



## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-103015; File No. SR-BOX-2025-12]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; BOX Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, to Amend Rule 5020 (Criteria for Underlying Securities) to Permit the Listing of Options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares**

May 9, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on April 25, 2025, BOX Exchange LLC (“Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. On May 7, 2025, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change, which supersedes and replaces the original proposal in its entirety.<sup>3</sup> The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, from interested persons.

#### **I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5020 (Criteria for Underlying Securities) to permit the listing of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The Exchange initially filed this rule change on April 25, 2025 (the “Original Filing”),<sup>4</sup> this Amendment No.1 amends and replaces the Original Filing in its entirety.<sup>5</sup> The text of the proposed rule change is available from

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> This Amendment No. 1 modifies the original filing by adding clarification regarding the applicability of the \$5.00 strike program and correcting minor technical errors.

<sup>4</sup> See SR-BOX-2025-12.

<sup>5</sup> This Amendment No. 1 corrects typographical errors, adds clarity, and makes other corrections to the Original Filing.

the principal office of the Exchange, at the Commission’s Public Reference Room and also on the Exchange’s Internet website at <https://rules.boxexchange.com/rulefilings>.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

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

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to amend Rule 5020 (Criteria for Underlying Securities). Specifically, the Exchange proposes to modify Rule 5020(h), regarding the criteria for listing and trading options on Exchange-Traded Fund Shares (“ETFs”), to allow options on units that represent interests in a trust that is a Commodity-Based Trust. The Exchange notes that this proposal is competitive as Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“Nasdaq ISE”), NYSE American LLC (“NYSE American”), NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE ARCA”), Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe”), and Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC (“MIAX”) have submitted substantially identical rule changes.<sup>6</sup> A Commodity-Based Trust is defined in NYSE ARCA Rule 8.201-E(c)(1), The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC Rule 5711(d)(iv), and Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. Rule 14.11(e)(4) as a security (a) that is issued by a trust (“Trust”) that holds (1) a specified commodity deposited with the Trust, or (2) a specified commodity and, in addition to such specified commodity, cash;

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<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102465 (February 20, 2025), 90 FR 10740 (February 26, 2025) (SR-ISE-2025-08) (Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Options 4, Section 3, Criteria for Underlying Securities to permit options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102577 (March 11, 2025), 90 FR 12377 (March 17, 2025) (SR-NYSEARCA-2025-16); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102555 (March 10, 2025), 90 FR 12189 (March 14, 2025) (SR-NYSEAMER-2025-07); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102647 (March 13, 2025), 90 FR 12865 (March 19, 2025) (SR-Cboe-2025-014); and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102658 (March 13, 2025), 90 FR 12870 (March 19, 2025) (SR-MIAX-2025-07).

(b) that is issued by such Trust in a specified aggregate minimum number in return for a deposit of a quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash; and (c) that, when aggregated in the same specified minimum number, may be redeemed at a holder's request by such Trust which will deliver to the redeeming holder the quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash.

The Exchange proposes to amend its listing criteria at Rule 5020(h)(iv) to provide that:

(h) Securities deemed appropriate for options trading shall include shares or other securities ("Exchange-Traded Fund Shares") that are traded on a national securities exchange and are defined as an "NMS stock" under Rule 600 of Regulation NMS and that... (iv) represent interests in a security (a) issued by a trust that holds (1) a specified commodity deposited with the trust, or (2) a specified commodity and, in addition to such specified commodity, cash; (b) that is issued by such trust in a specified aggregate minimum number in return for a deposit of a quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash; and (c) that, when aggregated in the same specified minimum number, may be redeemed at a holder's request by such trust which will deliver to the redeeming holder the quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash ("Commodity-Based Trust Share").

The Exchange proposes to insert this proposed rule text and to remove the now unnecessary references to the SPDR® Gold Trust, the iShares COMEX Gold Trust, the iShares Silver Trust, the abrdn Gold ETF Trust, the abrdn Silver ETF Trust, the abrdn Palladium ETF Trust, the abrdn Platinum ETF Trust, the Sprott Physical Gold Trust, the iShares Bitcoin Trust, the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust, the Grayscale Bitcoin Mini Trust, the Bitwise Bitcoin ETF, the Fidelity Wise Origin Bitcoin Fund, the ARK 21Shares Bitcoin ETF, the iShares Ethereum Trust, the Grayscale Ethereum Trust ETF, the Grayscale Ethereum Mini Trust ETF, the Bitwise Ethereum ETF, or the Fidelity Ethereum Fund, which are all Commodity-Based Trust Shares.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See proposed BOX Rule 5020(h)(iv).

