
- 8. <u>Proposed Rule change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization</u> or of the Commission

Not applicable.

- Security Based- Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act
 Not applicable.
- 10. <u>Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act</u>

Not applicable.

- 11. Exhibits
 - Exhibit 1: Completed Notice of the Proposed Rule Change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.
 - Exhibit 2-4: Not applicable.
 - Exhibit 5: Text of Proposed Rule Change.

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

²⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHAN	GE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34	; File No. SR-BATS-2016-15)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; BATS Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Related to Fees for Use of BATS Exchange, Inc.

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

The Exchange filed a proposal to amend the fee schedule applicable to Members⁵ and non-members of the Exchange pursuant to BATS Rules 15.1(a) and (c) ("Fee

¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

The term "Member" is defined as "any registered broker or dealer that has been admitted to membership in the Exchange." See Exchange Rule 1.5(n).

Schedule"). The changes to the Fee Schedule pursuant to this proposal are effective upon filing.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange's website at www.batstrading.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

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

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule to: (i) adopt a new tier under footnote 1 called the Market Depth Tier; (ii) eliminate from footnote 2 Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 and rename Step-Up Tier 4 as "Step-Up Tier"; and (iii) modify the tier-based incremental credits for Members that are Lead Market Makers ("LMMs") for their orders that provide displayed liquidity in Tape B securities described under footnote 14.

Proposed Market Maker Depth Tier

Currently, the Exchange determines the liquidity adding rebate that it will provide to Members using the Exchange's tiered pricing structure. Under such pricing structure, a Member will receive a rebate of anywhere between \$0.0020 and \$0.0034 per share

executed, depending on the volume tier for which such Member qualifies. The Exchange proposes to adopt a new tier under footnote 1 titled the "Market Depth Tier". Under the Market Depth Tier, the Exchange is proposing to provide a rebate of \$0.0032 per share to Members that add an ADV⁶ of at least: (i) 1% of the TCV⁷; and (ii) 0.10% of the TCV as Non-Displayed Orders⁸ that yield fee codes HA⁹ or HI.¹⁰ As is the case with any other rebates on the Fee Schedule, to the extent that a Member qualifies for higher rebates than those provided under the proposed Market Depth Tier, the higher rebates shall apply.

Amendments to Step-Up Tiers

The Exchange also maintains additional Step-Up Tiers that provide Members with additional ways to qualify for enhanced rebates where they increase their liquidity each month over a predetermined baseline. The Exchange currently offers four Step-Up Tiers under footnote 2 of its Fee Schedule. Under Tier 1, a Member receives a rebate of \$0.0025 per share when its Step-Up Add TCV from January 2014 is equal to or greater than 0.07%. Under Tier 2, a Member receives a rebate of \$0.0029 per share when its Step-Up Add TCV from January 2014 is equal to or greater than 0.10%. Under Tier 3, a Member receives a rebate of \$0.0030 per share when its Step-Up Add TCV from January 2014 is equal to or greater than 0.15%. Lastly, under Tier 4, a Members receives a rebate

⁶ As defined in the Exchange's Fee Schedule.

⁷ <u>Id</u>.

⁸ See Exchange Rule 11.9(c)(11).

As set forth in the Exchange's Fee Schedule, fee code HA is attached to Non-Displayed Orders that add liquidity.

As set forth in the Exchange's Fee Schedule, fee code HI is attached to Non-Displayed Orders that receives price improvement and add liquidity.

of \$0.0030 per share where their Step-Up Add TCV¹¹ from August 2015 is equal to or greater than 0.08%; and (2) Member's ADAV¹² as a percentage of TCV is equal to or greater than 0.35%.

The Exchange proposes to amend footnote 2 to eliminate Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 and rename Step-Up Tier 4 as Step-Up Tier. The Exchange believes that Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 have successfully encouraged Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange over a January 2014 baseline and that such tiers are no longer necessary. The Exchange notes that Step-Up Tier 4, which is to be renamed Step-Up Tier, provides a contemporary baseline of August 2015 by which Members may seek to increase their liquidity and receive a rebate of \$0.0030 per share. In addition, deletion of Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 would help offset the cost incurred by offering a rebate of \$0.0032 per share under the proposed Market Depth Tier discussed above.

LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B

On April 17, 2014, the Exchange filed a proposal to adopt rules to create an LMM Program (the "Program") on an immediately effective basis. ¹³ The Program is designed to strengthen market quality for BATS-listed Exchange Traded Products ("ETPs") ¹⁴ by offering enhanced pricing to market makers registered with the Exchange ("Market

^{11 &}lt;u>Id</u>.

