

Andersons, Inc.
Form DEF 14A
March 16, 2017

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

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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
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The Andersons, Inc.

(Name of registrant as specified in its charter)

(Name of person(s) filing proxy statement, if other than the registrant)

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THE ANDERSONS, INC.

1947 Briarfield Boulevard

Maumee, Ohio 43537

March 16, 2017

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of shareholders to be held on Friday, May 12, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., local time, at The Andersons' Headquarters Building, 1947 Briarfield Boulevard, Maumee, Ohio 43537.

This booklet includes the formal notice of the meeting and the proxy statement. The proxy statement tells you more about the meeting agenda, and how to vote your proxy and procedures for the meeting. It also describes how the Board of Directors operates and gives you information about our director candidates. A form of proxy card and our 2016 annual report to shareholders are also included with this booklet.

It is important that your shares are represented and voted at the Annual Meeting, regardless of the size of your holdings. I urge you to vote your proxy as soon as possible so that your shares may be represented at the meeting. If you attend the Annual Meeting, you may revoke your proxy in writing and vote your shares in person, if you wish. I look forward to seeing you on May 12th.

Sincerely,

/s/ Patrick E. Bowe

Patrick E. Bowe

President

and Chief Executive Officer

THE ANDERSONS, INC.
1947 Briarfield Boulevard
Maumee, Ohio 43537
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Date: May 12, 2017

Time: 8:00 A.M., Local Time

Place: The Andersons' Headquarters Building
1947 Briarfield Boulevard
Maumee, Ohio 43537

Matters to be voted upon:

1 The election of ten directors identified as nominees herein to hold office for a one-year term.

2 Advisory approval or disapproval of executive compensation.

3 Recommendation on the frequency of advisory votes on executive compensation.

4 The ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2017.

5 Any other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Holders of record of The Andersons, Inc. Common Shares as of the close of business on March 14, 2017 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors

Maumee, Ohio
March 16, 2017

/s/ Naran U. Burchinow
Naran U. Burchinow
Secretary

Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person and regardless of the number of shares you own, please vote your shares by proxy, either by mailing the enclosed proxy card or, by telephone or via the Internet. If you attend the Annual Meeting, you may revoke your proxy in writing and vote your shares in person, if you wish.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting to Be Held on May 12, 2017

The Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Shareholders with Form 10K is available at www.proxyvote.com.

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THE ANDERSONS, INC.

1947 Briarfield Boulevard

Maumee, Ohio 43537

PROXY STATEMENT

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

May 12, 2017

Introduction

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) is soliciting your proxy to encourage your participation in the voting at the Annual Meeting and to obtain your support on each of the proposals described in this proxy statement. You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and vote your shares directly. However, even if you do not attend, you may vote by proxy, which allows you to direct another person to vote your shares at the meeting on your behalf. This proxy statement was first mailed or otherwise delivered to shareholders on March 24, 2017.

This Proxy Solicitation

Included in this package are, among other things, the proxy card and this proxy statement. The proxy card and the identification number on it are the means by which you authorize another person to vote your shares in accordance with your instructions.

This proxy statement provides you with information about the proposals and about The Andersons, Inc. (the “Company”) that you may find useful in deciding how to vote with respect to each of the proposals. After this introduction, you will find the following eleven sections:

• Voting

• Summary of Proposals

• Election of Directors

• Corporate Governance

• Proposal for an Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

• Proposal for an Advisory Vote on the Frequency of Executive Compensation

• Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

• Share Ownership

• Executive Compensation

• Director Compensation

• Other Information

The Annual Meeting: Quorum

The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 12, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., local time, at The Andersons’ Headquarters Building located at 1947 Briarfield Boulevard in Maumee, Ohio.

The Company’s Code of Regulations requires that a majority of our Common Shares be represented at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by proxy, in order to transact business.

Abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated as present for purposes of determining whether a majority of our Common Shares is represented at the meeting, and will therefore affect whether a quorum has been achieved. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker or other nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner.

There were no shareholder proposals submitted for the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Common Shares Outstanding

The record date for determining holders of the Company’s Common shares entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is March 14, 2017. As of the record date, the Company had 28,356,123 Common Shares issued and outstanding.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting to Be Held on May 12, 2017

The proxy statement and Annual Report to Shareholders with Form 10K is available at www.proxyvote.com.

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Voting

You are entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting for each of the Company's Common Shares that you owned of record as of the close of business on March 14, 2017 (the record date for the Annual Meeting). There is no right to cumulative voting as to any matter, including the election of directors.

How to Vote Your Shares

You may vote your shares at the Annual Meeting by proxy or in person. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to complete and submit your proxy in advance to ensure your vote is represented. If your shares are recorded in your name, you may cast your vote in one of the following ways:

Vote by telephone: If you received a proxy card, you can vote by phone at any time by calling the toll-free number (for residents of the U.S.) listed on your proxy card. To vote, enter the control number listed on your proxy card and follow the simple recorded instructions. If you vote by phone, you do not need to return your proxy card.

Vote by mail: If you received a proxy card and choose to vote by mail, simply mark your proxy card, and then date, sign and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Vote via the Internet: You can vote by Internet at any time by visiting the website listed on your proxy card, notice document or email that you received. Follow the simple instructions and be prepared to enter the code listed on the proxy card, notice document or email that you received. If you vote via the Internet, you do not need to return your proxy card.

Vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

Shareholders who hold their shares beneficially in street name through a nominee (such as a bank or a broker) may be able to vote by telephone or the Internet, as well as by mail. You should follow the instructions you receive from your nominee to vote these shares. Since a beneficial owner is not the shareholder of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the meeting unless you obtain a "legal proxy" from your broker or nominee that holds your shares, giving you the right to vote the shares at the meeting.

When you vote by proxy, the shares you hold will be voted in accordance with your instructions. Your proxy vote will direct the designated persons (known as "proxies" or proxy holders) to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting in accordance with your instructions. The Board has designated John P. Kraus and Catherine M. White to serve as the proxies for the Annual Meeting.

How to Revoke Your Proxy

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised by any of the following means:

• Notifying Naran U. Burchinow, our Secretary, in writing prior to the Annual Meeting;

• Submitting a later dated proxy card, telephone vote or Internet vote; or

• Attending the Annual Meeting and revoking your proxy in writing.

If your shares are held in street name, you must contact your broker or nominee to revoke your proxy.

Your attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy.

Voting at the Annual Meeting

Your shares will be voted at the meeting as directed by the instructions on your proxy card if: (1) you are entitled to vote, (2) your proxy was properly executed, (3) we received your proxy prior to the Annual Meeting and (4) you did not validly revoke your proxy prior to the meeting.

The Board's Recommendations

If you send a properly executed proxy without specific voting instructions, the designated proxies will vote your shares

• to elect the nominated directors,

• to approve this year's advisory resolution on executive compensation,

• to seek an advisory resolution on executive compensation annually, and

• to ratify the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm.

Votes Required to Approve Each Item

The Company's Code of Regulations states that the nominees for director receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. Therefore, abstentions and broker non-votes will not count as a vote for or against the election of directors and, therefore, will not have an effect on the election of directors.

The advisory vote on executive compensation requires an affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the Common Shares present, in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote to be considered approved. An abstention will count as a vote against this proposal. Broker non-votes will not count as a vote for or against this proposal.

With respect to the advisory vote on the frequency of the future advisory votes on executive compensation, the Company will present the votes cast for each of the four alternatives (including abstention). The option receiving the affirmative vote of the holders of a plurality of the Common Shares present, in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote will be considered approved.

The ratification of the independent registered public accounting firm requires an affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the Common Shares present, in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote. An abstention will count as a vote against this proposal. A proposal to ratify the selection of auditors is considered a routine matter that brokers may vote on without instruction from beneficial owners. As a result, a broker non-vote cannot occur with respect to this proposal.

Householding

The Company has adopted a procedure approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission called "householding." Under this procedure, multiple shareholders who share the same last name and address will receive only one copy of the annual proxy materials. If the household received a printed set of proxy materials by mail, each shareholder will receive his or her own proxy card or voting instruction card by mail. We have undertaken householding to reduce our printing costs and postage fees. Shareholders who receive household materials may elect to receive individual copies of the proxy materials at the same address (and shareholders receiving multiple copies of materials may elect to receive household materials) by contacting Investor Relations in writing at 1947 Briarfield Boulevard, Maumee, Ohio 43537, or via telephone at (419) 893-5050.

Where to Find Voting Results

We will announce the voting results at the Annual Meeting and will publish the voting results in the Company's Form 8-K to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within four business days after the annual meeting.

Summary of Proposals

The Governance / Nominating Committee and the Board, including all independent directors, have nominated ten directors, each for a one-year term.

The Board is submitting to an advisory vote the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, as required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act), and conducted in conformance with regulations promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission thereunder. While this vote is not binding, the Compensation and Leadership Development Committee and Board expect to take the results of this vote into consideration when making future compensation decisions.

The Board is also submitting to an advisory vote the frequency of future advisory votes on named executive officer compensation. The regulations allow for a one, two or three year frequency and require that the shareholders be provided the opportunity to vote their preference as to frequency in an advisory vote. The results of this advisory vote are not binding. The Board recommends that the advisory vote on named executive officer compensation be conducted annually, and will take the results of this vote into consideration when recommending future advisory votes.

