

STRATUS PROPERTIES INC  
Form PRRN14A  
May 06, 2016

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**  
**Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. \_\_)**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240-14a-12

**Stratus Properties Inc.**

**(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)**

**Carl Berg, David M. Dean and Michael Knapp**

**(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)**

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- x No fee required.
- .. Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.
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- .. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- .. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
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  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  
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PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT - **SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED MAY 6, 2016**

**2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF STRATUS PROPERTIES INC.**

**PROXY STATEMENT OF THE BERG GROUP**

**PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND MAIL THE ENCLOSED GOLD PROXY CARD TODAY**

This Proxy Statement (the Proxy Statement ) and the enclosed **GOLD** proxy card are being mailed and otherwise made available to stockholders of Stratus Properties Inc. ( Stratus or the Company ) in connection with the solicitation of proxies by Carl Berg, David M. Dean and Michael Knapp (Messrs. Berg, Dean and Knapp are sometimes hereinafter referred to collectively as we or the Berg Group ). Those proxies will be used to vote shares of the common stock, \$0.01 par value per share ( Common Stock ), of Stratus at the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders of Stratus, including any adjournments, postponements, recesses or delays thereof and at any meeting held in lieu thereof (the 2016 Annual Meeting ) in the manner described in this Proxy Statement. The 2016 Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held at 200 Lavaca Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on Monday, June 6, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. (Central Time). This Proxy Statement and the enclosed **GOLD** proxy card are first being sent to stockholders on or about May \_\_, 2016.

The Berg Group is soliciting your proxy for the 2016 Annual Meeting in connection with the following proposals:

1. To elect David M. Dean and Michael Knapp (each a Berg Nominee ) to serve as directors of the Company;
2. To vote, on an advisory basis, on the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as described in the Company's Proxy Statement;
3. To ratify the appointment of BKM Sowan Horan, LLP ( BKM ) as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company;
4. To vote on a stockholder proposal that requests that Stratus' board of directors immediately engage a nationally recognized investment banking firm to explore the prompt sale, merger or other business combination of Stratus so shareholders may realize the true value of their Shares (the Berg Stockholder Proposal ); and
5. To vote, in the discretion of the proxies, on such other business as may properly come before the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Stratus has disclosed that the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting is May 2, 2016 (the Record Date ). Stockholders of record of Stratus at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. According to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC ) on April 15, 2016 (the Company's Proxy Statement ), as of March 31, 2016, there were 8,092,140 shares of Common Stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting (the Shares ). Each Share has one vote.

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, Mr. Berg beneficially owns, and the members of the Berg Group may be deemed to beneficially own, an aggregate of 1,421,002 Shares, representing approximately 17.6% of the Company's outstanding Shares (based on information disclosed in the Company's Proxy Statement regarding the number of outstanding Shares as of March 31, 2016).

**WE URGE YOU NOT TO SIGN ANY PROXY CARD SENT TO YOU BY THE COMPANY. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, YOU MAY REVOKE ANY PROXY THAT YOU PREVIOUSLY SIGNED AND RETURNED TO THE COMPANY BY SIGNING AND RETURNING A LATER-DATED GOLD PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE, BY DELIVERING A WRITTEN NOTICE OF REVOCATION TO THE BERG GROUP OR TO THE CORPORATE SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY, OR BY INSTRUCTING US BY TELEPHONE OR VIA THE INTERNET AS TO HOW YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR SHARES VOTED (INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO DO SO ARE ON YOUR GOLD PROXY CARD).**

**IF YOU EXECUTE AND RETURN THE BERG GROUP GOLD PROXY CARD, YOU DO NOT NEED TO, AND WE URGE YOU NOT TO, RETURN THE STRATUS WHITE PROXY CARD.**

**OUR NOMINEES ARE COMMITTED TO ACTING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF STRATUS. WE BELIEVE THAT YOUR VOICE IN THE FUTURE OF STRATUS CAN BEST BE EXPRESSED THROUGH THE ELECTION OF OUR NOMINEES. ACCORDINGLY, THE BERG GROUP URGES YOU TO COMPLETE THE GOLD PROXY CARD PROVIDED TO YOU TO VOTE:**

**FOR THE BERG NOMINEES,**

**AGAINST PROPOSAL 2 AND**

**FOR PROPOSALS 3 AND 4.**

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the**

**Shareholder Meeting to be Held on June 6, 2016**

**This Proxy Statement and our GOLD proxy card will be mailed to you and are available at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)**

**IMPORTANT**

**Your vote is important, no matter how few Shares you own. We urge you to sign, date and return the enclosed GOLD proxy card today to vote FOR the election of the Berg Nominees and FOR the Berg Stockholder Proposal and in accordance with our recommendations on the other proposals on the agenda for the 2016 Annual Meeting.**

If your Shares are registered in your own name, please sign and date the enclosed GOLD proxy card and return it to the Berg Group, c/o Morrow & Co., LLC in the enclosed postage-paid envelope today. If your Shares are registered in your own name, you may vote electronically by following the instructions shown on the enclosed **GOLD** proxy card.

If your Shares are held in a brokerage account or bank, you are considered the beneficial owner of the Shares, and these proxy materials, together with a GOLD voting form, are being forwarded to you by your broker or bank. As a beneficial owner, you must instruct your broker, trustee or other representative how to vote. Without those instructions, your broker cannot vote your Shares on your behalf on any matter.

Even if your Shares are not registered in your name, depending upon your broker or custodian, you may be able to vote either by toll-free telephone or by the Internet. Please refer to the enclosed voting instruction form for instructions on how to vote by toll-free telephone or electronically. You may also vote by signing, dating and returning the enclosed voting instruction form.

Since only your latest dated proxy card will count and will be voted, we urge you **not** to return any proxy card you receive from the Company. Even if you return the management proxy card marked "withhold vote for all nominees" as a protest against the incumbent director nominees, doing so will revoke any proxy card you may have previously sent to us or your instructions given to us over the telephone or internet. Remember, you can vote for our two (2) Berg Nominees only on our GOLD proxy card or by giving us voting instructions over the telephone or internet. So please make certain that the latest dated proxy card you return is the GOLD proxy card or your latest voting instructions are dated or given to us.

*If you have any questions, require assistance in voting your GOLD proxy card,  
or need additional copies of the Berg Group's proxy materials, please call or email  
Morrow & Co., LLC at the phone numbers or email address listed below.*

**Morrow & Co., LLC**

**470 West Avenue**

**Stamford, CT 06902**

**Banks and Brokers Call Toll-Free: 800-662-5200**

**Stockholders Call TOLL-FREE: 877-849-0763**

**Email: [bergproxy@morrowco.com](mailto:bergproxy@morrowco.com)**

**PLEASE VOTE THE GOLD PROXY.**

## BACKGROUND TO THE SOLICITATION

The following is a chronology of events that led to this proxy solicitation:

Mr. Berg is a longtime stockholder of the Company and acquired all of his Shares from July 1997 through December 2001 because he believed, at the time, that the Shares represented an attractive investment opportunity. Based on a review of information filed with the SEC, Mr. Berg has been the Company's largest stockholder for over ten years. He currently owns 1,421,002 Shares, which is approximately 17.6% of the Company's common stock outstanding based on the most recently available information regarding the number of outstanding Shares as of March 31, 2016.

Bruce G. Garrison, a director designated by Mr. Berg, served on the Company's board of directors (the Board) for approximately ten years from July 2002 to May 2012.

On January 10, 2012, Mr. Berg notified the Company of his intention to nominate William H. Lenehan IV as an independent director for election to the Board at the Company's 2012 annual meeting of stockholders (the 2012 Annual Meeting). After discussions with Mr. Berg and meetings with Mr. Lenehan and considering Mr. Lenehan's qualifications, skills and attributes, the Board nominated Mr. Lenehan to stand for election as a Class II director at the annual meeting of Stockholders of the Company held on May 24, 2012. He was elected as a Class II director of the Company at that meeting. The Company had, at that time as it does today, a classified, i.e., a staggered, board of directors. At this meeting, Mr. Lenehan was elected to serve for a three-year term. Unfortunately, the Board did not nominate Mr. Garrison, an incumbent, independent director, to stand for re-election at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Although Mr. Berg requested the Board to nominate Mr. Lenehan to stand for election as a director of the Company, Mr. Berg does not believe that Mr. Lenehan considered himself to be Mr. Berg's designee on the Board with any responsibilities to Mr. Berg that were different from, or in addition to, the responsibilities Mr. Lenehan had as a director to all other stockholders of the Company.

As Mr. Lenehan has previously indicated to Mr. Berg, during his tenure as a director of the Company, Mr. Lenehan advocated for the Company to adopt a strategic plan intended to increase stockholder value, for the Company to provide greater transparency with respect to the operations and plans to its stockholders, and for the Company to make significant changes in the corporate governance practices of the Company, including declassifying the Board and terminating the Company's Amended and Restated Rights Plan, i.e., its poison pill. From April 1, 2013, until March 12, 2015, Mr. Lenehan served as the chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board.

On February 20, 2015, Mr. Berg wrote a letter to the Board criticizing the Board for the Company's lackluster performance over an extended period of time and for the Board's failure to make stockholder-friendly improvements, such as removing the Company's poison pill plan and declassifying the Board. As a precondition to further engagement with Mr. Berg, the Company proposed that Mr. Berg execute a standstill agreement that contained restrictions on Mr. Berg's activities regarding the Company taking certain actions with respect to the Company's stock. Mr. Berg rejected the Company's draft of the



standstill agreement because he believed it to be overly aggressive and perpetuating the entrenchment of management, but Mr. Berg did offer to not take control of the Company or purchase additional Shares so he would own more than 24.5% of the outstanding Shares if the Board would remove the poison pill and declassify the Board. In Mr. Berg's view, his requests asked the Board to adopt policies that are commonplace among well-run public companies. The Company did not respond to Mr. Berg's letter, or his offer, which was made public as an amendment to Mr. Berg's Schedule 13D.

On March 16, 2015, the Company announced that the Board unanimously approved a five-year plan to create value for stockholders by developing certain existing assets and actively marketing other assets for sale at appropriate values. Although Mr. Lenehan previously indicated to Mr. Berg that he believed the five-year plan had shortcomings, Mr. Lenehan voted in favor of it. Mr. Lenehan has informed

Mr. Berg that he had pushed for such a plan to be adopted based on his view that the Company needed to have, but did not have, a strategic plan and voted in favor of the adoption of the five-year plan despite his concern that the plan had certain shortcomings. On April 20, 2015, the Company posted an investor presentation on the Company's website detailing the five-year plan. Mr. Lenehan has also informed Mr. Berg that he believes that shortly after the adoption of that plan, the Company commenced entering into transactions that deviated significantly from the plan.

In the Company's proxy statement relating to its annual meeting of stockholders held on May 7, 2015 (the 2015 Annual Meeting), the Company disclosed that on March 12, 2015, a majority of the directors of the Company voted to remove Mr. Lenehan from the nominating and corporate governance committee of the Board, of which he was then the chairman. Mr. Lenehan has informed Mr. Berg that this action was taken in the face of Mr. Lenehan's attempts to change the Company's compensation and corporate governance practices in a manner he thought was for the better. The Company also disclosed in the proxy statement relating to the 2015 Annual Meeting that the removal of Mr. Lenehan from the nominating and corporate committee occurred before that committee's consideration of nominees for election at the 2015 Annual Meeting. Mr. Lenehan was not nominated to stand for re-election as a director of the Company at the 2015 Annual Meeting and ceased to be a director of the Company on May 7, 2015.

In May 2015, the Board amended and renewed the Company's poison pill plan, despite Mr. Berg's previously noted objections to the Company's poison pill plan.