¹² Id.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72020 (April 25, 2014), 79 FR 24807 (May 1, 2014) (SR-BATS-2014-015).

As defined in Rule 11.8(e)(1)(A), ETP means any security listed pursuant to Exchange Rule 14.11.

Makers")¹⁵ that are also registered as an LMM in an LMM Security¹⁶ and meet certain minimum quoting standards ("Minimum Performance Standards").¹⁷ In October 2015, the Exchange filed a proposed rule change with the Commission to adopt such enhanced pricing for LMMs under part (A) of footnote 14 of the Fee Schedule¹⁸ and to adopt additional LMM credit tiers under part (B) of footnote 14, also on an immediately effective basis.¹⁹

As described above, the Exchange offers tier-based incremental credits to Members that are LMMs for their orders that provide displayed liquidity in Tape B securities pursuant to paragraph (B) of footnote 14 of the Fee Schedule. Specifically, Members that are LMMs for LMM Securities receive an additional rebate per share (an "LMM Credit") for orders that provide displayed liquidity in Tape B securities traded on the Exchange, including non-BATS-listed securities, except that such LMM Credits are not applied to the rebates provided to LMMs pursuant to part (A) of footnote 14 of the Fee Schedule (the "LMM Rebate"). Currently, the LMM Credits and volume thresholds associated therewith are as follows: (i) an LMM Credit of \$0.0001 per share where an

See BATS Rule 11.5.

As defined in Rule 11.8(e)(1)(C), LMM Security means an ETP that has an LMM.

As defined in Rule 11.8(e)(1)(D), Minimum Performance Standards means a set of standards applicable to an LMM that may be determined from time to time by the Exchange.

The Exchange does not propose to amend the enhanced pricing available to LMMs under part (A) of footnote 14 of its Fee Schedule.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76147 (October 14, 2015), 80 FR 63621 (October 20, 2015) (SR-BATS-2015-89).

LMM is a Qualified LMM²⁰ in at least 50 ETPs; (ii) an LMM Credit of \$0.0002 per share where an LMM is a Qualified LMM in at least 75 ETPs; (iii) an LMM Credit of \$0.0003 per share where an LMM is a Qualified LMM in at least 150 ETPs; and (iv) an LMM Credit of \$0.0004 per share where an LMM is a Qualified LMM in at least 250 ETPs.

The Exchange now proposes to amend the LMM Credit Tiers under part (B) of footnote 14 to reduce the minimum number of ETPs for which an LMM must be a Qualified LMM in order to qualify for each tier as follows: (i) to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0001 per share, the number of ETPs for which the LMM is a Qualified LMM would be decreased from 50 to 25; (ii) to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0002 per share, the number of ETPs for which the LMM is a Qualified LMM would be decreased from 75 to 50; (iii) to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0003 per share, the number of ETPs for which the LMM is a Qualified LMM would be decreased from 150 to 75; and (iv) to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0004 per share, the number of ETPs for which the LMM is a Qualified LMM would be decreased from 250 to 125.

For example, a Member that is a Qualified LMM in 100 ETPs is currently eligible to receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0002 per share in Tape B securities for which it is not a Qualified LMM, in addition to the rebate it would normally receive in accordance with the Exchange's Fee Schedule ("Normal Rebate"). As proposed, however, the Member would instead receive an LMM Credit of \$0.0003 per share in Tape B securities for

An LMM is a "Qualified LMM" in a security where it provides pricing for orders that add displayed liquidity in an LMM Security that meets the Minimum Performance Standards during the applicable billing month.

which it is not a Qualified LMM in addition to the Normal Rebate.²¹

<u>Implementation Date</u>

The Exchange proposes to implement these amendments to its Fee Schedule immediately. ²²

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6 of the Act, ²³ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4), ²⁴ in particular, as it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also notes that it operates in a highly-competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive. The proposed rule change reflects a competitive pricing structure designed to incent market participants to direct their order flow to the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposed tier is equitable and non-discriminatory in it would apply uniformly to all Members. The Exchange believes the

Where the LMM Credit plus the Normal Rebate is greater than the LMM Rebate, the Member will receive this higher rebate instead of the LMM Rebate, which is consistent with the treatment of all other fees and rebates, as provided in the General Note that states "to the extent a Member qualifies for higher rebates and/or lower fees than those provided by a tier for which such Member qualifies, the higher rebates and/or lower fees shall apply."