The Audit Committee has hired and the Board has approved Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2017 and recommends that you vote to ratify their appointment.

At the date of this Proxy Statement, we have no knowledge of any business other than the proposals described above that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. If any other business should properly come before the Annual Meeting, the proxies will be voted on at the discretion of the proxy holders.

Election of Directors

The Board of Directors is currently comprised of ten directors. The Governance / Nominating Committee and the Board have nominated and recommend the election of each of the ten nominees listed below. Each director elected will serve until the next Annual Meeting or until their earlier removal or resignation. Each of the nominees listed is currently a Director of the Company. The Board expects all nominees named below to be available for election. In case any nominee is not available, the proxy holders may vote for a substitute, unless the Board reduces the number of directors as provided for in the Company's Code of Regulations.

Directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting by a plurality of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting by the holders of shares represented in person or by proxy. The following is a brief biography of each nominee as well as the specific qualifications of the nominee as identified by the Board's Governance / Nominating Committee. Information as to their ownership of the Common Shares can be found under the caption "Share Ownership" in this proxy statement. All information provided is current as of February 28, 2017.

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Name	Age	Principal Occupation, Business Experience and Other Directorships	Director Since
Patrick E. Bowe	58	President and CEO since November 2, 2015. Prior to that, Corporate Vice President of Cargill, Inc. and a leader of Cargill's Food Ingredients and Systems business since 2007. Prior to joining Cargill's Corn Milling Division, managed the copper trading desk for Cargill Metals Division and worked as a trader and analyst for Cargill Investor Services at the Chicago Board of Trade. Worked as a cash grain merchant for Louis Dreyfus Corp. in Springfield, Ill., and Phil O'Connel Grain Co., in Stockton, California.	2015
Michael J. Anderson, Sr.	65	Chairman since 2009. Chief Executive Officer from January 1999 to October 2015. President from January 1999 through December 2012. Prior to that President and Chief Operating Officer from 1996 through 1998, Vice President and General Manager of the Retail Group from 1994 until 1996 and Vice President and General Manager Grain Group from 1990 through 1994. Currently a Director of FirstEnergy Corp. beginning in 2007 and formerly a Director of Interstate Bakeries Corp from 1998 to 2009.	1988
Gerard M. Anderson	58	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DTE Energy since 2014; Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of DTE Energy from 2010 through 2013; President and Chief Operating Officer of DTE Energy from 2005 through 2010. Joined Detroit Edison, a subsidiary of DTE Energy in 1993 and held various executive positions. Prior to this, a consultant with McKinsey & Co., Inc. Director of DTE Energy since 2009.	2008
Catherine M. Kilbane	53	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of The Sherwin-Williams Company since 2013. Prior to that, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of American Greetings Corporation from 2003-2012. Prior to that a partner with the Cleveland law firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP.	2007
Robert J. King, Jr.	61	Senior Adviser for FNB Corp since 2013. Prior to that, President and Chief Executive Officer, PVF Capital Corp from 2009 to 2013; Senior Managing Director, Private Equity, FSI Group, LLC from 2006 through 2009; Managing Director, Western Reserve Partners LLC from 2005-2006; Regional President of Fifth Third Bank from 2002 through 2004 and Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Fifth Third Bank (Northeastern Ohio) from 1997 through 2002. On the advisory board of Ancora Advisors September 23 to December 15, 2016. Director of Shiloh Industries, Inc. since 2005, MTD Corp. since 2005, and Medical Mutual of Ohio since 2012.	2005
Ross W. Manire	65	President and Chief Executive Officer of ExteNet Systems, Inc. since 2002. Served as President, Enclosure Systems Division of Flextronics International from 2000 to 2002. Prior to that held senior management positions at Chatham Technologies, Inc., and 3Com Corporation. Former Partner at Ridge Capital Corporation and Ernst & Young LLP. Director of Zebra Technologies Corporation since 2003 and Eagle Test Systems, Inc. from 2004 through 2008.	2009
Donald L. Mennel	70	Chairman of the Board of The Mennel Milling Company since 2012. President and Treasurer of The Mennel Milling Company from 1984 through 2012. Served on the Executive Committee of the North American Millers Association.	1998
Patrick S. Mullin	68	Retired Managing Partner of Deloitte & Touche LLP in Cleveland. Director of The OM Group, Inc. from 2011 through November 2015.	2013
John T. Stout, Jr.	63	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Plaza Belmont Management Group LLC since 2014. Prior to that, Chief Executive Officer of Plaza Belmont Management Group LLC since 1998. Chairman of the Board of Renwood Mills,	2009

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LLC since 2016. Chairman of Diana Fruit Company since 2014. Previously President of Manildra Milling Corp and Manildra Energy Corp from 1991 through 1998 and Executive Vice President of Dixie Portland Flour Mills Inc. from 1984 to 1990.

Jacqueline F. Woods 69 Retired President of Ameritech Ohio (subsequently renamed AT&T Ohio). 1999
Director of The Timken Company since 2000.

Director Skills, Experience and Background

The Governance / Nominating Committee considers a variety of factors when presenting the slate of nominees for the Board – these are listed in detail under the caption “Corporate Governance – Board Meetings and Committees – Governance / Nominating Committee.” Because of the importance of diversity in our businesses, the Committee looks at the different skills and experiences that each nominee brings. Following are specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that the Governance / Nominating Committee viewed as valuable to our business for the next year:

Director	<p>Specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 35 years of experience in the agricultural sector • In recent role as Corporate Vice President for Cargill's Food Ingredient and Systems Platform, responsible for strategy, capital allocation decisions, customer relationship management, as well as leading key sourcing and business excellence initiatives
Patrick E. Bowe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has held a variety of leadership positions, both domestically and abroad, including oversight of Cargill's Corn Wet Milling operation • Extensive experience in leading large organizations with particular expertise in commodity and futures trading, acquisitions and joint ventures, process improvement, strategic sourcing, capital management, and establishing and maintaining strong customer relationships • Over 30 year history with the Company including leadership of the Grain and Retail businesses
Michael J. Anderson, Sr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific expertise in agricultural commodities trading and hedging activities. • Intimate knowledge of all businesses • Experience as a member and chair of other public company boards • Three years public accounting experience • MBA in finance and accounting • Executive Leadership Program, Harvard Business School • Currently engaged as Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer and board member of a publicly traded energy company
Gerard M. Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy industry expertise • MBA and MPP with a civil engineering undergraduate degree • Past experience as a consultant with McKinsey and Company • Currently engaged as Secretary and General Counsel for a publicly traded company • Experience with public company regulatory requirements
Catherine M. Kilbane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in an industry that supplies coating materials used in rail repair • Attorney with extensive corporate law experience, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, securities and compliance • Experience as President & Chief Executive Officer and board member of a publicly traded financial services company
Robert J. King, Jr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MBA with a finance undergraduate degree • Expertise in banking, finance and related risk analysis with extensive senior officer experience with major banking organization.
Ross W. Manire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience as a member of other company boards • Currently engaged as Chairman and CEO of a telecommunications company • Mergers and acquisition and international business experience • Experience as a member of other public company boards • Formerly a partner with an international auditing firm and certified public accountant • Prior service as Chief Financial Officer of public company

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- MBA with economics undergraduate degree
 - Currently engaged as Chairman of the Board and experience as President and Treasurer of a major wheat milling company.
- Donald L. Mennel
- MBA
 - Past chair of audit committee and designated financial expert
 - Extensive grain industry experience, including analysis and hedging of agricultural commodity risk
 - Experience managing Northeast Ohio Deloitte & Touche LLP office
 - Experience as Audit Committee Chair for other public companies
 - Served as a trusted business advisor to CEOs, CFOs and the audit committee chairs of several publicly traded companies
- Patrick S. Mullin
- Extensive experience in advising public and private companies on tax, accounting, audit and consulting matters in a variety of industries
 - Over 40 years of public accounting experience
 - Merger and acquisition experience
 - Executive Leadership Programs, Harvard and Northwestern

- Currently engaged as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of a private equity fund that acquires diversified food processing companies and related businesses
 - Experience in the financial markets as it relates to the food industry, including analysis of agricultural commodity risk
 - Mergers and acquisition experience
 - Experience managing companies that consume of wheat, corn, soybeans, rice and other commodities
 - Board member for a variety of companies in the food industry
 - Elected to Kansas City Federal Reserve Board January 1, 2010 and again on January 1, 2013; previously six years on Kansas City Federal Reserve Board Economic Advisory Committee; Currently serving on the Compensation Committee and the Executive Search Committee of Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
 - Experience as a President of large telecommunications company
 - Experience as a member of other public company boards
 - Career experience in finance, marketing, strategic planning, public relations and government affairs
 - Executive Leadership Program, Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University
- John T. Stout, Jr.
- Jacqueline F. Woods

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of the ten directors as presented.