On December 8, 2015, Mr. Berg submitted the Berg Stockholder Proposal to the Company for inclusion in the Company's proxy materials for the 2016 Annual Meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), in which he proposed that the Board immediately engage a nationally recognized investment banking firm to explore the prompt sale, merger or other business combination of the Company so stockholders could, in Mr. Berg's opinion, realize the true value of their shares. Mr. Berg also informed the Company that he intended to nominate two individuals as directors of the Company at the 2016 Annual Meeting. At the time, the Board was composed of four directors. As a result, the election of Mr. Berg's nominees would have resulted in Mr. Berg's nominees occupying one-half of the Board's seats. Mr. Berg publicly disclosed his proposal through a press release and amendment to his Schedule 13D filing. Mr. Berg affirmatively stated to the Company that he did not want to buy or run the Company, but wanted all of the Company's stockholders to have a better chance to realize the fair market value of their Shares. Mr. Berg did not receive a response from the Company.

On December 11, 2015, after receipt of Mr. Berg's proposal, the Company announced that the Board had expanded the size of the Board from four to six directors, and appointed two new directors to the Board, James E. Joseph and John G. Wenker. These directors were added as a Class I director (with a term expiring at the Company's 2017 annual meeting of stockholders) and as a Class II director (with a term expiring at the Company's 2018 annual meeting of stockholders). These elections had the effect of ensuring that, even if Mr. Berg's nominees were elected to the Board, Mr. Berg's nominees would only constitute a minority of the Board.

In response to the Company's 50% expansion of its Board and the appointment of two new Board members on December 19, 2015, Mr. Berg sent a letter via email (the December 19 Letter) to the newly appointed directors. In the December 19 Letter, Mr. Berg outlined his concerns with the Company's management to the

new directors and detailed his reasons and the background for submitting the Berg Stockholder Proposal for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement for the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders and for a stockholder vote at that meeting. Mr. Berg's concerns and reasons for submitting the Berg Stockholder Proposal include his belief as a fifteen year Stratus stockholder of: (1) the chronic underperformance of Stratus' stock price over the past decade; (2) the misallocation of Stratus' capital towards high-leverage, high-profile developments to the exclusion of strategically advantageous opportunities; (3) the large discount at which Stratus' shares trade compared to its net asset value; (4) the lack of effective board oversight of executive compensation, especially as

compared to Stratus' financial performance; (5) management's vague and self-contradictory five-year plan; (6) Stratus' excessive overhead, which would continue under management's five-year plan; (7) Stratus' Board's active attempts to prevent independent oversight, including refusing to nominate certain independent directors for re-election and filling the Board with management-friendly directors; and (8) Stratus' overutilization of antitakeover defenses, costly severance packages for its executives and poor corporate governance practices, which in Mr. Berg's opinion have the effect of entrenching management to the detriment of stockholders. The December 19 Letter expressed Mr. Berg's belief that a sale of the Company is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. Mr. Berg wanted the new directors to be aware of the many objections that Mr. Berg has had with respect to the operation of the Board and the activities of the Company, that in Mr. Berg's view, are not in the best interest of the Company's stockholders. Mr. Berg reported the action in a press release and amendment to his Schedule 13D filing.

On January 8, 2016, in accordance with the Company's bylaws, Mr. Berg delivered notices of nomination for David M. Dean and Michael Knapp for election to the Board at the Company's 2016 annual meeting of stockholders and in opposition to the two directors nominated by the Board. The Company's Board is staggered and, as a result, the Company's stockholders will only be electing two directors at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Both of Mr. Berg's nominees have significant experience in the real estate industry. Mr. Berg also notified the Company that he and Mr. Dean had an agreement in principle pursuant to which Mr. Berg intended to sell to Mr. Dean approximately 45,000 of Mr. Berg's Shares at a price of \$18 per share. Mr. Berg did not receive a response from the Company. Mr. Berg issued a press release and filed an amendment to his Schedule 13D filing and a group Schedule 13D disclosing these nominations.

Also, on January 8, 2016, Mr. Berg sent an email to the members of the Board (January 8 Email) addressing the change of control agreement with William H. Armstrong III, the Company's chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer, which was due to expire on March 31, 2016. Mr. Berg advised the Board to assess whether any renewal of this and similar change of control or golden parachute agreements would be consistent with the proper performance of their fiduciary duties and whether the golden parachute would truly serve the best interests of the Company's stockholders. Mr. Berg stated his strong objection to such agreements. Mr. Berg did not receive a response to his email.

On January 14, 2016, Mr. Berg, Mr. Dean and Mr. Knapp entered into a joint filing and solicitation agreement. Pursuant to this agreement, Mr. Dean and Mr. Knapp agreed, among other things, not to engage in any transaction in securities of the Company without the prior consent of Mr. Berg, to provide written notice of any purchase or sale of securities of the Company, and to act together and cooperatively with Mr. Berg acting as the primary decision maker to seek election of Mr. Dean and Mr. Knapp to the Company's Board. Mr. Berg agreed to reimburse Mr. Dean and Mr. Knapp for expenses incurred in connection with their election.

On January 15, 2016, Mr. Berg filed a joint filing for himself, Mr. Dean and Mr. Knapp. As of the date of the event that required such filing, January 7, 2016, neither Mr. Dean nor Mr. Knapp beneficially owned any Shares, and Mr. Berg owned 17.6% of the outstanding Shares (based on 8,067,356 shares of the Company's common stock outstanding as of October 30, 2015).

On January 28, 2016, Mr. Berg, along with several other large stockholders of the Company, received a copy of a letter dated January 22, 2016 from Capretta Properties Inc. (Capretta) addressed to Mr. William

Armstrong at the Company (the Capretta Letter ). In the Capretta Letter, Capretta offered to purchase the real property assets of the Company for cash in the amount of \$435 million (the Capretta Offer ). The Capretta Offer contemplates that the debt encumbering the real property assets would be paid from the proceeds of the purchase to the extent necessary to release the assets acquired from the liens securing Company debt. In the alternative, Capretta offered to assume certain of that debt on the condition that the amount of the debt assumed would reduce the purchase price for the assets on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

After the Company had not announced that it had received the Capretta Offer for a number of days after Mr. Berg received his copy of the Capretta Letter, Mr. Berg issued a press release announcing his receipt of the letter (which was sent to several large Company stockholders, but not to all stockholders, giving rise to unequal distribution of information in the marketplace), after which the Company filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC disclosing its receipt of the Capretta Offer. A press release made by the Company announcing its receipt of the Capretta Offer was an exhibit to that report. That press release announced the receipt of the Capretta Offer and noted that the Board:

in accordance with its fiduciary duties, and consistent with its commitment to maximize long-term stockholder value, is in the process of carefully reviewing and considering the proposal. The Board maintains its commitment to engaging in constructive dialogue with all stockholders. There can be no assurance that this process will result in any transaction in the future, and no decision has been made to enter into any transaction at this time.

The Capretta letter stated that Mr. Capretta had left five messages for Mr. Armstrong in December 2015 and January 2016, but that Mr. Armstrong had not returned any of Mr. Capretta's calls.

Despite this representation, the Company requested that Capretta execute what Mr. Capretta stated in a letter to the Company he considered a one-sided and onerous nondisclosure agreement, which version Capretta has declined to execute. We are unaware of any substantive response being made to the Capretta Offer by the Company other than what Mr. Capretta has characterized as a very brief telephone call between Mr. Armstrong and the chief executive officer of Capretta.

On February 3, 2016, Mr. Berg wrote to Erin Pickens, senior vice president and chief financial officer of Stratus, requesting copies of certain documentation that Stratus had referenced in its SEC filings and press releases, but had not filed, certain of which Mr. Berg believes to be material. The requested documentation includes: (1) the buy-sell agreement indirectly referenced in Stratus Form 8-K dated as of September 28, 2015, whereby Stratus partner in the Block 21 project forced Stratus to either sell its interest in Block 21 for \$44.5 million or purchase its partner's interest; (2) the services agreement referenced in Stratus Form 10-K for 2014, whereby FM Services Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Freeport-McMoRan Inc. provides certain services necessary for Stratus business and operations, including certain administrative, financial reporting and other services; (3) the right of first refusal pursuant to which Stratus sold certain of its undeveloped commercial tracts for \$15.8 million in cash on August 2012 as more particularly set forth in Stratus press release filed with the SEC on August 24, 2012; and (4) the joint venture agreement with Moffett Holdings in the Parkside project, together with an explanation of why Stratus right of redemption contained therein was not exercised, the incremental returns that accrued to Moffett Holdings as a result of Stratus non-exercise of its redemption rights and whether the Board unanimously approved (x) the initial decision to pursue the Parkside joint venture with Moffett Holdings and (y) the decision to not exercise the redemption option.

Mr. Berg received a response from Ms. Pickens, dated February 22, 2016, indicating generally and not specifically as to Mr. Berg's request that the documents he requested either never existed or were not required to be filed with the SEC.

On March 4, 2016, Mr. Berg sent a request (the Initial 220 Request) pursuant to Section 220 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the DGCL) for a list of the Company's stockholders to facilitate communications between Mr. Berg and the Company's stockholders, including to enable Mr. Berg to solicit

proxies from the stockholders.

On March 7, 2016, Mr. Berg wrote a letter to the members of the Board inquiring as to the status of the Capretta Offer, as Mr. Berg and other large Stratus stockholders had been copied on a letter from Capretta to the Company in which Mr. Capretta stated his objections to what he characterized in the letter as a one-sided and onerous confidentiality agreement. Mr. Berg also urged the Board not to miss the opportunity to engage Capretta in dialogue regarding the Capretta Offer and expressed his concern

over what Mr. Berg believes to be Mr. Armstrong's continually appearing and serious conflicts of interest regarding his job position and compensation and potential transactions that would disrupt his situation.

On March 9, 2016, the Board approved certain changes to the Company's bylaws:

- i to provide the Board with explicit authority to cancel, postpone or reschedule a stockholder meeting upon prior notice;
- i to enhance the powers of the chairman of any stockholder meeting, including giving that person the authority to adjourn or recess a stockholder meeting for any reason to be reconvened at the same or some other place;
- i to establish the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware as the exclusive forum for certain actions and proceedings; and
- i to impose an explicit confidentiality obligation on directors, which reads:

Each director shall hold all Confidential Information in the strictest confidence and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that no other person shall have access to the Confidential Information. Confidential Information is defined to mean all nonpublic information (**whether or not material** to the Corporation) entrusted to or obtained by a director by reason of his or her position as a director of the Corporation. (**Bold emphasis added.**)

Mr. Berg received a letter dated March 10, 2016, from Mr. Michael Madden, Lead Independent Director for Stratus, wherein he stated the Board declined to provide the stockholders any update on the Capretta Offer.

On March 10, 2016, despite the concerns Mr. Berg raised in the December 19 Letter and January 8 Email, the Board approved new severance and change of control agreements with Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Pickens, (collectively, the Executives ). These agreements, which run from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2019, entitle the Executives to receive benefits in the event their employment is terminated, including, if such executive is terminated following a change of control, a lump-sum cash payment equal to the sum of his or her prorated bonus for the year of termination plus 2.99 times the sum of (a) the Executive's base salary in effect at the time of termination and (b) the highest annual bonus awarded to the Executive for the three fiscal years immediately preceding the termination date. In addition, the Company agrees to continue to provide insurance and welfare benefits to the Executive until the earlier of (a) December 31 of the first calendar year following the calendar year of the termination or (b) the date the Executive accepts new employment. If any part of the payments or benefits received by the Executive in connection with a termination following a change of control constitutes an excess parachute payment under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Executive will receive the greater of (1) the amount of such payments and benefits reduced so that none of the amount constitutes an excess parachute payment, net of income taxes, or (2) the amount of such payments and benefits, net of income taxes and net of excise taxes under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code. To date, the Company has not filed copies of these severance agreements with the SEC.



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On March 11, 2016, the Company's outside counsel informed Mr. Berg that the Company believed the Initial 220 Request requesting stockholder list materials was not made for a proper purpose under the DGCL.