The Exchange initially filed the proposed fee change on January 28, 2016 (SR-BATS-2016-11). On February 4, 2016, the Exchange withdrew SR-BATS-2016-11 and submitted this filing.

²³ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

rates remain competitive with those charged by other venues and, therefore, reasonable and equitably allocated to Members.

Volume-based rebates such as that proposed herein have been widely adopted by equities and options exchanges and are equitable because they are open to all Members on an equal basis and provide additional benefits or discounts that are reasonably related to: (i) the value to an exchange's market quality; (ii) associated higher levels of market activity, such as higher levels of liquidity provision and/or growth patterns; and (iii) introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes. The Exchange believes that the proposed tier is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because they will provide Members with an additional incentive to reach certain thresholds on the Exchange.

In particular, the Exchange believes the addition of the Market Depth Tier is a reasonable means to encourage Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange. The Exchange further believes that the proposed Market Depth Tier represents an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges because the thresholds necessary to achieve the tier encourages Members to add displayed liquidity to the BATS Book²⁵ each month, as only the displayed liquidity in this tier is awarded the rebate of \$0.0032 per share. This tier also recognizes the contribution that non-displayed liquidity provides to the marketplace, including: (i) adding needed depth to the Exchange market; (ii) providing price support/depth of liquidity; and (iii) increasing diversity of liquidity to the Exchange. The increased liquidity benefits all investors by deepening the Exchange's

See Exchange Rule 1.5(e).

liquidity pool, offering additional flexibility for all investors to enjoy cost savings, supporting the quality of price discovery, promoting market transparency and improving investor protection.

Proposed Market Maker Depth Tier

The Exchange also notes that the criteria and rebate under the Market Depth Tier is equitable and reasonable as compared to other tiers offered by the Exchange. For example, under footnote 1 a Member may receive a rebate of \$0.0030 per share under Tier 4 where their: (i) ADAV as a percentage of TCV equal to or greater than .50%; or (ii) ADV as a percentage of TCV is equal to or greater than 1.00%. Like the proposed Market Depth Tier, Members must add as a percentage of TCV of 1.00%. However, in order to receive the higher rebate of \$0.0032 per share, the Member must also add an ADV of at least 0.10% of the TCV as Non-Displayed Orders that yield fee codes HA or HI. Therefore, the Exchange believes the proposed Market Depth Tier is consistent with Section $6(b)(4)^{26}$ of the Act as the more stringent criteria correlates with the tier's higher rebate.

Amendments to Step-Up Tiers

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend footnote 2 to delete Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 and rename Step-Up Tier 4 as Step –Up Tier is reasonable, fair, and equitable for several of the reasons stated above. Specifically, the Exchange believes that Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 have successfully encouraged Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange over a January 2014 baseline and that such tiers are no longer

²⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

necessary. The Exchange notes that Step-Up Tier 4, which is to be renamed Step-Up Tier, provides a contemporary baseline of August 2015 by which Members may seek to increase their liquidity and receive a rebate of \$0.0030 per share. In addition, deletion of Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 would help offset the cost incurred by offering a rebate of \$0.0032 per share under the proposed Market Depth Tier discussed above. As such, the Exchange believes that removing the tier from its fee schedule is reasonable, fair, and equitable. The Exchange also believes that the proposed amendments are non-discriminatory because they apply uniformly to all Members.

LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B

The proposed reduction to the minimum number of ETPs for which an LMM must be a Qualified LMM in order to qualify for each tier in the LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B is intended to encourage Members to promote price discovery and market quality across all BATS-listed securities for the benefit of all market participants. The Exchange believes that reducing the thresholds for meeting such tiers provides increased incentives to Members to become LMMs in BATS-listed ETPs, to satisfy the Minimum Performance Standards in ETPs each month, and to add liquidity in Tape B securities on the Exchange, and is therefore reasonable because the Exchange believes doing so would encourage more LMMs to register to quote and trade in as many BATS-listed ETPs as possible. In particular, reducing the ETP requirements necessary to receive enhanced rebates tiered based on the number of securities for which a Member is registered as an LMM, would provide an incentive for such Members not only to register as an LMM in more liquid securities, but also to register to quote in lower volume ETPs, which are traditionally less profitable for market makers than more liquid ETPs. Moreover, the