Corporate Governance

Board Meetings and Committees

Name	Committees of the Board effective as of the May 2016 Annual Meeting				
	Board	Audit	Compensation and Leadership Development	Governance / Nominating	Finance
Michael J. Anderson, Sr.	C				
Patrick E. Bowe	X				
Gerard M. Anderson	X				X
Catherine M. Kilbane	X		C	X	
Robert J. King, Jr.	X		X		C
Ross W. Manire	X	X			X
Donald L. Mennel	X	X		C	
Patrick S. Mullin	X	C		X	
John T. Stout, Jr.	X		X		X
Jacqueline F. Woods	X	X	X		

C - Chair, X - Member

The Board of Directors held six regular board meetings in 2016. All directors attended 75% or more of the 2016 meetings of the Board, and committees on which each such director served. We encourage Board members to attend the annual meeting, and all of the current Board members attended the 2016 Annual Shareholders Meeting. Richard P. Anderson is a non-voting Chairman Emeritus, and is not compensated for any meetings he may attend.

The Audit Committee, Compensation and Leadership Development Committee, Finance Committee and Governance / Nominating Committee each have written charters. Copies of such charters are available at www.andersonsinc.com under the Corporate Governance tab within the Investor Relations section of the website.

Director Independence: The Board is made up of a majority of independent directors. Each of the Audit, Compensation, Finance and Governance / Nominating Committees is made up entirely of independent members.

An “independent” director is a director who meets the criteria for independence as required by the applicable law and the NASDAQ (“NASDAQ”) Corporate Governance Standards for Listed Companies and is affirmatively determined to be “independent” by the Board. The Board has determined that each of the current directors and director nominees is independent under the corporate governance standards of the NASDAQ, with the exception of Michael J. Anderson, Sr., Chairman and Patrick E. Bowe, President and Chief Executive Officer. Michael J. Anderson, Sr. and Gerard M. Anderson are cousins. The Board has determined that the relationship does not affect Gerard M. Anderson’s exercise of independent judgment on the Board.

Audit Committee: The Board established the Audit Committee in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Audit Committee is comprised of four independent directors (as defined in the NASDAQ Corporate Governance Standards for Listed Companies) and, among other duties, oversees the accounting and financial reporting process of the Company, appoints the independent registered public accounting firm, reviews the internal audit and external financial reporting of the Company, reviews the scope of the independent audit and considers comments by the independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal controls and accounting procedures and management’s response to those comments. The Audit Committee held four regular meetings in 2016. The Board has determined that Patrick S. Mullin, Committee Chair, and Ross Manire, Committee member, are each “audit committee financial experts” as defined in the federal securities laws and regulations.

Compensation and Leadership Development Committee: The Compensation and Leadership Development Committee, comprised solely of four independent directors (as defined in the NASDAQ Corporate Governance Standards for Listed Companies), reviews the recommendations of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Vice President, Human Resources as to the appropriate compensation that includes base salaries, short-term and long-term compensation, and benefits of the

Company's officers and determines the compensation of such officers for the ensuing year. The Chief Executive Officer's compensation is also determined by the Committee and then recommended to the full Board for approval. In addition, under the Company's 2014 Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan, the Committee reviews, approves and recommends to the Board grants of equity-based compensation aggregated for non-officers and individual grants for officers and reviews and approves the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" appearing in this proxy statement. The Compensation and Leadership Development Committee met three times during 2016. The Committee, by charter, is authorized to retain its own independent compensation consultants and legal counsel. The role of those independent compensation consultants is more fully described in the "Use of Compensation Consultants" section below.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee is comprised of four independent directors and is charged with monitoring and overseeing the Company's financial resources, strategies and risks, especially those that are long-term in nature. The Finance Committee met three times in 2016.

Governance / Nominating Committee: The Governance / Nominating Committee is comprised of three independent directors. The Governance / Nominating Committee met two times in 2016. The Committee recommends to the Board actions to be taken regarding its structure, organization and functioning, selects and reviews candidates to be nominated to the Board, reports to the Board regarding the qualifications of such candidates, recommends a slate of directors to be submitted to the shareholders for approval, and conducts regular meetings of the independent directors without management being present. The Governance / Nominating Committee and other members of the Board identify candidates for consideration by the Committee, and may, if it elects to, engage the services of third party search firms to identify candidates. The Governance / Nominating Committee recommended the election to the Board of each nominee named in this proxy statement.

It is the policy of the Governance / Nominating Committee to consider for nomination as a director any person whose name is submitted by a shareholder, provided that the submission is made prior to December 31 of the year that precedes the next annual meeting of shareholders and provided that the person is willing to be considered as a candidate.

Submission of names by shareholders is to be made to the Secretary of the Company, at the Company's headquarters in Maumee, Ohio. The Secretary, in turn, submits the names to the Chair of the Governance / Nominating Committee. The shareholder's notice must set forth all information relating to any nominee that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors, or is otherwise required, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Act of 1934, as amended (including, if so required, such person's written consent to being named in the proxy statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected). Additionally, as to the shareholder giving the notice and the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the nomination or proposal is made, the notice must provide the name and address of such shareholder and beneficial owner and the class and number of shares of the Company which are owned beneficially and of record by such shareholder and beneficial owner.

Each candidate for director (no matter how nominated) is evaluated on the basis of his or her ability to contribute expertise to the businesses and services in which the Company engages, to conduct himself or herself in accordance with the Company's Statement of Principles, and to contribute to the mission and greater good of the Company. The candidate's particular expertise, as well as existing Board expertise, is taken into consideration. A candidate's "independence," as defined by applicable stock exchange regulations and any other applicable laws, and the Board's ratio of independent to non-independent directors are also taken into consideration. Preferences, qualifications and specific qualities or skills considered necessary for one or more of the directors to possess include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ▲Able to serve for a reasonable period of time
- ▲Multi-business background preferred
- ▲Successful career in business preferred
- ▲Active vs. retired preferred
- ▲Audit Committee membership potential
- ▲Strategic thinker
- ▲Leader / manager
- ▲Agribusiness background, domestic and international

Transportation background

Brand marketing exposure

The Committee seeks nominees who provide a diverse set of backgrounds, skills, experiences and viewpoints who will contribute expertise to the Board, who will conduct themselves in accordance with the Company's Statement of Principles and who will share their diverse skills and experiences for the greater good of the Company. Because the Company consists of several diverse businesses, we highly value differing viewpoints shared in the pursuit of Board actions that best balance the objectives of our customers, employees, shareholders and communities.

The Board has adopted a policy not to nominate for re-election to the Board any member reaching the age of 72. Board Leadership Structure: The Board has determined to separate the positions of CEO and Chairman. Michael J. Anderson, Sr. has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors since 2009. The Board considers Mr. Anderson's experience on two other public company boards, as well as his extensive prior experience with the Company, to provide a unique resource that will serve the Company well. As Chairman, Mr. Anderson chairs meetings of the Board, sets Board meeting agendas, has authority to call meetings of the Board and serves as liaison with management of the Company. However, Mr. Anderson is not an independent Board member, and, for that reason, the Board has established the position of an independent Lead Director.

The Lead Director is chosen by the independent directors of the Board. The Lead Director chairs meetings of the independent directors, chairs the Governance / Nominating Committee, approves Board meeting agendas and the information available to the Board, has the authority to call meetings of the independent directors, and serves as liaison with the Chairman. In performing these functions the Lead Director has the responsibility and authority to set the agenda and manage the meetings of the independent directors, to communicate their interests to the Chairman and to the CEO, and to assert any other concerns for the benefit of the stockholders, and in so doing serve as an institutional counterweight to the Chairman and CEO.

From 2010 through 2016, Donald L. Mennel has served as Lead Director of the Board. Assuming their re-election to the Board, the Board expects to designate Catherine M. Kilbane as Lead Director of the Board at its May Board meeting, with Mr. Mennel serving as a Board member. This year's election will be Mr. Mennel's last election for the Board of Directors under the company's mandatory retirement rule. The current Board of Directors felt it advisable for Ms. Kilbane to serve as Lead Director while having the benefit of Mr. Mennel's Lead Director experience in his last year of service.

Board Oversight of Risk: The Board is responsible for overseeing risk management for the Company. It has delegated to each of the Audit Committee, the Finance Committee, the Compensation and Leadership Development Committee and the Governance / Nominating Committee, certain of its responsibilities in this area. For example, the Audit Committee has the oversight responsibility for the integrity of the Company's financial statements and its financial reporting process; its systems of internal accounting and financial controls and the performance of the Company's internal audit function and independent auditor. The Finance Committee has responsibility for risks relating to capital markets including interest rate volatility and access to capital, counterparties, product liability, price volatility and general industry market risks. The Compensation and Leadership Development Committee has the responsibility for reviewing the Company's compensation policies to ensure that these policies are not reasonably likely to create undue risk to the Company. The Governance / Nominating Committee has responsibility for oversight of the Company's ethics policies, including the Company's Code of Business Conduct, Board Succession and other regulatory / legislative issues.

Although the Board has delegated certain responsibilities for risk management to its Committees, the Board retains overall responsibility and coordination of this duty. Each Committee Chairman reports to the full Board matters discussed or reviewed at Committee meetings. Although the Board oversees the Company's risk management, company management is responsible for day-to-day risk management processes and provides regular updates to the Board and its Committees.

Executive Sessions of the Board: Our independent directors meet in executive session at each Board meeting. Our Lead Director chairs these executive sessions.

Shareholder Communications to Board: Shareholders may send communications to the Board by writing any of the Company's officers at the Company's headquarters at its Maumee, Ohio address or by calling any officer at 419-893-5050 or 800-537-3370. All shareholder communications addressed to the Board will be forwarded directly to the Board members.