On March 18, 2016, Mr. Berg filed a lawsuit in Delaware Court of Chancery to require that the Company comply with the Initial 220 Request.

From March 22, 2016, through April 20, 2016, counsel for Mr. Berg and counsel for the Company discussed and exchanged drafts of confidentiality agreements, which, in Mr. Berg's view, reflected the Company's unreasonable attempt to limit his use of the stockholder information that he requested in

the Initial 220 Request. A confidentiality agreement was signed by Mr. Berg on April 20, 2016, and the Company promised to comply with the Initial 220 Request.

On March 23, 2016, Mr. Wenker resigned as a director of the Company.

On March 25, 2016, the Board appointed John C. Schweitzer to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Wenker's resignation. He is serving as a Class II director, the term of which class of directors is scheduled to end in 2018, and, effective as of the date of the Company's 2016 Annual Meeting, he will be a member of each of the audit committee and compensation committee.

On March 28, 2016, April 7, 2013 and April 13, 2013, the Company filed its preliminary proxy statements with the SEC in connection with the 2016 Annual Meeting, noting, as permitted by the SEC rules, that such preliminary proxy statements were subject to completion. Only the preliminary proxy statement filed on April 13, 2016, disclosed the record date and the date of the 2016 Annual Meeting. The preliminary proxy statements of the Company disclosed that the two nominees of the Board for election as directors of the Company at the 2016 Annual Meeting are Mr. Armstrong, the Company's chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer, and Mr. Charles W. Porter, an incumbent director of the Company. The preliminary proxy statements of the Company disclose that Mr. Porter is the designated director of LCHM Holdings, LLC, which is disclosed to be the holder of 7.7% of the outstanding Shares as of March 31, 2016.

On April 2, 2016, the Company filed an answer to Mr. Berg's lawsuit.

On April 6, 2016, Capretta sent another letter to Mr. Armstrong, still looking for a response to the Capretta Offer, dated January 22, 2015, and sent copies to Mr. Berg and other large stockholders of the Company. Apparently, the Company has conditioned any dialogue with Capretta upon signing what Mr. Capretta characterized in a letter to the Company as a one-sided and onerous confidentiality agreement, including an infinite confidentiality agreement term for at least some information, despite the fact that the Capretta Offer is based upon public information regarding the Company and Capretta does not seek any confidential information at this time.

On April 7, 2016, the Company issued a press release announcing that the board had authorized management to explore a full range of strategic alternatives and that the Company had engaged Hentschel & Company, LLC, a three year old investment banking advisory firm ( Hentschel ), as financial advisor in connection with that review.

On April 15, 2016, the Company filed with the SEC its definitive proxy statement.

On April 21, 2016, the Berg Group filed with the SEC its preliminary proxy statement in connection with the 2016 Annual Meeting.

On April 27, 2016, the Board issued a letter urging Stratus stockholders to vote its white proxy card. In this letter, the Board touts its own nominees for election as directors, claims that it has overseen significant value creation and, in our view, unfairly characterizes the Berg Proposal as a hasty attempt to force a sale of the company at fire-sale prices. The Board also touts the increase in Stratus stock price over 2015 as evidence that its five-year plan is creating value for shareholders even though a significant portion of this increase occurred only *after* Mr. Berg's announcement of the Berg Proposal and the Capretta Offer. In addition, the Board dismisses Mr. Berg's legitimate concerns with Stratus governance policies as unfounded. The letter also speaks of the curious coincidence that Mr. Capretta and [Mr. Lenehan] are neighbors who live on the same street. Finally, the Board unfairly describes Mr. Berg's motivations in bringing the Berg Proposal as self-serving, despite its potential to secure value for all of Stratus stockholders, not just Mr. Berg.

On May 2, 2016, Mr. Capretta responded to the April 27 letter from Stratus Board, copying Stratus major stockholders and Hentschel. Mr. Capretta took exception to Stratus characterization of the

Capretta Offer and Mr. Capretta's actions. Specifically, among other things, Mr. Capretta characterized three statements in the April 27 letter as containing factual misrepresentations: (1) the Board's description of its proposed confidentiality agreement as "customary" despite several onerous and one-sided terms; (2) the Board's expression of its concerns that Capretta had no publicly available track record even though Mr. Capretta personally conveyed to Hentschel an internet brochure summarizing Capretta's background in the real estate industry; and (3) the Board's statement that Capretta had not provided any evidence of its ability to finance a purchase of Stratus' assets despite having been notified by Capretta of its equity relationships with large institutional partners and 28-year relationship with Wells Fargo Bank. Finally, Mr. Capretta stated that he did not believe he had ever met Mr. Lenehan or spoken with him before the April 27 letter was issued and vehemently denied the Board's groundless insinuation that he had or was acting in concert with Mr. Berg or Mr. Lenehan.

On May 6, 2016, Mr. Berg filed with the SEC an amended preliminary proxy statement.

## REASONS FOR THE SOLICITATION

The Berg Group wants all of the stockholders of Stratus to realize the true value of their Shares. Mr. Berg is interested in having Stratus or its assets sold because he believes, after holding his Shares for more than **fifteen years**, that the sale of the Company or its assets is the method by which the stockholders will realize the highest value for their Shares. Recently, and months after Mr. Berg submitted the Berg Stockholder Proposal, the Company announced on April 7, 2016, the decision of the Board of Directors to conduct a review of strategic alternatives and retain Hentschel, a three year old investment banking advisory firm, as financial advisor in connection with the review (but without disclosing whether or not the investment banker would help the Board consider the Capretta Offer, which has been outstanding since January 22, 2016). Despite this effort, the Berg Group believes it important to indicate to the Company's Board what Mr. Berg believes to be that the Company's stockholders strongly prefer to sell the Company or its assets. The Berg Group would prefer that the Board pursue a rigorous, focused exploration of such a sale, merger or other business combination that will allow the stockholders to realize the highest possible value for their Shares.

### **We Believe Stratus has been Mismanaged**

Mr. Berg also believes that the manner in which Stratus has been managed by Mr. William H. Armstrong, in his role as Stratus' chief executive officer, with the Board's apparent agreement, has led to:

properties being sold at prices less than their fair market value and/or at inopportune times;

properties being improperly acquired, developed and managed; and

the development and operations of Stratus' properties being funded at a cost to Stratus that is higher than it needed to be.

Because of Mr. Berg's concerns with the manner in which the Company's operations have been managed and the direction in which the Board and management have been taking those operations, Mr. Berg desires to have a sale of Stratus or its assets seriously and adequately explored by the Board or a committee of independent directors of the Board. Mr. Berg had and has concerns that the Board and management will take a dismissive approach to possible transactions that would be accretive to stockholder value, if management would not be continued in its current positions after the transaction is consummated, and that the statements of Capretta regarding the Company's actions relating to by the Capretta Offer, reinforce Mr. Berg's view that such a sale is necessary if the Company's stockholders are ever to realize the intrinsic value of their Shares. It is for those reasons that Mr. Berg enlisted David Dean and Michael Knapp to serve as the Berg Nominees.

The Berg Group understands that there may be legitimate reasons why a sale, merger or other business combination of Stratus may not be in the best interests of the stockholders as a group, and is interested in understanding if there are such reasons. If there are such reasons, the Berg Group wants the corporate governance practices of the Company to be reformed to be in accord with best corporate governance practices and to ensure that the Board gives the kind of independent, objective oversight to the Company's management that the best boards give to their managements.

### **Mr. Berg's Activism has Positively Impacted Stratus' Stock Price**

Stockholders have suffered from a declining stock price from the end of 2006 (\$32.00 closing price per share at December 29, 2006) until Carl Berg began his recent efforts to hold the Board accountable to the Company's stockholders and to persuade the Board to explore the sale of Stratus (\$15.69 closing price per share on December 7,

2015), after which an unsolicited offer to acquire Stratus' real property assets was made by Capretta. Mr. Berg has already made a positive impact on value creation at the Company and the market has responded very positively to news of Carl Berg's engagement with the Company and the Board. In that regard, stockholders should consider the following summary of the movement of the Company's stock price.

<b>Date or Period</b>	<b>Closing Stock Price</b>
January 1, 2010 through December 8, 2015	High - \$17.90*
	Low - \$ 5.90
December 7, 2015 (Date prior to Mr. Berg's submission of the Berg Stockholder Proposal and announcement of that submission)	\$15.69
December 8, 2015 (Date of Mr. Berg's submission of the Berg Stockholder Proposal and the announcement of that submission)	\$16.26
December 9, 2015 through January 27, 2015 (prior to Mr. Berg's announcement of the Capretta Offer)	
	High - \$20.55
	Low - \$15.28
January 28, 2015 (Date Mr. Berg announces the Capretta Offer)	\$23.45
January 29, 2016 to April 29, 2016	High - \$24.30
	Low - \$21.00

\* Fourth quarter of 2014.

As stockholder value had continued to languish under the leadership of the incumbent board and the Company's long-time management, the Company was offered \$435 million in cash in late January, 2016 in the Capretta Offer, under which Capretta proposed to acquire a significant portion of Stratus' real estate properties, representing a substantial gain to the Company's stockholders. When Mr. Capretta refused to sign a nondisclosure agreement that he characterized as one-sided and onerous, which agreement the Board required Capretta to sign before Stratus would enter into a dialogue with Capretta, the Board did not have to address the Capretta Offer, give it serious consideration or have significant discussion or any negotiation with Capretta regarding the terms of the Capretta Offer. According to Capretta, it based the Capretta Offer entirely on public information and did not require any confidential information from the Company.

We will leave it to the stockholders to judge whether the actions of Mr. Berg that were aimed at having the board immediately commence exploring a sale, merger or other business combination resulted in Capretta making its offer to the Company, although the original Capretta Letter cites Mr. Berg's actions as one of its considerations in making the Capretta Offer. Prompting a sale of the Company that is in the best interest of all stockholders has been Mr. Berg's motivation behind his attempts to engage with the Company and the Board. After Mr. Berg announced that the Capretta Offer had been received by Stratus (which Stratus did not disclose until after Mr. Berg made his announcement), the Share price increased by 21.7% (or \$4.34 per Share) over the next two trading days.

### **We Believe Stratus Defensive Corporate Governance Policies Serves Only the Entrenched Management and the Current Board**

Mr. Berg has a significant amount of money invested in the Shares he owns, which total 1,421,002 or 17.6% of the outstanding Shares. That ownership makes him the Company's largest stockholder and he has been such at least since 2002. He has been concerned for some time that Stratus has not performed as it should have and could have in the Austin, Texas real estate market and in the other markets in which Stratus has held properties over the past several years. Mr. Berg has also been concerned that, in his opinion, the performance of Stratus has been the result of a lack of appropriate stewardship on the part of what he believes to be an entrenched management. While enduring what Mr.

Berg believes to be a lackluster performance of the Share price over a number of years, Mr. Berg has viewed the Board of Stratus as providing less than effective oversight of Stratus management. He has been concerned that the Board does not have the independence from management that it must have to provide appropriate oversight of management and he believes the Board has been dominated by Mr. Armstrong, Stratus chief executive officer for over twenty years. Mr. Berg also believes that Stratus corporate governance practices are wholly unacceptable for a company with publicly traded stock. In fact, those practices are real limitations on stockholder democracy for the Stratus stockholders. For example, Stratus has:

a staggered board of directors, which means that if the owners of a majority of the Shares are dissatisfied with the manner in which the board is managing the affairs of Stratus and with the direction



the board is giving Stratus management, those Share owners can only effect a change in the majority of the directors over the course of two annual meetings of stockholders;

a very restrictive rights plan that, after Carl Berg has been engaged in his recent advocacy for the stockholders of Stratus, has been made even more restrictive and has given management a stronger means for protecting its positions and compensation;

a newly adopted bylaw provision that allows the chairman of a stockholders meeting to adjourn the meeting for any reason to be reconvened at the same place or any other place, a provision that will allow the chairman of the stockholders meeting to adjourn the meeting if the vote on a proposals being voted on by stockholders appears to be going against the board's and management's favored position on such proposal; and

a bylaw provision that effectively keeps directors from making any statement to the stockholders of Stratus containing any information (whether or not material) relating to Stratus that the directors receive in their capacity as directors that is not contained in the Company's filings with the SEC, press releases or public presentations.