Exchange believes that the proposed change will incentivize LMMs to register as an LMM in more ETPs, including less liquid ETPs and, thus, add more liquidity in these and other Tape B securities to the benefit of all market participants. The Exchange believes that the proposed reduction in the threshold is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it remains consistent with the market quality and competitiveness benefits associated with the fee program and because the magnitude of the additional rebate is not unreasonably high in comparison to the requirements associated with receiving such LMM Credit and the rebate paid with respect to other displayed liquidity-providing orders.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe its proposed amendment to its Fee Schedule would impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed change represents a significant departure from previous pricing offered by the Exchange or pricing offered by the Exchange's competitors. Additionally, Members may opt to disfavor the Exchange's pricing if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change will impair the ability of Members or competing venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee structures to be unreasonable or excessive. The proposed changes are generally intended to enhance the rebates for liquidity added to the Exchange, which is intended to draw

additional liquidity to the Exchange. The Exchange does not believe the proposed amendments would burden intramarket competition as they would apply to all Members uniformly.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed new Market Depth Tier would burden competition, but instead, enhances competition, as it is intended to increase the competitiveness of and draw additional volume to the Exchange. Nor does the Exchange believes eliminating Step-Up Tiers 1, 2, and 3 would impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Those tiers have successfully encouraged Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange and their elimination would help offset the cost incurred by offering a rebate of \$0.0032 per share under the proposed Market Depth Tier.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed reduction to the minimum number of ETPs for which an LMM must be a Qualified LMM in order to qualify for each tier in the LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B will burden competition, but instead, enhances competition, as these changes are intended to increase LMM participation in Tape B Securities, to incentivize Members to register as LMMs in BATS-listed ETPs, and to encourage Members to meet the Minimum Performance Standards in such ETPs. As such, the proposal is a competitive proposal that is intended to add additional liquidity to the Exchange, which will, in turn, benefit the Exchange and all Exchange participants.

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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments

from Members or other interested parties.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act²⁷ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.²⁸ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File No. SR-BATS-2016-15 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

²⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

All submissions should refer to File No. SR-BATS-2016-15. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-BATS-2016-15 and should be submitted on or before [21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. ²⁹

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

²⁹

Note: Proposed new language is underlined. Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets.

BATS BZX Exchange Fee Schedule

Effective [January 4] February 4, 2016

* * * * *

Footnotes:

1. Add Volume Tiers

Applicable to the following fee codes: B, V and Y.

Volume	Rebate per	Member's ADAV as a		Member's ADV as a
Tier	share to Add	percentage of TCV is equal to		percentage of TCV is equal
		or greater than		to or greater than
Tier 1-	(No Change).		or	
Tier 6				

<u>Volume</u> <u>Tier</u>	Rebate per share to Add	Required Criteria
Market Depth Tier		(1) Member adds an ADV of at least 1% of the TCV; and (2) Member adds an ADV of at least 0.10% of the TCV as Non-displayed orders that yield fee codes HA or HI

2. Step-Up Tiers

Applicable to the following fee codes: B, V and Y.

[Step-Up	Rebate per share to	Member's Step-Up Add TCV from January 2014 is equal
Tier	Add	to or greater than
Tier 1	(\$0.0025)	0.07%
Tier 2	(\$0.0029)	0.10%
Tier 3	(\$0.0030)	0.15%]

Step-Up Tier	Rebate per share to Add	Required Criteria
[Tier 4] <u>Step-Up</u> <u>Tier</u>	(\$0.0030)	 Member's Step-Up Add TCV from August 2015 is equal to or greater than 0.08%; and Member's ADAV as a percentage of TCV is equal to or greater than 0.35%

* * * * *

14. Lead Market Maker ("LMM") Pricing

(A) LMM Incentive Program:

(No Change).

(B) LMM Credit Tiers for Tape B:

Applicable to the following fee codes: B.

LMMs in BATS-listed securities will receive the following additional rebates when adding displayed liquidity in all Tape B securities, except that such additional rebates will not be applied to the rebates set forth in part A above:

LMM Credit Tier	Minimum number of ETPs	Additional rebate per share
	for which the Member is a	for orders in Tape B securities
	Qualified LMM	
Tier 1	[50] <u>25</u>	(\$0.0001)
Tier 2	[75] <u>50</u>	(\$0.0002)
Tier 3	[150] <u>75</u>	(\$0.0003)
Tier 4	[250] <u>125</u>	(\$0.0004)

* * * * *