Code of Ethics

The Company has adopted Standards of Business Conduct that apply to all employees, including the principal executive officer, principal financial officer and the principal accounting officer. These Standards of Business Conduct are available on the Company's website (www.andersonsinc.com) under the Corporate Governance tab within the Investor Relations section of the website. The Company intends to post amendments to or waivers, if any, from its

Standards of Business Conduct as relates to the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer on its website.

Review, Approval or Ratification of Transactions with Related Persons

The Board has practices and procedures to address potential or actual conflicts of interest and any appearance that decisions are based on considerations other than the best interests of the Company that may arise in connection with transactions with certain persons or entities, which include the completion of annual written questionnaires requiring disclosure of potential conflict situations, financial transactions, and annual affirmation of compliance with the Company's Standards of Business Conduct and Statement of Principles (the "Related Person Transaction Policy"). The Related Person Transaction

Policy operates in conjunction with the Company's Standards of Business Conduct and is applicable to all transactions, arrangements or relationships in which: (a) the aggregate amount involved is material to the individual, and in any event, to any transaction in which the amount may be expected to exceed \$120,000 in any calendar year; (b) the Company is a participant; and (c) any Related Person (as that term is defined in Item 404 under Regulation S-K of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended) has or will have a direct or indirect interest (a "Related Person Transaction"). The Governance / Nominating Committee is charged with the review of any transactions with related persons. They may utilize outside legal counsel or the Company's general counsel to provide opinions as to the appropriateness of any potential Related Person Transaction. All directors and officers complete annual questionnaires regarding their stockholdings and transactions which may possibly be regarded as involving related parties. In considering any matter, the Governance / Nominating Committee will consider the terms of the Company's Standards of Business Conduct, which directors and officers also commit to observe.

A Related Person Transaction is initially subject to review by the Chief Executive Officer. Matters regarding the Related Person Transaction Policy, or Related Person Transactions involving directors or officers, are submitted to the Governance / Nominating Committee for approval or ratification. As part of its review of each Related Person Transaction, the Governance / Nominating Committee will take into account, among other factors it deems appropriate, whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable than the terms generally available to an unaffiliated third-party under the same or similar circumstances and the extent of the Related Person's interest in the transaction. The Related Person Transaction Policy also provides that certain transactions, based on their nature and/or monetary amount, are deemed to be pre-approved or ratified by the Governance / Nominating Committee and do not require separate approval or ratification. The director involved in a Related Person Transaction will recuse himself/herself from any decision to approve or ratify such transaction.

The Governance / Nominating Committee's activities with respect to the review and approval or ratification of all Related Person Transactions are reported periodically to the Board of Directors.

Donald L. Mennel is Chairman, and formerly President and Treasurer of, and a significant shareholder in, The Mennel Milling Company ("Mennel Milling"). Mennel Milling sells grain to, and purchases grain from, the Company and Lansing Trade Group LLC - of which the Company owns 33% of the total equity - and also leases railcars from the Company. The amounts received from such transactions are below thresholds established by Nasdaq as standards for director non-independence. In 2016, Mennel Milling's total sales to the Company were approximately \$7.7 million and the Company's sales to Mennel Milling were approximately \$15.0 million. The Board has determined that such transactions will not interfere with Mr. Mennel's ability to serve as an independent director.

Catherine M. Kilbane, who serves as a director, member of the Governance / Nominating Committee and Chair of the Compensation and Leadership Development Committee, is Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of The Sherwin-Williams Company. The Sherwin-Williams Company, through its retail stores, competes with the paint department of the Company's retail stores. It may also supply paints and other products for sale by the Company for use in the Company's railcar painting business. The Company's paint sales by its Retail Group in 2016 which compete with Sherwin Williams' retail stores, were approximately \$2.2 million. Moreover, the Retail Group will cease operations in 2017. The amount of paints and other products purchased as supplies by the Company from Sherwin Williams was approximately \$0.5 million. The Board has determined that such competition and transactions will not interfere with Ms. Kilbane's ability to serve as an independent director.

John T. Stout, who serves as a director, member of the Compensation and Leadership Development Committee and member of the Finance Committee, is Chairman of the Board and, with immediate family members, a greater than 5% owner of Renwood Mills, LLC ("Renwood Mills"). Renwood Mills purchases grain from the Company and Lansing Trade Group LLC - of which the Company owns 33% of the total equity. The amounts received from such transactions are below thresholds established by Nasdaq as standards for director non-independence. In 2016, total sales to Renwood Mills were approximately \$0.2 million. The Board has determined that such transactions will not interfere with Mr. Stout's ability to serve as an independent director.

There were no other Related Person Transactions for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee of The Andersons, Inc. Board of Directors operates under a written charter. In May 2016, the Committee was reappointed with four independent directors. The Audit Committee appoints, establishes fees to, reviews audit scope and plan for, pre-approves non-audit services provided by, and evaluates the performance of, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee's appointment of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm is presented to the shareholders in the annual proxy statement for ratification.

Management is responsible for the Company's internal controls, financial reporting process and compliance with laws and regulations and ethical business standards. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Company in accordance with standards established by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") and assessing the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting and for issuing their reports. The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring and overseeing these processes.

In this context, the Audit Committee has reviewed the Company's audited financial statements and has met and held separate discussions with management, the Company's internal audit director and the independent registered public accounting firm regarding such financial statements. Management represented to the Audit Committee that the consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The Audit Committee reviewed management's report on their review of the system of internal control over financial reporting, including Deloitte's report on the design and operating effectiveness of internal control. The Audit Committee also discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm matters required to be discussed by PCAOB Auditing Standard 1301, Communications with Audit Committees, and reviewed all material written communications between the independent registered public accounting firm and management.

The Company's independent registered public accounting firm also provided to the Audit Committee the written disclosures required by PCAOB Rule 3526, Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence, and the Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm that firm's independence. The Audit Committee has also reviewed the services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm (as disclosed below under the caption "Audit and Other Fees") when considering their independence.

Based upon the Audit Committee's discussion with management and the independent registered public accounting firm and the Audit Committee's review of the representations of management and the report of the independent registered public accounting firm to the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Patrick S. Mullin (chair), Ross W. Manire, Donald L. Mennel, Jacqueline F. Woods

Use of Compensation Consultants

In 2016, the Compensation and Leadership Development Committee of the Board of Directors retained Semler Brossy Consulting Group of Los Angeles, California as its own independent adviser. The consultant continues to act as an independent adviser to the committee in connection with 2017 executive compensation for executive officers and non-employee independent directors.

Management of the Company has engaged Findley Davies to provide executive compensation consulting related to equity-based compensation and non-qualified deferred compensation. Findley Davies' role was primarily focused on: 1) analyzing share utilization authorized for granting equity awards; and 2) advising on compliance related matters related to non-qualified deferred compensation. As described in the Compensation Discussion & Analysis, an evaluation of their independence concluded that Findley Davies is not independent, as Findley Davies (FD) provided both compensation consulting and other services to the Company in 2016 as follows:

Fees	2016	2015
FD Executive/LongTerm Compensation Consulting	\$22,818	\$48,676
FD Fees for other consulting and actuarial services (1)	492,603	626,712
SB Executive Compensation Fees	149,099	121,896
Total	\$664,520	\$797,284

- (1) Services include consulting, communications, and technical support of the Company's health and welfare and retirement plans. In 2015, \$188,221 was charged directly to the pension trust.

Compensation / Risk Relationship

Company management has reviewed the compensation programs established for all employees and determined that certain aspects of our incentive programs may encourage the taking of undue risk positions, but that such situations are infrequent and mitigated by compensating controls. In all cases, the Company believes that it has appropriate mitigating controls and that compensation policies and practices are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. The results of this review are discussed below:

One Year Income Incentives. The Company's annual cash compensation program for management (MPP) is generally based on one year of income performance as defined by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, adjusted to remove certain charges, as described in the 2016 Financial Performance Highlights section below. By measuring only one year of income results, an incentive can be created to maximize short-term, same year profits by making unwise credit decisions which might increase long-term counterparty risk. This incentive is mitigated by the following: (i) the Company caps all short-term incentive compensation at two times the targeted amount for each position; (ii) the Company's Vice President Finance & Treasurer must establish all credit limits above any material size (varies by business group); (iii) a majority of management employees who participate in MPP also (a) participate in the Company's long-term equity compensation program, which is coupled with equity retention requirements (which are large in the case of senior officers); and (iv) losses in subsequent years from imprudent credit decisions will reduce compensation in such subsequent years. We adopted a policy commencing 2014 requiring the repayment or "clawback" of excess cash or equity based compensation where the payments were based on the achievement of financial results that were subsequently the subject of a financial restatement from each executive officer of the Company (regardless of the cause of the restatement) and also the group controller of the business unit involved in the restatement. If this policy proves to be incompatible with final rules adopted by the SEC implementing the requirement of Section 954 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, (and, in turn, implemented by NASDAQ listing rules) we will adjust our policy accordingly.