We believe that, if Stratus or its assets cannot be sold for their fair market value, the Board needs new members who are independent of management, have no ties to the current management and are not dominated by another member of the Board, who will work to effect appropriate changes in the corporate governance of Stratus and will be objective in their oversight of management.

### **We Believe the Best Way to Maximize Value at Stratus is an Auction to Sell the Company**

The Berg Group strongly believes that the best way for the Company to maximize value for stockholders is to work with a nationally recognized investment banker to conduct an auction to sell the Company or its assets at the highest price possible to one or multiple strategic acquirers. We likewise believe that an overwhelming consensus view of the Company's stockholders supports our belief, and we are confident that the vote on the Berg Stockholder Proposal will substantiate that belief. We believe this high strategic interest by Capretta has created a window of opportunity for the Company to realize maximum value for stockholders through a negotiated transaction with Capretta or others. We have serious concerns, however, regarding the Company's lack of transparency in communicating to stockholders and whether the Company is taking the appropriate actions to explore or seize this opportunity to sell the Company in a transaction favorable to the stockholders. As of April 29, 2016, to Mr. Berg's knowledge the Company had not engaged in any substantive communication with Capretta regarding the Capretta Offer or with the stockholders as to why that offer is not in the stockholders' best interest.

We believe that Stratus has attractive assets that should garner substantial interest from both financial and strategic acquirers. Specifically, the Austin real estate market has experienced significant appreciation in recent years and we believe the Company's assets would attract significant interest.

We strongly believe the current Board's apparent lack of engagement with Capretta regarding the Capretta Offer, combined with its general lack of communication to the investment community about its long-term intentions for the Company, calls into doubt whether this Board is taking the right steps towards maximizing stockholder value.

In nominating his slate, who Mr. Berg believes to be highly qualified candidates, to the Board at the 2016 Annual Meeting, Mr. Berg is offering stockholders a way to express their support and desire for the Company to immediately conduct an open and robust sale process.

**We Believe the Company Has Unfairly Manipulated the Composition of the Board of Directors by Unilaterally First Decreasing and Then Increasing the Size of the Board**

As first disclosed to stockholders in the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 11, 2015, after receipt of a letter from Mr. Berg indicating that Mr. Berg intended to nominate two (2) individuals for

election at the 2016 Annual Meeting, the Board unilaterally increased the size of the Board from four (4) to six (6) directors and has since nominated a slate of two (2) director candidates for election to the Board at the 2016 Annual Meeting, including Mr. Armstrong. We believe this action by the Board represents a corporate action of the Company of a type invalidated in the past by the Delaware Supreme Court as disenfranchising stockholders. We believe the effect and purpose of having announced this increase in the size of the Board from four (4) to six (6) members was to further entrench the current Board and management and to deny the Berg Group the opportunity to more significantly impact the composition of the Board at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The Berg Group is further reviewing what it believes to be an action with respect to the Company's corporate machinery that is contrary to existing Delaware corporate law and reserves all rights to take whatever actions, including instituting legal proceedings against members of the Board, it believes may be necessary to ensure a fair and democratic election process.

This improper manipulation comes on the heels of the Board's actions a short time before the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders whereby the Board arranged to remove the only truly independent director at the time, William Lenehan, from the chairmanship of the nominating committee and then did not include Mr. Lenehan for re-election to the Board. Mr. Berg believes that Mr. Lenehan was the only truly independent director because Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Madden and Mr. Leslie had served together on the Board for over fifteen consecutive years and Mr. Porter is a representative of a greater than 5% stockholder and has served on the Board with Messrs. Armstrong, Madden and Leslie for almost ten consecutive years.

**We Question the Board's Ability to Act in the Best Interests of its Stockholders and are Concerned that the Board is More Concerned with Entrenchment of Management than Creating Value for Stockholders**

In addition to the Board's apparent lack of action in exploring the Capretta Offer, we believe certain actions of the Board have called into question its ability to act as responsible stewards of stockholder capital. For example:

On March 9, 2016, Stratus amended and restated its poison pill plan once again. Among other changes to that plan, the Board reduced by 40%, from 25% to 15%, the percentage of the Shares that a person or group could acquire without triggering the poison pill plan. Since March 9, 2016, if a person acquires beneficial ownership of 15% of the outstanding Shares, the rights plan would be triggered and such acquirer's ownership interest in Stratus would be significantly diluted. The amended rights agreement did grandfather Carl Berg, providing a person's ownership as of the date of the amendment and restatement of the rights plan and the subsequent acquisition by such person of another one percent of the outstanding Shares would not trigger the rights plan. However, the adoption of the amended rights plan has effectively chilled the ability of Carl Berg, David Dean and Michael Knapp to acquire a significant additional number of Shares and has left the members of the Berg Group reluctant to acquire any additional Shares at all. If Ingalls & Snyder LLC were to acquire additional Shares representing more than 1.0% of the outstanding Shares, it would become an Acquiring Person as defined in the Company's Amended and Restated Rights Plan Agreement and trigger the poison pill as to itself, unless the Board of the Company waived that result as to Ingalls & Snyder LLC. Accordingly, a large stockholder may feel a similar reluctance to increase its position in this thinly traded stock. Whether intended by the Board or not, a significant adverse consequence of this action of the Board has been to limit sources of liquidity for stockholders desiring to sell Shares. Moreover, the Board has taken an action that will preclude David Dean and Michael Knapp from purchasing any significant amount of the Shares other than from Carl Berg in order to align their interests with the interests of the stockholders of Stratus prior to the 2016 Annual Meeting.

**Severance Agreements.** As noted under Background to the (excluding the value of accelerated stock vesting) Solicitation, despite concerns raised by Mr. Berg in the December 19 Letter and January 8 Email, the Board approved new severance and change of control agreements with Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Pickens. These agreements provide, among other things, for significant cash payments of approximately \$2,100,000 (excluding the value of accelerated stock vesting, insurance and welfare

benefits) to Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Pickens in the event their employment is terminated, including if each such executive is terminated following a change of control. These payments effectively reduce, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, the funds to be received by the Company's stockholders upon a change of control.

**Initial 220 Request.** As noted in the Background of the Solicitation, by insisting on a very narrow use limitation, the Company has severely limited Mr. Berg's right to communicate with other Stratus stockholders, all despite the fact that the Board has already severely limited Mr. Berg and others by the amended rights plan (provided such plan is enforceable) and the fact that Mr. Berg has continually maintained that neither he nor any of his associates have any desire to acquire or operate Stratus.

## PROPOSAL NO. 1

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

According to the Company's Proxy Statement, two (2) directors are to be elected to the board at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The Berg Group recommends that stockholders elect David M. Dean and Michael Knapp as directors of the Company at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Each of our Berg Nominees has consented to being named in this Proxy Statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected and has further agreed, if elected, to abide by all policies of the board as may be in place at any time and from time to time. The Berg Nominees are prepared to abide by the confidentiality obligation imposed on directors by the recent amendments to the bylaws of the Company that specifically prevent the Berg Nominees from disclosing nonpublic information of the Company, whether material or nonmaterial information, to any stockholder of the Company without Board consent. We believe that such obligation was adopted specifically to ensure that Mr. Berg and other stockholders concerned with the conduct of the Board do not receive any information, whether or not material, regarding the deliberations of the Board or management's actions if the Berg Nominees are elected as directors of the Company.

Stratus has a classified board, also called a staggered board, with the Board divided into three classes of directors with each class having a three-year term. The directors of only one class are elected at any annual stockholders' meeting for a three-year term, a feature of a classified board making it more difficult for stockholders to change a majority of the directors except over a two-year period. At the 2016 Annual Meeting, Class III will be elected for a three-year term. There are only two (2) Class III directors and as a result, the Berg Nominees, if elected, would be all of the directors elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting. If elected, the initial term of each Berg Nominee will be for three years, i.e., until the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders, and until his respective successor shall have been duly elected and qualified in accordance with the Bylaws of the Company filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 15, 2016 (the Bylaws ).

The Berg Group believes good corporate governance requires that the Board be comprised of independent-minded directors, not tied to management, who are not dominated by any one other director or person, and who bring a diverse set of relevant skills and experience to their board service. Accordingly, Mr. Berg has proposed, in his opinion, two (2) highly qualified nominees who have the independence from management as well as the experience required to improve oversight of the Company, which is, in Mr. Berg's opinion, underperforming and poorly managed. Each of the Berg Nominees has a successful business background with extensive financial and real estate industry knowledge and executive experience. As a whole, the Berg Nominees are operations-focused with a long track record of working with or as a part of management teams to improve financial results and protect and build stockholder value.

#### The Berg Nominees

Set forth below is background information about the Berg Nominees, including their names, ages, principal occupations and employment and public company directorships held, as well as a description of the qualifications, attributes or skills that led to the conclusion that the Berg Nominees should serve as directors of the Company. Please see the section of this Proxy Statement titled Additional Participant Information for additional information about the Berg Nominees, including information about their beneficial ownership of Shares.

Name	Age	Position with Company
David M. Dean	55	Berg Group Nominee
Michael Knapp	53	Berg Group Nominee

Mr. Dean's present principal occupation or employment is serving as the Chief Operating Officer of Lincoln Capital Management, LLC (Lincoln), an organization that specializes in providing bridge financing incident to

the Small Business Administration's 504 real estate loan program. That lending has helped finance developments such as hotels, automotive repair facilities, assisted living facilities, restaurants and other types of commercial real estate developments. Mr. Dean has held that position since September 2012. From January 2008 through August 2012, Mr. Dean's principal business activity was acting as a real estate and angel investor, investing for his own account, primarily in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area. From August 1994 through August 2007, Mr. Dean was employed by Crescent Real Estate Equities Company, a real estate investment trust that was a New York Stock Exchange listed company during Mr. Dean's tenure (Crescent). At Crescent, Mr. Dean served as Senior Vice President, Law and Secretary from August 1994 to September 1999 when he became Senior Vice President, Law and Administration and Secretary, a position which he held until January 2001. From January 2001 to March 2005, Mr. Dean served as Executive Vice President, Law and Administration and Secretary of Crescent and its general partner. In March 2005, Mr. Dean's title changed to Managing Director, Law and Secretary of Crescent and its general partner, positions he held until leaving Crescent and its general partner in August 2007, when Crescent was acquired by affiliates of Morgan Stanley Real Estate. During his tenure at Crescent, Mr. Dean worked closely with the Board of Directors and commonly attended the board meetings of Crescent. From 1992 until joining Crescent, he was an attorney for Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BNRC), serving as BNRC's Assistant General Counsel in 1994. From 1986 until joining BNRC in 1992, Mr. Dean was engaged in the private practice of law at the firms of Kelly, Hart & Hallman and at Jackson Walker, L.L.P., both in Fort Worth, Texas, where he worked primarily on acquisition, financing and venture capital transactions for Richard E. Rainwater and related investor groups. During the past five years, Mr. Dean has been a director of the following privately-held companies (during the periods shown): TalentCircles, Inc. (August, 2011 to the present), S&R Online Strategies, Inc. (Sportal.com) (June, 2009 to the present) and Nelwood Corp. (Kuru shoes) (May, 2008 to the present). The experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of Mr. Dean, which he gained as a senior officer of a publicly traded real estate investment trust which had net investments in real estate of more than \$3.2 billion at March 31, 2007, as an investor for his own account in real estate developments and as the operating officer of a financial company focused on real estate finance, led Mr. Berg to conclude that Mr. Dean should serve as a director of the Company.