As a result of this amendment, the Exchange’s listing criteria would allow any ETF approved to list on the primary market as a Commodity-Based Trust Share to qualify as an underlying for options traded on BOX, provided other listing criteria have been met.<sup>8</sup>

The Exchange also proposes to delete IM-5020-1 (Commodity-Based Trust Shares) which contains a now unnecessary and duplicative definition of Commodity-Based Trust Shares. IM-5020-1 provides, “Commodity-Based Trust Shares” shall, unless the context otherwise requires, mean a security that (a) is issued by a trust ("Trust") that holds a specified commodity deposited with the Trust; (b) is issued by such Trust in a specified aggregate minimum number in return for a deposit of a quantity of the underlying commodity; and (c) when aggregated in the same specified minimum number, may be redeemed at a holder's request by such Trust which will deliver to the redeeming holder the quantity of the underlying commodity. The Exchange is proposing to delete IM-5020-1 to align with the proposed changes herein.

The Exchange’s initial listing standards in Rule 5020(a) will apply to options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares. Rule 5020(a) requires that, a security on which options may be listed and traded on the Exchange must be duly registered (with the Commission) and be an NMS stock (as defined in Rule 600 of Regulation NMS under the Act) and be characterized by a substantial number of outstanding shares that are widely held and actively traded.<sup>9</sup> Further, for an ETF to qualify for options transactions pursuant to Rule 5020(h), the ETF must either (1) meet

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<sup>8</sup> The Exchange believes this proposal is consistent with the OCC’s recent amendment of “Fund Share” (which covers ETFs), as defined in Article I of OCC’s By-Laws (including the Interpretation and Policy), to remove reference to specific precious metals commodity-based ETFs as “no longer relevant or necessary.” See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102018 (December 20, 2024), 89 FR 106660 (December 30, 2024) (SR-OCC-2024-018). The impetus for this rule change was the staff advisory issued by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) that deemed it “‘substantially likely’ that spot commodity ETF shares would be held to be securities” which, in turn, resulted in the OCC’s determination that “it no longer needs to seek product-by-product exemptive relief from the CFTC to clear spot commodity-based ETF products, including precious metals commodity-based ETFs.” See *id.*, 89 FR, at 106661. See also CFTC Staff Advisory Relating to the Clearing of Options on Spot Commodity Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), Letter No. 24-16 (Nov. 15, 2024), available at <https://www.cftc.gov/csl/24-16/download>.

<sup>9</sup> See BOX Rules 5020(a) and (b).

the criteria for underlying securities set forth in Rule 5020(a) and (b),<sup>10</sup> or (2) be available for creation and redemption each business day as set forth in Rule 5020(h)(1).<sup>11</sup>

Additionally, Commodity-Based Trust Shares will also be subject to the Exchange's continued listing standards for options on ETFs, including those set out in Rule 5030(h). Moreover, Commodity-Based Trust Shares will not be deemed to meet the requirements for continued approval, and the Exchange will not open for trading any additional series of option contracts covering Commodity-Based Trust Shares if such security ceases to be an "NMS stock" as provided for in Rule 5030(b)(6) or the Commodity-Based Trust Share is halted from trading on its primary market.<sup>12</sup> The Exchange notes that ETFs that hold financial instruments, money market instruments, or precious metal commodities on which the Exchange may already list and trade options pursuant to Rule 5020(h), are trusts structured in substantially the same manner as options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share and essentially offer the same objectives and benefits to investors, just with respect to different assets. The Exchange notes that it has not identified any issues with the continued listing and trading of any ETF options, including ETFs that hold commodities (i.e., precious metals) that it currently lists and trades on BOX.

Consistent with Rule 5050, which governs the opening of options series on a specific underlying security (including ETFs), BOX will open at least one expiration month for options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share<sup>13</sup> at the commencement of trading on BOX and may also list

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<sup>10</sup> The criteria and guidelines for a security to be considered widely held and actively traded are set forth in BOX Rule 5020(b), subject to the exceptions outlined in Rule 5020(b)(6).

<sup>11</sup> BOX Rule 5020(h)(1) requires that the Exchange-Traded Fund Shares are available for creation or redemption each business day from or through the issuing trust, investment company, commodity pool or other entity in cash or in kind at a price related to net asset value, and the issuer is obligated to issue Exchange-Traded Fund Shares in a specified aggregate number even if some or all of the investment assets and/or cash required to be deposited have not been received by the issuer, subject to the condition that the person obligated to deposit the investment assets has undertaken to deliver them as soon as possible and such undertaking is secured by the delivery and maintenance of collateral consisting of cash or cash equivalents satisfactory to the issuer of the Exchange-Traded Fund Shares, all as described in the Exchange-Traded Fund Shares' prospectus.

<sup>12</sup> See BOX Rule 5030(h).