Performance Share Units. Company officers receive Performance Share Units (PSUs) that vest based upon service and performance which is measured by three years of cumulative diluted earnings per share on a rolling basis. Starting in 2016, Company officers also receive PSUs that vest based upon relative total shareholder return (rTSR) over a three year period. Absent mitigating controls to monitor equity transactions and manage the Company's leverage, these awards might otherwise induce actions to be taken to improve Company earnings per share results by creating a riskier balance sheet position by increasing the Company's leverage or through the use of cash to (b) purchase shares on the open market. The PSU award criteria might also encourage aggressive acquisition strategies, under which the Company might incur imprudent amounts of debt to finance riskier acquisitions in order to increase short-term earnings per share and thereby increase PSU awards. This incentive is mitigated by the following controls: (i) acquisitions of any significance require the approval of the CEO and the Board of Directors; (ii) officers have large equity retention requirements, which would be negatively impacted by transactions with large inherent risk, (iii) the Company's leverage is managed within set guidelines by the CEO and the CFO, within levels approved by the Board of Directors.

(c) Non-qualified stock options. From time to time, the Company may award non-qualified stock options (NQSOs) to certain Company officers. NQSOs are awards which grant the rights to acquire a certain number of shares of Company stock at the market price on the date of grant for an established term - typically five or more years. The rights to acquire such shares vest to the recipient according to a schedule defined in the terms of the grant agreement. NQSOs present a long-term incentive to executives with the choice of when to exercise the right to acquire the shares under the terms of the grant agreement. In this respect, NQSOs encourage executives to enter into transactions with long-term risks which may result in short-term gains in stock price at the expense of the Company's long-term financial performance. The temptation to engage in such transactions is mitigated by the following controls: (i) major transactions which might affect short-term stock price require the approval of both the CEO, as well as the Board, and (ii) our internal criteria for approving major investments utilizes a RAROC (Risk

Adjusted Return on Capital) analysis whereby riskier investments require higher reward prospects for approval, making approval more difficult to achieve.

(d) Restricted Share Awards. Restricted Share Awards (“RSAs”) are shares of Common stock delivered at grant date that vest over a three year period. The main objective of RSAs is to promote retention. To a lesser extent, they also create focus on share price and alignment with shareholders, but the Company does not feel this is significant enough to encourage the taking of undue risk positions.

Proposal for an Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

As required by Section 14A of the Exchange Act, as amended by the Dodd-Frank Act, the Board is submitting a non-binding advisory resolution to our shareholders for approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis included within this proxy statement. We believe that our executive compensation programs appropriately link pay to performance and are well aligned with the long-term interests of our shareholders. We believe that the compensation we have given, viewed in the context of our current year results, demonstrates the appropriateness of our executive compensation practices. Please refer to the Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this proxy statement for a description of the philosophy and design strategy of our compensation programs, our peer group benchmarking, and the actual values given as compensation for our named executive officers.

This advisory resolution, commonly referred to as a "say-on-pay" resolution, is non-binding on the Board of Directors. Although non-binding, the Board and the Compensation and Leadership Development Committee will review and consider the voting results when making future decisions regarding our executive compensation program. Accordingly, the Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR the approval of the following advisory resolution on executive compensation:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the compensation discussion and analysis, the compensation tables and any related material disclosed in this proxy statement is hereby APPROVED on an advisory basis.

Proposal for an Advisory Vote on the Frequency of Future Advisory Votes on Executive Compensation

As also required by revisions to the Exchange Act, pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, the Board of Directors is asking shareholders to vote on whether future advisory votes on executive compensation of the nature in the immediately preceding proposal should occur every year, every two years or every three years.

The Board of Directors has determined that holding an advisory vote on executive compensation every year is the most appropriate policy for the Company at this time and recommends that shareholders vote for future advisory votes to occur every year. While the Company's executive compensation programs are designed to promote a long-term connection between pay and performance, and certain of the financial performance tests are multi-year tests, the Board of Directors recognizes that executive compensation disclosures are made annually, the Board itself is elected annually, and audited financial performance is reported annually, and therefore there is a logical basis for seeking shareholder opinion on executive compensation in the same cycle of disclosures, reporting and elections.

Shareholders should note that because many of our executive compensation programs are linked, and the results of the advisory vote will not be available until well after the beginning of the compensation year, it may not always be appropriate or feasible to adjust our executive compensation programs in consideration of any single advisory vote by the time of the next annual meeting. We do, however, expect to consider the results of this annual advisory vote in shaping future compensation decisions and programs.

This advisory vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation is non-binding on the Board of Directors. Shareholders will be able to specify one of four choices for this proposal on the proxy card; one year, two years, three years or abstain. Shareholders are not voting to approve or disapprove the Board's recommendation, but instead to state their preference. Although non-binding, the Board and the Compensation Committee will carefully review the voting results. The Board may, in the future, decide to conduct advisory votes on a more or less frequent basis and may vary its practices based on factors such as shareholder feedback or the adoption of material changes to executive compensation programs.

The Board of Directors recommends Shareholders vote to conduct future advisory votes on executive compensation **EVERY YEAR**.

Shareholders will be asked to vote their preference as to conducting future votes on executive compensation: 1. Every year, 2. Every other year, 3. Every third year, or 4. Abstain.

Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Deloitte & Touche LLP (D&T) has served as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm since 2015. Based on its evaluation of D&T's independence and performance on the recent audit, the Audit Committee has appointed D&T as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2017 and now seeks the shareholders' ratification of such appointment.

Representatives of D&T are expected to be present at the annual meeting and will be given the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so. They will also be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Audit and Other Fees

During 2016 and 2015, D&T not only acted as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm but also rendered other services to the Company. The following table sets forth the aggregate fees for professional services rendered by D&T for audit, audit-related, tax and other services related to fiscal year 2016 and 2015.

Fees	2016	2015
Audit (1)	\$3,076,166	\$3,173,386
Audit-related (2)	—	56,498
Tax (3)	410,400	31,075
Other (4)	260,403	—
Total	\$3,746,969	\$3,260,959

(1) Comprises the audits of the Company's annual consolidated financial statements and internal controls over financial reporting and reviews of the Company's quarterly consolidated financial statements, as well as the statutory audit of the Company's consolidated subsidiary, attest services and consents to SEC filings.

(2) Amounts incurred in 2015 related to an information security and risk management assessment.

(3) Amounts incurred in 2016 and 2015 related to fees for services related to tax consultations and tax planning projects. Excluded from the 2015 amount is \$28,395 of tax consultation projects incurred prior to Deloitte's appointment as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

(4) Amount incurred in 2016 related to a strategic assessment.

Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Services Performed by the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

In accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules issued pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 which require, among other things, that the Audit Committee pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee has adopted a formal policy on auditor independence requiring the approval by the Audit Committee of all professional services rendered by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. Under this policy, the Audit Committee specifically pre-approves at the beginning of each fiscal year all known audit and audit-related services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm during that fiscal year within a general budget. Additional services that arise from time to time are pre-approved by the Audit Committee Chair and presented to the full Audit Committee at the next meeting. The Audit Committee is updated as to the actual billings for these items at each meeting.

Tax and all other services that are permitted to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm, but could also be performed by other service providers, require specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee after considering the impact of these services on auditor independence. If the Audit Committee pre-approves services in these categories by the independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee is updated at each meeting as to the actual fees billed under each project.

All audit-related services, tax and other service fees were pre-approved by the Audit Committee. All 2016 and 2015 fees noted above were for employees of D&T.

Proposal to Ratify the Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Audit Committee has hired and the Board of Directors has approved Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2017.

If the shareholders do not ratify this appointment by a majority of the shares represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting, the Audit Committee will consider other independent registered public accounting firms. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion will direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of our shareholders.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm.

Share Ownership

Shares Owned by Directors and Executive Officers

The following table indicates the number of Common Shares beneficially owned as of February 28, 2017. The table displays this information for the directors and executive officers as a group, for each director individually and for each of the Named Executive Officers (as defined hereafter). Unless otherwise indicated, each person has sole investment and voting power with respect to the shares set forth in the following table. Except as noted below, the address of the beneficial owners is The Andersons, Inc., 1947 Briarfield Boulevard, Maumee, Ohio 43537.

Name	Amount and Nature of Shares Beneficially Owned			
	Options (a)	Common Shares	Aggregate Number Of Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class (b)
Michael J. Anderson, Sr.	—	566,541	(c) 566,541	2.0 %
Gerard M. Anderson	—	331,318	(d) 331,318	1.2 %
Valerie M. Blanchett	—	7,804	7,804	*
Patrick E. Bowe	108,333	57,854	166,187	*
Arthur D. DePompei	—	14,372	14,372	*
John J. Granato	—	17,024	17,024	*
Corbett J. Jorgenson	—	15,504	15,504	*
Catherine M. Kilbane	—	24,305	24,305	*
Robert J. King, Jr.	—	25,887	(e) 25,887	*
Ross W. Manire	—	12,843	12,843	*
Donald L. Mennel	—	67,751	(f) 67,751	*
Patrick S. Mullin	—	7,759	7,759	*
Harold M. Reed	—	105,065	(g) 105,065	*
Rasesh H. Shah	—	48,927	(h) 48,927	*
John T. Stout, Jr.	—	18,221	(i) 18,221	*
Jacqueline F. Woods	—	15,873	15,873	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (24 persons, including Mr. DePompei and Mr. Reed)	108,333	1,686,585	1,794,918	6.3 %

(a) Includes options exercisable within 60 days of February 28, 2017.

(b) An asterisk denotes percentages less than one percent.