Mr. Knapp's present principal occupation or employment is serving as the manager of Berg & Berg Enterprises, LLC, an investment and real estate development company, and its predecessor company, Berg & Berg Enterprises, Inc. Mr. Knapp has served in that position since 1994. During the period from 1997 through December, 2012, Mr. Knapp served as a director from September 2, 1997 to March 30, 1998, and as Director of Operations and Director of Tax from 1999 to 2012 of Mission West Properties, Inc., a corporation qualified as a real estate investment trust, shares of which were listed for trading on the NASDAQ Stock Market (Mission West). Mission West sold its assets and was liquidated in December 2012. Mr. Knapp was the chief accounting officer of the Wooditch Company, a commercial insurance broker, from 1993 until joining Berg & Berg Enterprises, Inc. From 1988 to December 1992, Mr. Knapp served in the positions of president, chief financial officer and other executive positions at The Fairway Land Company, a real estate and country club developer located in San Juan Capistrano, California, which completed its development in 1992. From 1986 to 1988 Mr. Knapp was a staff auditor with Arthur Young who was succeeded by Ernst & Young LLP. During the past five years, Mr. Knapp has not been a director of any public or privately held company. Mr. Knapp has worked with Mr. Berg in various capacities for more than twenty years. He worked closely with Mr. Berg in successfully consummating the sale of Mission West for approximately \$1.3 billion in 2012. The experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of Mr. Knapp gained as working as director of operations of Mission West Properties for thirteen years, his involvement in the sale of Mission West, and as the manager of Berg & Berg Enterprises and being involved in the real estate investments and developments of such companies have led Mr. Berg to conclude that Mr. Knapp should serve as a director of the Company.

The principal business address of David M. Dean is 16200 Addison Road, Suite 250, Addison TX 75001. The principal business address of Michael Knapp is 10050 Bandle Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014.

Messrs. Dean and Knapp have each consented to being named as a nominee in this proxy statement and to serve as a director, if elected.





Neither Carl Berg nor any of the Berg Nominees has failed to file reports related to the Company that are required by Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act since January 1, 2015.

The corporate governance standards of the Company, which are available on the Company's website at <http://www.stratusproperties.com/corpgovern.aspx>, provide that determinations of independence shall be made in accordance with the definition of "independent" included in pertinent listing standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (NASDAQ) and any applicable legal requirement. The Berg Group has no knowledge of any facts that would prevent the determination that each of the Berg Group Nominees is independent in accordance with the corporate governance standards of the Company and the pertinent listing standards of NASDAQ or applicable laws, including the provisions of Section 10A of the Exchange Act and Rule 10A-3 adopted thereunder.

**The Berg Group is not seeking your proxy to vote for any of the candidates who have been nominated by the Company. There is no assurance that one of the Company's nominees will serve as a director if either of the Berg Nominees is not elected to the Board. In the event that one, but not both, of our Berg Nominees is elected and that one or more of the Company's nominees declines to serve with such Berg Nominee or Berg Nominees, the Company's Bylaws provide that the resulting vacancies may be filled by the directors then in office by a vote of the majority of the whole Board.**

**WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF BOTH OF OUR NOMINEES ON THE ENCLOSED GOLD PROXY CARD.**

## PROPOSAL NO. 2

### ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

As discussed in further detail in the Company's Proxy Statement, the Company is asking stockholders to indicate their support for the compensation of the Company's named executive officers. This proposal, commonly known as a say-on-pay proposal, is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation of the Company's named executive officers and the philosophy, policies and practices as described in the Company's Proxy Statement. Accordingly, the Company is asking stockholders to vote for the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the stockholders of Stratus Properties Inc. (the Company) approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed in the Company's proxy statement for the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K of the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

According to the Company's Proxy Statement, the stockholder vote on Proposal 2 is an advisory vote only, and it is not binding on the Company, the board, or the Compensation Committee of the Board.

In our opinion, the compensation of Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Pickens is not and has not been in the past tied to the performance of the Company and, as a result, the stockholders should not vote to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the executive officers of the Company as disclosed in the Company's Proxy Statement. Based on information disclosed in the Company's filings with the SEC, no element of the compensation program for Mr. Armstrong or Ms. Pickens prior to 2016 was performance-based.\* The summary compensation table appearing in the Company's Proxy Statement shows, for example, Mr. Armstrong's equity-based compensation, which is time-vested restricted stock units, and which help align his interests somewhat with the interests of the stockholders, was approximately 22% of his total compensation for 2013, 31% of his total compensation in 2014 and 26% of his total compensation in 2015. The equity awards to Mr. Armstrong have historically been made early in the fiscal year, well before the year's results can be estimated within a reasonable range of probability and before this award amount can be based on current year's performance. Although the amount of those awards may be determined in part based on the prior year's results of operations, the evidence of the last three years suggests to the contrary as Mr. Armstrong received a larger equity award in 2014 than he did in 2013 or 2015 despite the Company's results in 2013, when the Company's diluted net income per share was \$0.32 as opposed to \$1.51 and \$1.66 in 2015 and 2014, respectively. We note, however, that the Company's net cash provided by operating activities was significantly higher for 2013, at approximately \$55.9 million, than in 2014 or 2015, in which the net cash used in operating activities was (\$21.6 million) and (\$1.8 million), respectively. As reflected in its consolidated balance sheets and income statements set forth in its Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2015, over that same period, the Company's revenue has steadily decreased while its total assets and total liabilities have both increased from year to year from 2013 to 2015.

In view of the demonstrable lack of any historical linkage prior to 2016 of the pay of the Company's executive officers to the Company's financial performance, we believe the stockholders should not approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's executive officers as described in the Company's Proxy Statement.

**WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO VOTE AGAINST PROPOSAL 2 ON THE ENCLOSED GOLD PROXY CARD.**

\* Although starting in 2016, the Board finally made a portion of the Executives' compensation performance based, it is a very long time in coming and is too little, too late.

**PROPOSAL NO. 3**

**RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF**

**INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

As discussed in further detail in the Company's Proxy Statement, the Company and the Audit Committee of the Board is seeking approval of the appointment of BKM Sowan Horan, LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm to audit the Company's financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. The Company is submitting the appointment of BKM Sowan Horan, LLP for ratification by the stockholders at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

**WE URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 3 ON THE ENCLOSED GOLD PROXY CARD.**

## PROPOSAL NO. 4

### THE BERG STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL

Mr. Berg has submitted the Berg Stockholder Proposal, which is a nonbinding proposal requesting the Board to immediately engage a nationally recognized investment banking firm to explore the prompt sale, merger or other business combination of Stratus so, in Mr. Berg's opinion, shareholders may realize the true value of their Shares. The Berg Group is asking stockholders to vote for the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, the shareholders of Stratus Properties request that Stratus's board of directors immediately engage a nationally recognized investment banking firm to explore the prompt sale, merger or other business combination of Stratus so shareholders may realize the true value of their Stratus shares.

The Berg Stockholder Proposal is accompanied by the following supporting statement.

#### Supporting Statement

This proposal is made by Carl Berg, Stratus's largest shareholder since 2002.

1. The resolution's proponent believes Stratus's share value will only be maximized if Stratus is acquired in a sale, merger or other business combination.
2. Stratus's management has demonstrated an inability to create acceptable shareholder value. As of December 4, 2015, Stratus's shares are down 33% from their December 31, 2005 closing price. During the same period, Austin area real estate values have appreciated dramatically, the S&P 500 index was up 68% and the MSCI REIT index was up 29%.
3. Based on the December 4, 2015 closing price of \$15.69, the shares are trading at a 55% discount to management's recently published net asset value estimate of over \$35. The highest closing price over the five years preceding that date was \$17.93.
4. CEO compensation is not aligned with shareholder interests or closely tied to performance. Despite Stratus's unacceptable financial performance and share price, the CEO's cumulative compensation totaled approximately \$13.4 million between 2005 and 2014. His cash compensation increased 63% during the same period.
5. Stratus is again placing inappropriate leverage on its balance sheet to acquire more land and pursue high profile developments. In the past similar actions have imperiled Stratus and resulted in dilutive financings and ill-timed sales of core properties it had held for years. Alarming, Stratus's debt grew from \$135 million (adjusted for its portion of joint venture debt) at December 31, 2014 to \$255 million at September 30, 2015.
6. Stratus's recent buyout of its partner in the Block 21 project and pursuit of new shopping-center developments has led Stratus to again encumber all of its properties with a patchwork of mortgage loans and

credit facilities, most with floating interest rates and highly restrictive covenants.

7. The proponent believes that Stratus's significant general and administrative expenses, including significant executive compensation expenses, are a substantial burden on stockholder value. From 2005 through 2014 cumulative income before general and administrative expenses (excluding changes in the deferred tax asset) was \$99.5 million, but general and administrative expenses consumed \$68.8 million, or 69%, of that income leaving only \$30.7 million in cumulative net income applicable to common stockholders for the ten-year period.
  
8. The proponent believes that Stratus's assets are relatively liquid at something close to net asset value today before transaction costs and taxes and that the Board of Directors should take immediate steps to realize this value. A five-year plan is entirely unnecessary and fraught with risks.

Vote **FOR** this shareholder proposal to seek to maximize share value.

As required by Rule 14a-8 of the SEC's proxy rules, the Company has included the Berg Stockholder Proposal and the supporting statement in its Proxy Statement. As permitted by Rule 14a-8, the Company has also included a statement in opposition to the Berg Stockholder Proposal. We strongly disagree with the Company's Statement in Opposition and the Company's recommendation that stockholders vote against the Berg Stockholder Proposal for three primary reasons.

*(1) In the opinion of the Berg Group, the discussion of Mr. William H. Lenehan IV in the Company's Statement in Opposition omits certain material information necessary to make statements in the Company's Statement in Opposition not misleading and includes statements of material fact that are misleading. We do not dispute that the Board unanimously voted for the adoption of the Company's five-year plan. We believe Mr. Lenehan urged the Board to adopt a plan (the Company had no plan) for maximizing stockholder value, which resulted in the plan being proposed, and we further believe that Mr. Lenehan voted in favor of the plan despite, as Mr. Lenehan previously indicated to Mr. Berg, believing it was deficient in certain important respects (some plan was better than no plan). Soon after adopting the plan, the Company commenced significantly deviating from the plan, particularly with respect to the Company's Block 21 purchase from its joint venture partner, by:*

spending approximately \$62 million to purchase the Company's joint venture partner's interest in the Block 21 project,

incurring new debt, increasing the Company's debt-to-equity ratio from approximately 167% at December 31, 2014, to approximately 217% at December 31, 2015, and

concentrating its capital in too few assets, with approximately one-third of the book value of the Company's assets now consisting of the Block 21 property.

Such actions are contrary to the clear implication of the Company's Statement in Opposition that the Company is faithfully executing the plan.

In addition, as Mr. Lenehan previously indicated to Mr. Berg, Mr. Lenehan was an outspoken advocate for a number of corporate governance changes that were aimed at eliminating certain corporate governance practices at the Company that are of types considered by authorities in corporate governance to be contrary to best corporate governance practices and stockholder democracy and that serve to entrench management of the Company, such as having a staggered board and a restrictive stock rights plan, i.e., a poison pill. Also, as Mr. Lenehan previously indicated to Mr. Berg, Mr. Lenehan advocated tying compensation to performance. Mr. Berg believes because, as Mr. Lenehan related, Mr. Lenehan challenged the Board and management on its corporate governance and compensation practices, the Board removed Mr. Lenehan from the chairmanship of the Nominating Committee and did not nominate Mr. Lenehan for re-election as a director at the 2015 Annual Meeting, although we believe Mr. Lenehan was able, willing and prepared to serve, and had expected to serve, as a Stratus director for at least another three-year term. All this occurred after the date that stockholders could nominate individuals to serve as a director of the Company.