(c) Includes 150,138 Common Shares held by Mrs. Carol H. Anderson, Mr. Anderson's spouse. Mr. Anderson disclaims beneficial ownership of such Common Shares.

(d) Includes 316,497 Common shares held by trust.

(e) Includes 18,970 Common shares held by trust.

(f) Includes 1,237 Common shares held by Mrs. Louise Mennel, Mr. Mennel's spouse. Mr. Mennel disclaims beneficial ownership of such Common shares. Also includes 35,655 Common shares held by trust.

(g) Includes 55,563 Common shares held by trust.

(h) Includes 648 Common shares held by trust.

(i) Includes 4,219 Common shares held by trust.

Share Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners

The following table indicates the number of Common Shares beneficially owned by each shareholder who is known to own beneficially more than 5% of our Common Shares as of December 31, 2016:

Title of Class	Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Common Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class as of December 31, 2016
Common Shares	The Vanguard Group, Inc. (a) 100 Vanguard Boulevard Malvern, PA 19355	2,475,433	8.77 %
Common Shares	Blackrock, Inc. (b) 55 East 52 nd Street New York, NY 10055	3,089,438	11.00 %
Common Shares	Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (c) Building One 6300 Bee Cave Road Austin, TX 78746	2,111,448	7.49 %
Common Shares	Victory Capital Management, Inc. (d) 4900 Tiedeman Rd., 4th Floor Brooklyn, OH 44144	1,882,110	6.67 %

Based upon information set forth in the Schedule 13G filed on February 9, 2017 by The Vanguard Group, Inc. The Vanguard Group, Inc. is an investment adviser and holding company with the sole power to vote 32,125 Common Shares and sole dispositive power over 2,440,658 Common Shares. Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company ("VFTC") is (a) a wholly owned subsidiary of The Vanguard Group, Inc. and an investment manager of collective trust accounts with the sole power to vote and dispose of 30,675 Common Shares. Vanguard Investments Australia, Ltd. ("VIA") is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Vanguard Group, Inc. and an investment manager of Australian investment offerings with the sole power to vote and dispose of 5,550 Common Shares.

Based upon information set forth in the Schedule 13G filed on January 12, 2017 by Blackrock, Inc. Blackrock, Inc. (b) is a holding company or control person with the sole power to vote 3,024,819 Common Shares and sole dispositive power over 3,089,438 Common Shares.

Based upon information set forth in the Schedule 13G filed on February 9, 2017 by Dimensional Fund Advisors (c) LP. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP is an investment adviser with the sole power to vote 2,053,088 Common Shares and sole dispositive power over 2,111,448 Common Shares.

Based upon information set forth in the Schedule 13G filed on February 10, 2017 by Victory Capital Management, (d) Inc. Victory Capital Management, Inc. is an investment adviser with the sole power to vote 1,830,510 Common Shares and sole dispositive power over 1,882,110 Common Shares.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires executive officers and directors to file reports of securities ownership and changes in such ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, persons that are not executive officers or directors but who beneficially own more than ten percent of Common Shares must also report under Section 16(a). Copies of all Section 16(a) forms filed by officers, directors and greater-than-10% owners are required to be provided to the Company.

We have reviewed the reports and written representations from the executive officers and directors. Based on our review, we believe that all filing requirements were met during 2016, except for the following:

- Donald L. Mennel filed a late Form 4 on January 26, 2016 for an acquisition and disposal of shares;

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- Tamara S. Sparks filed a late Form 4 on June 21, 2016 for an acquisition of shares;
- William J. Wolf filed a late Form 4 on June 21, 2016 for an acquisition of shares; and
- Corbett J. Jorgenson filed a late initial Form 3 on February 18, 2016.

Compensation and Leadership Development Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

No member of our Compensation and Leadership Development Committee has served as one of our officers or employees at any time. None of our executive officers serves as a member of the compensation committee of any other company that has an executive officer serving as a member of our Board. None of our executive officers serves as a member of the board of directors of any other company that has an executive officer serving as a member of our Compensation and Leadership Development Committee.

Executive Compensation

Compensation and Leadership Development Committee Report

The Compensation and Leadership Development Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis which follows, and, based on such review and discussion, recommends to the Board of Directors of The Andersons, Inc. that it be included in this proxy statement and incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

COMPENSATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Catherine M. Kilbane (chair), Robert J. King, Jr., John T. Stout, Jr., Jacqueline F. Woods

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

The following section describes the components of our executive compensation program for our named executive officers (“Named Executive Officers” or “NEOs”), whose compensation is set forth in the Summary Compensation Table and other compensation tables contained in this proxy statement. For the year ended December 31, 2016, our NEOs included the following individuals:

Officers	Title as of December 31, 2016
Patrick E. Bowe	Chief Executive Officer
John J. Granato	Chief Financial Officer
Corbett J. Jorgenson	President, Grain Group
Valerie M. Blanchett	Vice President, Human Resources
Rasesh H. Shah	President, Rail Group
Harold M. Reed	Former Chief Operating Officer
Arthur D. DePompei	Former Vice President, Human Resources

Harold M. Reed and Arthur D. DePompei retired on July 31 and April 30, 2016 respectively; however 2016 compensation for both was such that they qualified as NEOs for the year ended December 31, 2016. Both Mr. Reed and Mr. DePompei received severance compensation and therefore, their compensation is not included in any of the Company's supplementary charts and tables but is included in all other required disclosures.

Executive Summary

Rewarding Performance and Achieving Objectives

Our compensation plans and policies are structured to achieve the following goals:

• Compensation should reflect a balanced mix of short-term and long-term components.

• Short-term cash compensation (which is both base pay and bonuses) should be based on annual Company, business unit and individual performance.

• Long-term equity compensation should encourage achievement of the Company's long-term performance goals and align the interests of executives with shareholders.

• Executives should build and maintain appropriate levels of Company stock ownership so their interests continue to be aligned with the Company's shareholders.

• Compensation levels should be sufficient to attract and retain highly qualified employees.

• Compensation should reflect individual performance and responsibilities.

To do so, we provide:

Base Salary	A base salary is established for each position, based upon extensive benchmarking and an understanding of each individual's responsibilities and experience.
Short-Term Incentive Compensation	An annual cash bonus. Most of the bonus is determined by a formula based on pre-tax income of both the executive's individual business group, and the Company as a whole. A smaller amount is awarded at the discretion of the CEO based on individual contributions. The pool available for the CEO's discretionary awards is determined by a formula also based on pre-tax income.
Long-Term Incentive Compensation:	
Restricted Share Awards ("RSAs")	Grants of common stock subject to vesting over a multi-year period. In 2016, fifty percent (50%) of the annual equity grant was in the form of RSAs.
Performance Share Units ("PSUs")	Units convertible to common stock upon performance criteria being met over a multi-year period. Performance criteria for vesting PSUs is based upon: 1) cumulative EPS and 2) relative Total Shareholder Return (rTSR). For awards made in 2016, one-half (50%) of PSUs will vest based on cumulative EPS criteria and one-half (50%) will vest based on rTSR over the 2016-2018 performance period.

NEO compensation is designed to maintain a strong link between pay and performance, with both short and long-term incentives. The majority of our NEO compensation will vary based on performance. In 2016, 76% of CEO compensation and 57% of all other NEO's compensation is designed to vary with Company and business Group performance. Collectively, Group Presidents have 31% of total compensation that varies with Company performance and 25% that varies with business Group performance. Group Presidents that are not NEO's are excluded from the pie chart below. Individual business Group performance is a strong determinant of the Company's overall annual operating performance and the achievement of long-term strategic objectives.

Mix of Target Compensation

2016 Financial Performance Highlights

The Company's results in 2016 are highlighted below.

Net income of \$11.6 million for 2016 or \$0.41 per diluted share (1)

Rail Group led the way with \$32.4 million of pre-tax income for the year

Ethanol Group delivered \$24.7 million of pretax income

Grain Group continued its rebound with pretax income of \$12.9 million in the quarter after a good harvest in the Eastern Corn Belt, but lost \$15.7 million for the year

Plant Nutrient Group ended the year higher, with pretax income of \$14.2 million including charges related to shutting down a cob facility

Retail Group recorded a pretax \$6.5 million asset impairment charge after the Company announced its intent to exit the business, driving a full-year pretax loss of \$8.8 million

(1) The net income number used to determine compensation amounts was adjusted to remove certain charges, such as fixed asset impairment charges.

Based on these results as well as other measures of our financial performance, executives received limited or no payouts under our annual incentive plan for 2016 performance and no payout for the performance based portion of our long-term incentive plans during 2016. More specifically:

None of our NEOs received a payout as part of his or her annual cash bonus based on company performance. The President, Rail Group received a payout based on his individual and segment-specific performance.

The PSUs granted in 2014 were based on our 3-year cumulative EPS performance. No executive received a payout on these awards as our actual 3-year cumulative EPS (\$5.46) fell below the threshold set for these awards (\$9.41)

These results are further demonstrated in the graphs below.

The following “NEO Management Bonus and Pre-Tax Income” graph illustrates our pay-for-performance approach to compensation. The graph displays trends in pre-tax income compared to total short-term incentives for the Company’s NEOs for each year. The Company's annual incentive program is designed to be directly responsive to changes in earnings. Over the five year period, changes in annual incentive compensation for NEOs were appropriately aligned with changes in pre-tax income.

The following long-term performance and compensation graphs illustrate diluted EPS and resulting CEO equity-based compensation from Performance Share Units (PSUs) for the performance periods ending on December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016,

Long-Term Performance Based Compensation- Cumulative EPS

(1) CEO Compensation Based on EPS reflects target and actual amounts for Michael J. Anderson, Sr. through 2015. Prior to 2016, 100% of all PSUs granted were vested based upon cumulative EPS performance.

We establish both threshold and target levels for our incentives, and cap formula based incentive awards, no matter how extraordinary the performance, at twice the target incentive. We believe our standards for threshold and target levels provide fair and challenging tests. In 2015, two business units exceeded target, all other business units finished below threshold. In 2016, one business unit achieved target and another achieved 80% of target; all other business units and the Company finished below threshold. The relationship between incentive-based pay and performance is strong as evidenced by the graphs of annual and long-term NEO compensation. See the Bonus, Performance Targets & Thresholds section below for greater detail.

Other than required executive officer physicals, there are no perquisites, unusual reimbursements (other than certain reimbursements made to Patrick Bowe in conjunction with his employment agreement described below) or non-cash rewards (other than equity). Other than Patrick Bowe, our NEO's and senior executives do not have employment contracts. All NEOs have a severance policy and change of control plan, which is described in this CD&A.

Compensation for Patrick E. Bowe

In September 2015, the Company announced the selection of Patrick E. Bowe as its new Chief Executive Officer, commencing November 2015. Mr. Bowe joined the Board of Directors of the Company, and Michael J. Anderson, Sr. remained as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The terms of Mr. Bowe's compensation package are set forth in an executive employment agreement which were publicly disclosed at the time of the announcement. The standard annual elements of Mr. Bowe's target Total Direct Compensation for 2016 are summarized below:

CEO
 Total
 Target
 Direct
 Compensation
 Base
 salary:
 Target
 Annual
 Bonus:
 Total
 Target
~~\$900,000~~
 \$900,000 (100% of base) salary
~~\$2,800,000~~
 \$2,800,000
~~\$2,000,000~~
 \$2,000,000
~~\$3,800,000~~
 Term
 Incentive
 Compensation:
 Total
 Target
 Direct
 Compensation:

Mr. Bowe's executive employment agreement is for an indefinite term, subject to termination at any time by the Company or Mr. Bowe. The agreement provides for severance payments and benefits in the event that Mr. Bowe's position with

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the Company is involuntarily terminated by the Company without cause or by Mr. Bowe for good reason. Mr. Bowe's agreement also includes reimbursement for certain moving and relocation expenses. Further details of Mr. Bowe's agreement are described in the Employment Contracts and Severance Benefits section.

Consideration of 2016 Say on Pay Advisory Vote

The Company's executive compensation plans were approved by 75% of the shareholders in the 2016 proxy. In view of this result, we believe there is broad support by the shareholders for the overall direction, philosophy and relative magnitude of our executive compensation plans. As a result, no material changes were made to the Company's executive compensation plans in direct response to the voting results. Consistent with our recommendation, we are submitting our executive compensation plans, to the annual non-binding vote of the shareholders in this proxy statement. The Company has decided to continue this practice on an annual basis.

Compensation Governance Framework

In order to meet the key objectives of our executive compensation program and to mitigate risk from our compensation practices, the company has adopted a strong corporate governance framework that includes the components described below.

Stock Ownership Guidelines - We have established stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers with target shareholding levels expressed as multiples of base salary to further align the interests of our executives with those of our shareholders.

- **Share Retention Requirement** - Company officers are required to retain at least 75% of the net shares acquired through incentive awards until their target shareholding level is achieved, thereafter, they are required to retain 25% of the future net shares which they acquire until two times their established target shareholding level is achieved.

Recoupment Policy - We have adopted a policy commencing 2014 requiring the repayment or "clawback" of excess cash or equity based compensation from each executive officer of the Company (and also the group controller of the relevant business unit) where the payments were based on the achievement of financial results that were subsequently the subject of a financial restatement (regardless of involvement in the cause of the restatement).

Double-Trigger Vesting - Our 2014 Long-term Incentive Compensation Plan does not provide for the automatic acceleration of equity awards upon a Change in Control without a qualifying termination of employment, and it is the intention of the committee to require such double-trigger vesting on all future equity awards.

No Stock Option Re-Pricing - The 2014 Plan does not permit us to reprice stock options without shareholder approval or to grant stock options with an exercise price below fair market value.

No Excise Tax Gross-Ups - The Company does not provide tax gross-ups for excise taxes that may be imposed under IRC Section 4999 following a change-in-control or on executive benefits and perquisites during normal employment.

Annual Say on Pay Vote - We value the input of our shareholders and include a non-binding vote on our executive compensation policies and practices annually.

General Principles and Procedures

Compensation and Leadership Development Committee's Role and Responsibilities

The Compensation and Leadership Development Committee, which is composed solely of independent directors, reviews all aspects of cash and long-term incentive compensation for executive officers and makes recommendations to the Board pursuant to a committee charter, which is reviewed and approved by the Governance and Nominating

Committee, and ratified by the full Board, annually.

The CEO along with the Vice President, Human Resources make initial recommendations to the Compensation and Leadership Development Committee and participate in Compensation and Leadership Development Committee discussions. In the case of the CEO, compensation is determined by the Compensation and Leadership Development Committee. The Compensation and Leadership Development Committee then makes recommendations related to the compensation provided to all executive officers (including the CEO) to the Board of Directors for their approval.

Compensation Consultants

The Compensation and Leadership Development Committee is empowered by its charter to retain its own independent legal and compensation consultants, at the Company's expense. The committee decided to retain its own adviser in light of significant executive compensation projects undertaken in recent years. The committee engaged Semler Brossy Consulting Group to objectively review and make recommendations regarding 1) all aspects of our Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan and equity award grant agreements, and 2) all elements of Total Direct Compensation for executive officers and non-employee independent directors. As described above, Semler Brossy was also retained to make recommendations and evaluate the compensation terms necessary to successfully recruit a new Chief Executive Officer, and to review the terms of the compensation for a separate Chairman of the Board of Directors. The committee assessed the independence of Semler Brossy based on the Nasdaq listing standards and determined that Semler Brossy is independent of management. The firm continued to provide independent advice to the committee in 2016 regarding such matters.

For 2016, management retained Findley Davies, a third party human resource consulting and actuarial, and services firm to assist in the administration of its equity-based executive compensation and non-qualified deferred compensation programs.

The committee concluded that Findley Davies could not be considered independent of management of the Company, owing to the volume of non-executive compensation related services and fees with the Company, and the lack of separation between the individual Findley Davies consultants performing both executive compensation and other services. Findley Davies also performs consulting, communications and technical support of the health and welfare and retirement plans for the Company.

Benchmarking

For all salaried positions, including our NEOs, we compare our compensation to that of other companies on a regular basis. For 2016, compensation was benchmarked against public market data from peer company proxies as well as based on data published in annual surveys conducted by Willis Towers Watson.

We have consistently utilized a peer group whose average revenues are lower than our actual revenues as we believe that our commodities-based business generates revenue that overstates our true peer size, and we have sought to avoid the upward compensation pressure that a peer group of companies with larger revenue might create. With the assistance of Semler Brossy, we have also selected data from the general industry surveys that reflect a smaller revenue scope than our actual revenues for the same reasons.

Starting in 2015, pay decisions, especially in relation to our search for a new CEO, were informed by public market data from the proxies of a new list of peer group companies recommended by Semler Brossy to better reflect our mix of businesses and economics as compared to the peers used in prior years. In addition to sales and industry, we considered net income, total assets, market capitalization and return metrics including return on revenue, assets and equity in selecting comparable peers. This peer group continued to be used for NEO pay decisions in 2016. A list of the 18 companies in the peer group follows below:

Alon USA Energy, Inc.	Greenbrier Cos., Inc.
Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.	Ingles Markets, Inc.
Calumet Specialty Products Partners LP	Northern Tier Energy LP (1)
Casey's General Stores, Inc.	Sanderson Farms, Inc.
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Seaboard Corp.
Dean Foods Co.	SpartanNash Co.
Flowers Foods, Inc.	Trinity Industries, Inc.
Fresh Del Monte Produce, Inc.	United Natural Foods, Inc.
Green Plains, Inc.	Universal Corp.

(1) Northern Tier Energy LP merged with Western Refining in June 2016. To the extent pay data is available from Northern Tier it will be incorporated into benchmarking.

Our pay strategy is to have Total Direct Compensation (sum of base salary, short-term incentive and long-term incentive) on a par with the median of our competitive benchmark if annually established target levels for Company

and business unit pre-tax income are achieved. Prior to 2016, we generally set base salary below the market median and used short-term and long-term incentive pay to bring the NEO's Total Direct Compensation to our market-based target.

In 2016, while the Committee referenced the median of market data for all elements of total compensation when making pay decisions for NEOs, actual and target pay for each executive may vary from market median based on the Committee's

assessment of each individual’s skill, experience, performance and other contributions, as well as the overall business context of the Company and year-over-year changes in market pay levels, each assessed by the Committee in its judgment without any specific weightings or formulas. For Mr. Bowe's initial compensation package effective with his hiring in November 2015, the Committee specifically targeted total direct compensation at the median of the peer group listed above based on data provided by Semler Brossy. No changes were made to Mr. Bowe's compensation during 2016.