*(2) In the opinion of the Berg Group, the Company's Statement in Opposition contains a statement regarding the Berg Stockholder Proposal that is a materially misleading statement of material fact in the Company's Statement in Opposition states that, in the Board's belief, the Berg Stockholder Proposal's request for the Board to explore a prompt [underlining added by the Company] sale, merger or other business combination will adversely affect the value of any potential transaction by creating the impression in the minds of potential purchasers or strategic partners that the*



Company is under pressure to consummate a transaction.

The evidence is that the existence of the Berg Group Proposal has not adversely affected, and is not likely to adversely affect, the value of a potential transaction for the Company. Mr. Berg believes that industry

participants understand the nature of the pressure that the Berg Stockholder Proposal creates for the current management of the Company and the Board to sell the Company or its real property assets and also understand the Berg Stockholder Proposal will not adversely affect the price at which any transaction for the sale of the Company or its assets can be consummated. Mr. Berg believes that the interest of industry participants in making any bid for the Company or its assets is chilled by the Company's complex and overreaching antitakeover provisions and mechanisms. To the contrary, in our view, the Berg Stockholder Proposal promises to help unlock the value of the Company's assets as industry participants become at least somewhat hopeful that the approval of the Berg Stockholder Proposal would make a transaction possible. In fact, the value of the Berg Stockholder Proposal to the stockholders is demonstrable. On January 22, 2016, the Company received an unsolicited letter of intent from Capretta offering to purchase all of the real property assets of the Company for a total consideration of \$435 million, payable in cash, which offer was increased in April 2016 to \$461.7 million provided certain non-real estate assets were also included.

*(3) In the opinion of the Berg Group, the Company's Statement in Opposition omits material facts regarding the Board's consideration of the Capretta Offer, in our view, a legitimate offer to purchase the Company's assets. The omitted information is necessary to make the statement in the Company's Statement in Opposition regarding the Board's consideration of offers to purchase the Company or its real property assets not misleading. The Company's Statement in Opposition includes a statement that any legitimate offers to purchase the Company (or all or significantly all of the company's assets), merge or enter into other business combinations would be given careful consideration by the board of directors. However, the Company omits from its Statement in Opposition certain information about its treatment of the Capretta Offer, which was received by the Company in late January 2016 and reasserted by Capretta in early April 2016, and well after Mr. Berg's submission of the Berg Stockholder Proposal to the Company was publicly announced.*

Consequently, there can be no better evidence of whether, or of how, the Board gives careful consideration to legitimate offers received by the Company than the evidence of the consideration the Board afforded the Capretta Offer since receiving it on January 22, 2016. Mr. Berg believes that the manner of the Board's consideration of the Capretta Offer, as reflected by the Company's discussion in its April 27, 2016 press release addressed to stockholders, which is evidence of a failure of their Board to give serious consideration to an offer to purchase most of Stratus' real property assets that could result in the displacement of the Company's current management. Although the Board has had months to review and give careful consideration to the Capretta Offer, as discussed above, to Mr. Berg's knowledge, the Company's two primary points of engagement with Capretta on the Capretta Offer were (i) for the Company to propose that Capretta execute a nondisclosure agreement (which Mr. Capretta characterized as one-sided and onerous in his letter) as a condition precedent to the Company providing information to, and entering into discussions of the Capretta Offer with, Capretta and (ii) a short telephone call between Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Capretta that contained no substantive discussion of the Capretta Offer or the proposed nondisclosure agreement. Mr. Berg understands that Capretta believed it should not execute that nondisclosure agreement at this time (because the Capretta Offer was based wholly upon public information and Capretta did not require any confidential information from the Company) and that Capretta's position on that agreement resulted in the Company and Capretta not moving forward to discuss or negotiate the transaction proposed in the Capretta Offer or of any further consideration of the Capretta Offer by the Board. As noted in the Capretta Offer, before the delivery of the Capretta Offer to the Company, Mr. Armstrong did not take or did not return numerous telephone calls from Mr. Capretta that Mr. Capretta placed to discuss the Capretta Offer with Mr. Armstrong. Furthermore, why did it take three months after receipt of the original Capretta Offer to engage an investment banker?

The Berg Group urges you to vote **FOR** the Berg Stockholder Proposal, whether you vote using the Company's WHITE proxy card or the enclosed **GOLD** proxy card. A significant **FOR** vote on the Berg Stockholder Proposal will help us tell the Board and management of the Company that the stockholders of Stratus are not content with, in Mr. Berg's opinion:

the poor performance of their Company;

a less than acceptable stock price;

an entrenched management that blatantly adopts amendments to its poison pill and its bylaws in an attempt to defeat the attempts of at least one stockholder of the Company to assert his rights and to elect, in Mr. Berg's opinion, truly independent members to the Board; and

a situation whereby management continues to hold sway through 2015 over the Company and its assets, while year after year management's compensation remains secure and without any apparent, meaningful tie to the Company's results of operations.

**WE URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 4 ON THE ENCLOSED GOLD PROXY CARD.**

## VOTING AND PROXY PROCEDURES

Stockholders of record are entitled to one vote for each Share held of record on the Record Date with respect to each matter to be acted on at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record on the Record Date will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Stockholders who have sold their Shares before the Record Date (or acquire them without voting rights after the Record Date) may not vote such Shares. Stockholders of record on the Record Date will retain their voting rights in connection with the 2016 Annual Meeting even if they sell such Shares after the Record Date. Based on publicly available information, the Berg Group believes that the only outstanding class of securities of the Company entitled to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting is the class of Common Stock.

Shares represented by properly executed **GOLD** proxy cards will be voted at the 2016 Annual Meeting as marked and, in the absence of specific instructions, will be voted:

**FOR** the election of the Berg Nominees;

**AGAINST** the say-on-pay Proposal;

**FOR** the ratification of the appointment of BKM as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the 2016 fiscal year;

**FOR** the approval of the Berg Stockholder Proposal; and

In the discretion of the proxies with respect to the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

According to the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting, only two directors of the Company will be elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting and that the current Board has nominated two (2) candidates for election at 2016 the Annual Meeting. This Proxy Statement is soliciting proxies to elect only the Berg Nominees to the two seats on the Board to be filled at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Accordingly, the enclosed **GOLD** proxy card may only be voted for the Berg Nominees and does not confer voting power with respect to the Company's nominees. You can only vote for the Company's nominees by signing and returning a proxy card provided by the Company. The names, backgrounds and qualifications of the Company's nominees, and other information about them, can be found in the Company's proxy statement. The Participants intend to vote all of Mr. Berg's Shares in favor of the Berg Nominees. There is no assurance that either of the Company's nominees will serve as a director if one, but not both, of the Berg Group Nominees is elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Stockholders should also understand that all Shares represented by the enclosed **GOLD** proxy card will be voted at the 2016 Annual Meeting as marked and, in the absence of specific instructions, will be voted in accordance with the Berg Group's recommendations specified herein and in accordance with the discretion of the persons named on the **GOLD** proxy card with respect to any other matters that may be voted upon at the 2016 Annual Meeting. If other items of business come before the 2016 Annual Meeting for a vote of the stockholders, the proxies named in the **GOLD** proxy card will vote on those items of business in accordance with their discretion.

If you hold your Shares in the name of one or more brokerage firms, banks or nominees, only they can vote your Shares and only upon receipt of your specific instructions. Accordingly, you should contact the person responsible for

your account and give instructions to them to sign and return a **GOLD** proxy card representing your Shares marked to show how you want your Shares voted and signed and dated by the appropriate person at the brokerage firm, bank or nominee. The Berg Group urges you to confirm in writing your instructions to the person responsible for your account and to provide a copy of those instructions to the Berg Group, c/o bergproxy@morrowco.com, or 470 West Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902, so that we will be aware of all instructions given and can attempt to ensure that those instructions are followed.

## **Revocation of Proxies**

Stockholders of the Company may revoke their proxies at any time prior to exercise by attending the 2016 Annual Meeting and voting in person (although attendance at the 2016 Annual Meeting will not in and of itself constitute revocation of a proxy) or by delivering a written notice of revocation. The delivery of a subsequently dated proxy which is properly completed will constitute a revocation of any earlier proxy. The revocation may be delivered either to the Berg Group in care of Morrow & Co., LLC at the address set forth herein or to the Corporate Secretary of the Company at 212 Lavaca Street, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78701 or any other address provided by the Company. Although a revocation is effective if delivered to the Company, we request that either the original or photostatic copies of all revocations be mailed to the Berg Group in care of Morrow & Co., LLC at the address set forth herein, or emailed to the Berg Group in care of Morrow & Co., LLC at [bergproxy@morrowco.com](mailto:bergproxy@morrowco.com), so that we will be aware of all revocations and can more accurately determine if and when proxies have been received from the holders of record on the Record Date of a majority of the outstanding Shares. Additionally, Morrow & Co., LLC may use this information to contact stockholders who have revoked their proxies in order to solicit later dated proxies for the election of the Berg Nominees.

**IF YOU PREVIOUSLY SIGNED AND RETURNED A WHITE PROXY CARD TO THE COMPANY, THE BERG GROUP URGES YOU TO REVOKE IT BY**

**(1) SIGNING, DATING AND RETURNING THE GOLD PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE,**

**(2) INSTRUCTING US BY TELEPHONE OR VIA THE INTERNET AS TO HOW YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR SHARES VOTED,**

**(3) ATTENDING THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING IN PERSON OR**

**(4) DELIVERING A WRITTEN NOTICE OF REVOCATION TO THE BERG GROUP OR TO THE SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY.**

**IF YOU EXECUTE AND RETURN THE BERG GROUP GOLD PROXY CARD, YOU DO NOT NEED TO RETURN THE STRATUS PROXY CARD.**

## **Quorum; Broker Nonvotes; No Discretionary Voting**

A quorum is the minimum number of shares of Common Stock that must be represented at a duly called meeting in person or by proxy in order to legally conduct business at the meeting. For the 2016 Annual Meeting, the presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of at least a majority of the 8,092,140 Shares outstanding as of the Record Date, will be considered a quorum allowing votes to be taken and counted for the matters before the stockholders.

Abstentions are counted as present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining a quorum. Shares represented by broker nonvotes also are counted as present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining a quorum. However, if you hold your Shares in street name and do not provide voting instructions to your broker, your Shares will not be voted on any proposal, because under NASDAQ rules, your broker will not have discretionary authority to vote on any of the proposals (a broker nonvote ).

If you are a stockholder of record, you must deliver your vote by mail, attend the 2016 Annual Meeting in person and vote, vote by Internet or vote by telephone in order to be counted in the determination of a quorum. To submit your GOLD Proxy and Voting Instructions via the Internet or over the phone, please follow the instructions on your GOLD proxy card. Internet and telephone voting and submission is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Please have your **GOLD** proxy card available when submitting your votes via the Internet or over the phone.



If you are a beneficial owner, your broker will vote your shares pursuant to your instructions, and those shares will count in the determination of a quorum. Brokers do not have discretionary authority to vote on the proposals relating to the election of directors, the say-on-pay proposal, the ratification of the Company's independent auditor proposal, and the Berg Stockholder Proposal. Accordingly, unless you vote via proxy card or provide instructions to your broker, your shares of Common Stock will count for purposes of attaining a quorum, but will not be voted on those proposals.

### **Votes Required for Approval**

*Election of Directors* The Company has a plurality vote standard director elections. Accordingly, the two (2) nominees for election to the Board receiving the highest vote totals will be elected as directors of the Company. With respect to the election of directors, only votes cast **FOR** a nominee will be counted. Proxy cards specifying that votes should be withheld with respect to the nominees will result in those nominees receiving fewer votes but will not count as a vote against the nominees. Abstentions and broker nonvotes will have no direct effect on the outcome of the election of directors. If you sign and submit your **GOLD** proxy card without specifying how you would like your Shares voted, your Shares will be voted **FOR** each of the Berg Nominees.

*Other Proposals* Stockholders may vote **FOR** or **AGAINST** or may **ABSTAIN** from voting on each of the other proposals. Broker nonvotes and abstentions will be counted for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present, but broker nonvotes will not be included for purposes of determining whether stockholder approval of a matter has been obtained. Because abstentions with respect to any matter are treated as Shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote for the purposes of determining whether that matter has been approved by stockholders, abstentions will have the same effect as negative votes for Proposals 2, 3 and 4. Under applicable Delaware law, none of the stockholders is entitled to appraisal rights in connection with any matter to be acted on at the 2016 Annual Meeting. If you sign and submit your **GOLD** proxy card without specifying how you would like your Shares voted, your Shares will be voted

**FOR** the Berg Nominees,

**AGAINST** Proposal 2,

**FOR** Proposal 3,

**FOR** the Berg Stockholder Proposal and

in accordance with the discretion of the persons named on the **GOLD** proxy card with respect to any other matters that may be voted upon at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

### **SOLICITATION OF PROXIES**

The solicitation of proxies pursuant to this Proxy Statement is being made by the Berg Group. Proxies may be solicited by mail, facsimile, telephone, telegraph, Internet, in person and by advertisements.

Mr. Berg and the Berg Nominees will solicit proxies for the Berg Group. In addition, Mr. Berg has entered into an agreement with Morrow & Co., LLC (Solicitation Agent) for solicitation and advisory services in connection with this

solicitation, for which the Solicitation Agent will receive a fee not to exceed \$75,000, together with reimbursement for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, and will be indemnified against certain liabilities and expenses, including certain liabilities under the federal securities laws. The Solicitation Agent will solicit proxies from individuals, brokers, banks, bank nominees and other institutional holders. No other persons will solicit proxies on behalf of the Berg Group. The Berg Group has requested banks, brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward all solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of the Shares they hold of record. The Berg Group will reimburse these record holders for their reasonable out-of-

pocket expenses in so doing. It is anticipated that the Solicitation Agent will employ approximately 25 persons to solicit stockholders for the 2016 Annual Meeting.

The entire expense of soliciting proxies is being borne by Carl Berg. Costs of this solicitation of proxies are currently estimated to be approximately \$500,000. The Berg Group estimates that through the date hereof its expenses in connection with this solicitation, including attorneys' fees, are approximately \$300,000. The Berg Group intends to seek reimbursement of the expenses it incurs in connection with this solicitation. The Berg Group does not intend to submit the question of such reimbursement to a vote of security holders of the Company.

### ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

This proxy solicitation is being conducted by the Berg Group, which is comprised of Carl E. Berg, David M. Dean and Michael Knapp. Each member of the Berg Group is a participant in this proxy solicitation (the Participants ).

The principal business address of Carl Berg, as it appears on the Company's stock records, is 10050 Bandle Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014. Carl Berg, age 78, is a venture capital investor, and he is a member of Berg & Berg Enterprises, LLC.

The following table shows the number of Shares that are beneficially owned (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act) by each Participant as of the Record Date. Except as described below, each member of the Berg Group directly owns and has sole voting power and sole dispositive power with regard to the number of Shares beneficially owned. Please see Annex A for additional information about each Participant's purchases and sales of Shares.

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Number of Shares Beneficially Owned</b>	<b>Percent of Outstanding (1)</b>
Carl Berg	1,421,002 (2)	17.6
David M. Dean	45,000 (3)	*
Michael Knapp	0	*

\* Less than 1%

- (1) Calculated on the basis of 8,092,140 Shares outstanding as of March 31, 2016, as indicated in the Company's Proxy Statement.
- (2) Effective May 5, 2016, Mr. Berg granted Mr. Dean an option to purchase up to 45,000 of his Shares at a purchase price of \$18.00 per share.
- (3) Effective May 5, 2016, Mr. Dean acquired an option to acquire up to 45,000 Shares from Mr. Berg at a purchase price of \$18.00 per share.

Mr. Berg used his own assets to purchase the Shares that he beneficially owns. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, no part of the purchase price or market value of any of the Shares held by Mr. Berg is represented by funds borrowed or otherwise obtained for the purpose of acquiring or holding such Shares.

Except as set forth in this subsection, no Participant, and no associate of any Participant, owns beneficially, directly or indirectly, or of record but not beneficially, any securities of the Company, or any parent or subsidiary of the Company, nor has any Participant purchased or sold any securities of the Company within the last two years.

Any disclosures made in this Proxy Statement with respect to persons or entities other than the Berg Group are made on information and belief after making inquiry to the appropriate party or after review of publicly-available information.

Each Berg Nominee has also executed a written consent to, and has committed to, being named in this Proxy Statement and to serving as a director if elected and has made a representation to the effect that, if elected, such Berg Nominee will agree to and abide by all policies of the Board as may be in place at any time and from time to time.

Except as set forth in this subsection or elsewhere in this Proxy Statement, (i) none of the Berg Nominees will receive any compensation from any member of the Berg Group to serve as nominees for election as a director of the Company or, if elected, as a director of the Company and (ii) there are no arrangements or understandings between the Berg Nominees and any other party pursuant to which any such Berg Nominee was or is to be selected as a director or nominee, as applicable.

Mr. Dean has a material interest in his nomination for election to the Board as a director of the Company by virtue of his agreement with Mr. Berg regarding the purchase of 45,000 of Mr. Berg's Shares for \$18.00 per Share. In connection with Mr. Dean's decision to agree to accept nomination for election to the Board, Mr. Berg and Mr. Dean in January 2016 reached a non-binding agreement in principle with respect to a sale by Mr. Berg to Mr. Dean of approximately 45,000 Shares at a purchase price of \$18.00 per share at an indeterminate time in the future and on certain other terms to be negotiated. Mr. Dean and Mr. Berg have since entered into a definitive agreement pursuant to which Mr. Dean will purchase from Mr. Berg up to 45,000 shares of Stratus Common Stock at \$18 per share, or \$810,000 in the aggregate, in exchange for a non recourse promissory note in the principal amount of the aggregate purchase price, secured by the purchased shares, maturing on the third anniversary, and requiring interest-only quarterly payments prior to maturity. Mr. Berg will have the option to repurchase the Shares at the original sales price of \$18.00 if Mr. Dean fails to serve a full three-year term as director, with the option lapsing as to one-third of the shares each June 30 beginning June 30, 2017. In addition, Mr. Berg will have the option to repurchase one-third of the Shares (15,000) if, at the end of Mr. Dean's three-year term as director, the Company has not been sold, merged or combined with another company or has not sold all or substantially all of its assets. If at any time during Mr. Dean's three-year term the Company is sold, merged or combined with another company, or sells all or substantially all of its assets, in a transaction approved by the stockholders of the Company, Mr. Berg's option shall lapse entirely. Messrs. Dean and Knapp may each receive director compensation from the Company, if elected to the Board.

The Company's Proxy Statement discloses that, in 2015, nonemployee directors of the Company serving for all of 2015 received cash payments of between \$44,500 and \$67,500 and 2,000 restricted stock units of the Company with a grant date fair value of \$15.72 per unit for an aggregate grant date fair value of \$31,440 (as determined in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718).

Mr. Knapp does not have any arrangement with Mr. Berg or Mr. Dean relating to the acquisition of any Shares from Mr. Berg or Mr. Dean or regarding Mr. Knapp's acquisition of Shares in the open market.

Mr. Berg has a material interest in Proposal Nos. 1, 2 and 4 as a result of his ownership of 17.6% of the outstanding Shares and his desire to have the Company enter into and consummate a sale, merger or other business combination of the Company or, if such a transaction is not consummated, to have the corporate governance practices of the Company reformed to be more closely aligned with what are perceived to be best corporate governance practices, including, by declassifying the Board and terminating the Company's poison pill plan.

Except as set forth in this Proxy Statement (including the Annexes hereto), (i) during the past 10 years, no Participant has been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors); (ii) no Participant directly or indirectly beneficially owns any securities of the Company; (iii) no Participant owns any securities of the Company which are owned of record but not beneficially; (iv) no Participant has purchased or sold any securities of the Company during the past two years; (v) no part of the purchase price or market value of the securities of the Company owned by any Participant is represented by funds borrowed or otherwise obtained for the purpose of acquiring or holding such securities; (vi) no Participant is, or within the past year was, a party to any contract, arrangement or understanding with any person with respect to any securities of the



Company, including, but not limited to, joint ventures, loan or option arrangements, puts or calls, guarantees against loss or guarantees of profit, division of losses or profits, or the giving or withholding of proxies; (vii) no associate of any Participant owns beneficially, directly or indirectly, any securities of the Company; (viii) no Participant owns beneficially, directly or indirectly, any securities of any parent or subsidiary of the Company; (ix) no Participant or any of his or its associates was a party to any transaction, or series of similar transactions, since the beginning of the Company's last fiscal year, or is a party to any currently proposed transaction, or series of similar transactions, to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries was or is to be a party, in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000; (x) no Participant or any of his associates has any arrangement or understanding with any person with respect to any future employment by the Company or its affiliates, or with respect to any future transactions to which the Company or any of its affiliates will or may be a party; and (xi) no Participant has a substantial interest, direct or indirect, by securities holdings or otherwise, in any matter to be acted on at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

There are no material proceedings to which any Participant or any of his or its associates is a party adverse to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or has a material interest adverse to the Company or any of its subsidiaries. With respect to each of the Berg Nominees, none of the events enumerated in Item 401(f)(1)-(8) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act occurred during the past ten years.

There exist no family relationships between any Berg Nominee and any director or executive officer of the Company.

Except as otherwise disclosed in response to this section, there are no interlocking relationships that would have required disclosure had the Berg Nominees been directors of the Company.

### **STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS**

Proposals of stockholders intended to be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the 2017 Annual Meeting ) must, in order to be included in the Company's proxy statement and the form of proxy for the 2017 Annual Meeting, be received by the Company's Corporate Secretary at Corporate Secretary, Stratus Properties Inc., 212 Lavaca Street, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78701 by December 16, 2016.

Under the Bylaws, any stockholder intending to present any proposal (other than a proposal made by, or at the direction of, the Board) at the 2017 Annual Meeting, must give written notice of that proposal to the Company's Corporate Secretary at the above address by February 6, 2017.

The information set forth above regarding the procedures for submitting stockholder proposals for consideration at the 2017 Annual Meeting is based on information contained in the Company's Proxy Statement. The incorporation of this information in this proxy statement should not be construed as an admission by the Berg Group that such procedures are legal, valid or binding.

### **INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

WE HAVE OMITTED FROM THIS PROXY STATEMENT CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE LAW THAT IS EXPECTED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMPANY'S PROXY STATEMENT RELATING TO THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING. THIS DISCLOSURE IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CURRENT BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY'S DIRECTORS, INFORMATION CONCERNING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION. SEE ANNEX B FOR INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS WHO BENEFICIALLY OWN MORE THAN 5% OF THE SHARES AND THE OWNERSHIP OF THE SHARES BY THE DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY.





The information concerning the Company contained in this Proxy Statement and the Annexes attached hereto has been taken from, or is based upon, publicly available information.

### **OTHER PROPOSALS**

The Berg Group is unaware of any other matters to be considered at the 2016 Annual Meeting. However, should other matters, which we are not aware of a reasonable time before this solicitation, be brought before the 2016 Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies on the enclosed **GOLD** proxy card will vote on such matters in their discretion.

### **OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY**

Based upon documents publicly filed by the Company, the mailing address of the principal executive offices of the Company is 212 Lavaca Street, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78701.