Following is an overview of the 2016 components of Total Direct Compensation for Named Executive Officers:

		Element	Description	Objective	Delivery
Total Direct Compensation	Total Cash Compensation	Base Salary	Generally targeted at around the median of market benchmarks.	Payment for day to day performance of job accountabilities. A market-based range allows for variation based on skills, experience, and performance.	Cash
		Short-term Incentive Compensation – Management Performance Program	Annual incentive bonus opportunity calculated as percentage of base salary. Total incentive is based primarily upon the formula as described in Bonus, Performance Targets & Thresholds below. A discretionary award may also be awarded by the CEO. At Target performance in 2016, pool of funds available for discretionary awards is 30% of the total incentive bonus pool. Maximum formula-based payment, regardless of performance, is 2 times the Targeted cash bonus.	Incentive for annual pre-tax income performance plus other non-financial objectives. Allocation of discretionary pool based on assessment of overall individual performance and achievement of individual objectives.	Cash
	Long-term Incentive (LTI) Compensation	Performance Share Units (PSUs)	Grant amount based on half of the NEO’s total LTI target pool. Vesting of PSUs granted in 2016 is based upon achievement of: 1) targeted cumulative diluted Earnings Per Share (EPS) over the 3 year performance period,	Taken together, the two measures used for vesting PSUs reward an effective balance between consistent year-over- year earnings and shareholder return expectations. Addition of rTSR strengthens the link	Conversion of units to common shares (if earned) at end of 3-year performance period and are then subject to Ownership & Retention

	and 2) relative Total Shareholder Return (rTSR) over the 3 year performance period. 50% of PSUs are allocated to cumulative EPS and the remaining 50% to rTSR.	between share price growth and long-term compensation.	Policy.
Restricted Stock Awards (RSAs)	Grant amount based on half of the NEO's total LTI target pool.	Promotes retention due to the multi-year vesting period. Also creates focus on share price and alignment with shareholders.	Delivery of restricted shares at grant date. Shares fully vest after three years and are then subject to Ownership & Retention Policy.

2016 Executive Compensation Components

Base Pay

Generally, annual increases to base salary for each NEO are determined based upon the NEO's current salary relative to competitive benchmark information, individual performance and the Company's expectations for overall wage expense increases. Larger salary increases may occur when promotions or additional accountabilities create additional value for a specific position, benchmark studies indicate that an adjustment is necessary to maintain market competitiveness, or based upon considerations of internal equity with other similarly situated NEOs.

As discussed above, our target salary positioning has historically been lower compared to market median for NEOs and our other most senior executives. This philosophy called for a higher degree of variable performance-based compensation to achieve our overall objective of market median for total direct compensation. For 2016, the Committee referenced the median of competitive benchmark information for considering each NEOs competitive salary positioning. The Committee considers a range of plus or minus 15% from the median of the benchmark information as a competitive target range. The larger increase for Mr. Granato shown in the table below is reflection of a combination of these factors.

Following is a table setting forth NEO annualized base salary for year-end 2016 and 2015 and the percentage change.

	YE 2016	YE 2015	% Change in	2016
	Base	Base	Base	Actual
	Salary	Salary	Salary	Base
				Earnings
Patrick E. Bowe	\$900,000	\$900,000	—	% \$900,000
John J. Granato	420,000	360,000	16.7	% 403,846
Corbett J. Jorgenson	325,000	—	—	% 287,500
Valerie M. Blanchett	275,000	—	—	% 232,692
Rasesh H. Shah	350,000	343,000	2.0	% 334,923

Bonus, Performance Targets & Thresholds

We believe that our cash bonus plan (which we call the Management Performance Program or "MPP") encourages sound investment decisions, prudent asset management, and profitable Group and Company performance.

The Management Performance Program requires the setting of annual income "Thresholds" and "Targets" for each of the Company's business Groups and for the total Company. "Thresholds" are levels of pre-tax income that must be achieved before any MPP payment is earned. At Threshold performance, only minimum levels of MPP payments are earned. "Targets" are the levels of pre-tax income at which the resulting MPP payment will equal the targeted competitive level of compensation discussed under "Benchmarking" above. Bonus amounts are capped at 200% of the formula Target. For 2016, that level is generally achieved when the Company's income performance reaches 135% of the income Target.

In 2016, as in prior years, Target and Threshold amounts were not current year budgets or predictions, but they do represent the expectation of return on investment for the business Group and the Company given our level of investment in that Group. The influence of longer-term return on investment expectations on short-term goal setting has tended to deemphasize the volatile nature of several of our businesses making annual Targets and Thresholds less responsive to current market conditions.

Income Targets and Thresholds for the coming year for each business unit are presented to the Committee prior to the start of the year. The Committee then makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors for its approval. All 2016 Targets and Thresholds were determined through this process and were approved by the Board of Directors.

Significant changes in the asset base due to acquisition or additional investment in joint ventures that occur after approval will not cause a change to the approved Targets and Thresholds. Further, the financial performance from such acquisitions or additional investment will not be included in the income used for bonus calculations. The Targets and Thresholds impacting 2016 NEO compensation were as follows:

	Pre-Tax Income (\$000s)		
	Threshold	Target	Maximum
Grain	\$18,500	\$43,500	\$58,725
Ethanol	14,400	24,000	32,400
Plant Nutrient	24,000	40,000	54,000
Rail	21,600	36,000	48,600
Retail	500	3,500	4,725
Company	76,800	128,000	172,800

If the Company, as a whole, or an individual business unit exceeds Threshold, the amount available for formula bonuses will be increased proportionately. If Thresholds are not met, no formula bonuses are earned. NEOs who are Group Presidents earn 50% of their bonus on their Group's pre-tax income performance, 20% on overall Company pre-tax income performance, and 30% based on an assessment by the CEO of individual performance. Patrick E. Bowe, John J. Granato and Valerie M. Blanchett earn 100% of their formula bonus based on Company pre-tax income performance. While our expectation is that each business unit will achieve at least Threshold returns resulting in at least a minimum formula bonus, this is not always possible due to the volatility of our industries.

The MPP cash bonus also includes a discretionary portion determined by the CEO individually for each executive (other than the CEO). The Committee considers and approves a recommended discretionary amount for the CEO. In 2016, the pool of dollars available to the CEO for this discretionary portion is based on a combination of business Group pre-tax income performance and the Company's pre-tax income performance. A threshold amount of 12% of each executive's total MPP target award is included in the funded amount of the discretionary pool. As Group and Company pre-tax income Thresholds are exceeded the funding of the discretionary pool increases proportionately. At Target performance the aggregate pool for discretionary awards is 30% of the total MPP cash bonus pool. The CEO bases his determination for discretionary awards on his assessment of the NEO's business group and individual performance, unique challenges faced by such NEO's industry, as well as the size of the NEO's formula based MPP cash award in light of the challenges and opportunities which may have impacted their ability to achieve Target income levels. The CEO has considerable latitude in awarding the discretionary award to the executive team, but each discretionary award recommended by the CEO must be approved by the Committee.

Individual business Groups for the NEOs had the following results:

	Company	Rail	Ethanol	Grain	Plant Nutrient
2016	Below Threshold	Exceeded Threshold	Target	Below Threshold	Below Threshold
2015	Threshold	Exceeded Target	Exceeded Target	Below Threshold	Below Threshold
2014	Exceeded Target	Exceeded Target	Exceeded Target	Exceeded Threshold	Above Threshold

The following table includes 2016 and 2015 MPP payouts (including both formula and discretionary components) and the percentage of total target bonus for each of the NEOs. Patrick E. Bowe, Corbett J. Jorgenson and Valerie M. Blanchett did not receive MPP payouts for 2015.

	MPP			2015		
	2016 Payout	Target	% of Target	2015 Payout	Target	% of Target
Patrick E. Bowe	\$110,000	\$900,000	12 %	\$-	—	— %
John J. Granato	46,000	336,000	14 %	120,000	400,000	41 %
Corbett J. Jorgenson	40,000	243,750	16 %	—	—	— %
Valerie M. Blanchett	30,000	192,500	16 %	—	—	— %
Rasesh H. Shah	182,000	262,500	69 %	400,000	400,000	183 %

Equity Grants

Equity was issued to our executives in 2016 under the Company's 2014 Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan ("LTC") in the form of 50% RSAs and 50% PSUs. For all executives we target long-term compensation to be an amount on the date of grant which, when combined with base salary and target bonus, brings the aggregate Total Direct Compensation to a level that approximates the median Total Direct Compensation reflected in our competitive benchmark information. For the 2016 grants, the NEOs targeted LTC value on the date of grant equaled 222% of salary for Patrick E. Bowe, 85% of salary for our CFO and averages 57% of salary for the remaining NEOs.

Restricted Share Awards (RSAs)

RSAs promote retention and alignment with shareholder interests by tying executives' realized pay to Company share price. The 2016 RSAs vest in three installments - 33.3% per year starting on January 2nd following the year of grant and annually thereafter until 100% vested. Dividends on awarded RSAs are delivered in the form of additional shares as restrictions lapse equivalent to the dollar value of dividends attributable to the number of shares vesting.