Certain information regarding the compensation of directors and executive officers and certain other matters regarding the Company and its officers and directors is required to be contained in the Company's Proxy Statement. Certain other information regarding the 2016 Annual Meeting, as well as procedures for submitting proposals for consideration at the 2016 Annual Meeting, is also required to be contained in the Company's Proxy Statement. Please refer to the Company's Proxy Statement to review this information. Because the Berg Group was not involved in the preparation of the Company's Proxy Statement, the Berg Group cannot reasonably confirm the accuracy or completeness of certain information contained in the Company's Proxy Statement.

The information concerning the Company and the proposals in the Company's Proxy Statement contained in this Proxy Statement has been taken from, or is based upon, publicly available documents on file with the SEC and other publicly available information. Although the Berg Group has no knowledge that would indicate that statements relating to the Company contained in this Proxy Statement that are made in reliance upon publicly available information are inaccurate or incomplete, to date we have not had access to the books and records of the Company related to such information and statements, were not involved in the preparation of such information and statements and are not in a position to verify such information and statements. All information relating to any person other than the Participants is based only on the knowledge of the Berg Group.

Dated: May , 2016

**Two Year Transaction History of Each Participant**

The following transaction history shows those trades of the Participants in securities of the Company effected since May 1, 2014. Except as otherwise noted in this Annex A, all transactions were effected in the open market.

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Trade Date</b>	<b>Amount Acquired (Sold)</b>	<b>Transaction Type</b>
Carl E. Berg		(1)	(1)
David M. Dean		(2)	(2)
Michael Knapp	N/A	N/A	N/A

- (1) Effective May 5, 2016, Mr. Berg granted Mr. Dean an option to purchase up to 45,000 of his Shares at a purchase price of \$18.00 per share.
- (2) Effective May 5, 2016, Mr. Dean acquired an option to acquire up to 45,000 Shares from Mr. Berg at a purchase price of \$18.00 per share.

The following table is reprinted from the definitive proxy statement filed by the Company with the SEC on April 15, 2016.

### Stock Ownership of Directors, Director Nominees and Executive Officers

Based on filings with the SEC, the table below shows the amount of the Company's common stock beneficially owned as of March 31, 2016, by each of the Company's directors, the Company's director nominees and the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer (such officers collectively being the Company's named executive officers). Unless otherwise indicated, all shares shown are held with sole voting and investment power.

Name Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares not Subject to Exercisable Options	Number of Shares Subject to Exercisable Options (1)	Total Number of Shares Beneficially Owned (2)	Percent of Outstanding Shares (3)
William H. Armstrong III (4)	446,246		446,246	5.51%
Erin D. Pickens (5)	19,910		19,910	*
James E. Joseph (6)				
James C. Leslie	29,330	15,000	44,330	*
Michael D. Madden	21,500	15,000	36,500	*
Charles W. Porter	4,000		4,000	*
John C. Schweitzer (7)				
All current directors and executive officers as a group (7 persons)	520,986	30,000	550,986	6.81%

\* Ownership is less than one percent.

- (1) Reflects the Company's common stock that could be acquired within sixty days of March 31, 2016, upon the exercise of options granted pursuant to the Company's stock incentive plans.
- (2) Each beneficial owner holds the following unvested time-vested and performance-vested restricted stock units or RSUs, which are not included in the table above. For more information regarding the time-vested and performance-vested RSUs, see [Director Compensation](#), [Equity-Based Compensation](#) and [Executive Officer Compensation](#) Compensation Discussion and Analysis Components of Executive Compensation Long-Term Incentive Awards in the Company's definitive proxy statement.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Time-Vested RSUs	Performance-Vested RSUs
William H. Armstrong III	57,000	18,000
Erin D. Pickens	12,500	3,000
James E. Joseph		
James C. Leslie	5,000	
Michael D. Madden	5,000	

Charles W. Porter

5,000

John C. Schweitzer

- (3) Based on 8,092,140 shares of the Company's common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2016.
- (4) Includes 3,250 shares held in his individual retirement account. Mr. Armstrong has pledged 363,489 shares of our common stock to secure a line of credit. Mr. Armstrong's address is 212 Lavaca Street, Suite 300, Austin, TX 78701.
- (5) Holds shares of the Company's common stock in a joint account with her husband, through which they share voting power.
- (6) On December 10, 2015, the Company's board of directors appointed Mr. Joseph to serve as a director.
- (7) On March 25, 2016, the Company's board of directors appointed Mr. Schweitzer to serve as a director.

B - 1

## Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners

Based on filings with the SEC, the table below shows the beneficial owners of more than five percent of the Company's outstanding common stock other than Mr. Armstrong, whose beneficial ownership is reflected above in the table in the section above titled "Stock Ownership of Directors, Director Nominees and Executive Officers." Unless otherwise indicated, all information is presented as of December 31, 2015, and all shares beneficially owned are held with sole voting and investment power.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Total Number of Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Outstanding Shares (1)
Carl E. Berg (2) 10050 Bandley Drive Cupertino, California 95014	1,421,002	17.6%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (3) Building One 6300 Bee Cave Road Austin, Texas 78746	537,921	6.6%
Ingalls & Snyder LLC (4) 1325 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10019	1,381,396	17.1%
LCHM Holdings, LLC (5) 1615 Poydras Street, Suite 2279 New Orleans, Louisiana 70112	625,000	7.7%

- (1) Based on 8,092,140 shares of the Company's common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2016.
- (2) Based on an amended Schedule 13D filed with the SEC on January 15, 2016. Mr. Berg has granted an option to Berg Nominee David M. Dean to purchase up to 45,000 shares of Mr. Berg's stock at \$18.00 per share. Please see Additional Participant Information.
- (3) Based on an amended Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 9, 2016. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, a registered investment advisor, furnishes investment advice to four registered investment companies, and serves as investment manager or sub-advisor to certain other commingled funds, group trusts and separate accounts (such investment companies, trusts and accounts, collectively referred to as the Funds). In certain cases, subsidiaries of Dimensional Fund Advisors LP may act as an advisor or sub-advisor to certain of the Funds. In its role as

investment advisor, sub-advisor and/or manager, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or its subsidiaries (collectively, Dimensional ) may possess voting and/or investment power over the shares of our common stock reported, and may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of such shares of our common stock. However, all shares of our common stock reported in the amended Schedule 13G are owned by the Funds. Dimensional disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares of our common stock. As reported in the amended Schedule 13G, Dimensional has sole voting power over 534,442 shares of our common stock and sole investment power over 537,921 shares of our common stock.

- (4) Based on an amended Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 5, 2016. Ingalls & Snyder LLC (Ingalls & Snyder ) is a registered broker dealer and a registered investment advisor. Amounts reported include shares owned by clients of Ingalls & Snyder in accounts managed under investment advisory contracts. Ingalls & Snyder has no voting power but shares investment power over all of the shares of our common stock reported.
- (5) Based on a Schedule 13D filed with the SEC on March 5, 2014, jointly by LCHM Holdings, LLC (LCHM ), James R. Moffett, Jr. and Louise H. Moffett. LCHM, Mr. Moffett and Ms. Moffett share voting and investment power over all of the shares of our common stock reported.

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**PRELIMINARY PROXY CARD - SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MAY 6, 2016**

**PLEASE VOTE TODAY!**

**SEE REVERSE SIDE**

**FOR THREE EASY WAYS TO VOTE.**

q To vote by mail please detach proxy card here and sign, date and return in the envelope provided q

**BERG GROUP VOTERS ONLY NEED TO VOTE ONE PROXY THE GOLD CARD**

**COMMON**

**GOLD**

**PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BERG GROUP**

**2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Stratus Properties Inc.**

**June 6, 2016**

The undersigned hereby appoints Carl Berg, David M. Dean and Michael Knapp, and each of them, with full power of substitution, as proxies for the undersigned and authorizes them to represent and vote, as designated, all of the shares of common stock of Stratus Properties Inc. (the Company or Stratus ) that the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Stratus, including any adjournments, postponements, recesses and/or delays thereof or any special meeting that may be called in lieu thereof (the 2016 Annual Meeting ).

**P**

**R**

**O** IF YOU VALIDLY EXECUTE AND RETURN THIS PROXY CARD WITHOUT INDICATING YOUR  
**X** VOTE ON ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS, YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO  
**Y** HAVE VOTED FOR PROPOSAL 1, PROPOSAL 3 AND PROPOSAL 4 (EXCEPT YOU WILL NOT BE  
DEEMED TO VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF ANY CANDIDATE WHOSE NAME IS WRITTEN IN  
THE SPACE PROVIDED UNDER PROPOSAL 1) AND YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE VOTED  
AGAINST PROPOSAL 2. THIS PROXY WILL REVOKE ANY PREVIOUSLY EXECUTED PROXY  
WITH RESPECT TO ALL PROPOSALS.

**IF YOU EXECUTE AND RETURN THE BERG GROUP GOLD PROXY CARD, YOU DO NOT NEED TO RETURN THE STRATUS WHITE PROXY CARD.**

**(Continued and to be signed on the reverse side)**



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**PRELIMINARY PROXY CARD - SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MAY 6, 2016**

**PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BERG GROUP**

2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Stratus Properties Inc.

June 6, 2016

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

Please take a moment now to vote your shares of Stratus Properties Inc.

common stock for the upcoming Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

**PLEASE REVIEW THE PROXY STATEMENT AND VOTE TODAY IN ONE OF THREE WAYS:**

- 1. Vote by Telephone** Please call toll-free in the U.S. or Canada at **1-XXX-XXX-XXX**, on a touch-tone telephone. If outside the U.S. or Canada, call **1-XXX-XXX-XXX**. Please follow the simple instructions. You will be required to provide the unique control number printed below.

**OR**

- 2. Vote by Internet** Please access [<https://www.proxyvotenow.com/> ], and follow the simple instructions. Please note you must type an `s` after `http`. You will be required to provide the unique control number printed below.

You may vote by telephone or Internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Your telephone or Internet vote authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares in the same manner as if you had marked, signed and returned a proxy card.

**OR**

- 3. Vote by Mail** If you do not wish to vote by telephone or over the Internet, please sign, date and return the proxy card in the envelope provided, or mail to: The Berg Group, c/o Morrow & Co, LLC, 470 West Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902.

**q To vote by mail please detach proxy card here and sign, date and return in the envelope provided q**



COMMON

GOLD

To vote, mark blocks

below in blue or black

x as follows

The Berg Group strongly recommends that Stockholders vote:

**FOR** each of The Berg Group's Nominees listed in The Berg Group's Proposal 1

**AGAINST** Proposal 2 and

**FOR** Proposal 3 and Proposal 4.

				<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
<p><b>Proposal 1</b> To elect (01) David M. Dean and (02) Michael L. Knapp (collectively, the <u>Berg Nominees</u>) as directors</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>
<p>.. <b>For All Nominees</b></p>	<p>.. <b>Withhold Vote for All Nominees</b></p>	<p>.. <b>For All Nominees Except</b></p>	<p><b>Proposal 2</b> To Approve, by Advisory Vote, Executive Compensation</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>
<p>(Instruction: to withhold authority to vote for either nominee, write the name of such nominee below.)</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p><b>Proposal 3</b> On Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p><b>Proposal 4</b> To request that Stratus board of directors engage a nationally recognized investment banking firm to explore the prompt sale, merger or other business combination of Stratus so that shareholders may realize the value of their Stratus shares</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>
<p></p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>In the discretion of the proxies, to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>..</p>

Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Title or Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (if held jointly) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign exactly as name appears hereon. If shares are registered in more than one name, the signature of all such persons should be provided. A corporation should sign in its full corporate name by a duly authorized officer, stating his or her title. Trustees, guardians, executors and administrators should sign in their official capacity, giving their full title as such. If a partnership, please sign in the partnership name by an authorized person. The proxy card votes all shares in all capacities.

**PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE TODAY.**