<sup>13</sup> See BOX Rule 5050(b). The standard expirations are subject to certain listing criteria for underlying securities described within BOX Rule 5020. Standard listings expire the third Friday of the month. The term "expiration date" (unless separately defined elsewhere in the OCC By-Laws), when used in respect of an option contract (subject to certain exceptions), means the third Friday of the expiration month of such

series of options on such Commodity-Based Trust Share for trading on a weekly,<sup>14</sup> monthly,<sup>15</sup> or quarterly<sup>16</sup> basis. BOX may also list long-term equity option series (“LEAPS”) that expire from twelve to one hundred eighty months from the time they are listed.<sup>17</sup>

Pursuant to IM-5050-1(b), which governs strike prices of series of options on ETFs, the interval between strike prices of series of options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share will be \$1 or greater when the strike price is \$200 or less and \$5 or greater where the strike price is over \$200.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, BOX may list series of options pursuant to the \$1 Strike Price Interval Program,<sup>19</sup> the \$0.50 Strike Program,<sup>20</sup> the \$2.50 Strike Price Program,<sup>21</sup> and the \$5.00 Strike Program.<sup>22</sup> Pursuant to Rule 7050, where the price of a series of options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share is less than \$3.00, the minimum increment will be \$0.05, and where the price is \$3.00 or higher, the minimum increment will be \$0.10.<sup>23</sup> Any and all new series of options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share that BOX lists will be consistent and comply with the

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option contract, or if such Friday is a day on which the exchange on which such option is listed is not open for business, the preceding day on which such exchange is open for business. See OCC By-Laws Article I, Section 1. Pursuant to BOX Rule 5050(c), additional series of options of the same class may be opened for trading on the Exchange when the Exchange deems it necessary to maintain an orderly market, to meet customer demand or when the market price of the underlying stock moves more than five strike prices from the initial exercise price or prices. New series of options on an individual stock may be added until the beginning of the month in which the options contract will expire. Due to unusual market conditions, the Exchange, in its discretion, may add a new series of options on an individual stock until the close of trading on the business day prior to expiration in the case of an option contract expiring on a business day, or, in the case of an option contract expiring on a day that is not a business day, on the second business day prior to the expiration.

<sup>14</sup> See BOX IM-5050-6.

<sup>15</sup> See BOX IM-5050-13.

<sup>16</sup> See BOX IM-5050-4.

<sup>17</sup> See BOX Rule 5070.

<sup>18</sup> The Exchange notes that for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program, the Monthly Options Series Program, and the Quarterly Options Series Program, IM-5050-6, IM-5050-13, and IM-5050-4, specifically set forth intervals between strike prices on Short Term Option Series, Monthly Options Series, and Quarterly Options Series, respectively.

<sup>19</sup> See BOX IM-5050-2.

<sup>20</sup> See BOX IM-5050-5.

<sup>21</sup> See BOX IM-5050-3.

<sup>22</sup> See BOX Rule 5050(d)(5).

<sup>23</sup> If options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share are eligible to participate in the Penny Interval Program, the minimum increment of \$0.01 below \$3.00 and \$0.05 above \$3.00 would apply. See BOX Rule 7050(a)(3). See also BOX Rule 7260 (which describes the requirements for the Penny Interval Program).

expirations, strike prices, and minimum increments set forth in Rules 5050 and 7050, as applicable. Further, the Exchange notes that Rule Series 10100, which governs margin requirements applicable to the trading of all options on BOX, including options on ETFs, will also apply to the trading of options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share.

Options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share will trade in the same manner as options on other ETFs on BOX. The Exchange Rules that currently apply to the listing and trading of all options on ETFs on BOX, including, for example, Rules that govern listing criteria, expirations, exercise prices, minimum increments, position and exercise limits, margin requirements, customer accounts and trading halt procedures would apply to the listing and trading of options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share on BOX in the same manner as they apply to other options on all other ETFs that are listed and traded on BOX.

Position and exercise limits for options, including options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share are determined pursuant to Rules 3120 and 3140, respectively. Position and exercise limits for options on ETFs vary according to the number of outstanding shares and the trading volumes of the underlying security over the past six months, where the largest in capitalization and the most frequently traded funds have an option position and exercise limit of 250,000 contracts (with adjustments for splits, re-capitalizations, etc.) on the same side of the market; and smaller capitalization funds have position and exercise limits of 200,000, 75,000, 50,000 or 25,000 contracts (with adjustments for splits, re-capitalizations, etc.) on the same side of the market.<sup>24</sup>

The Exchange represents that the surveillance procedures applicable to all other options on ETFs will apply to options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares, and that the Exchange has the necessary systems capacity to support the new option series. The Exchange's existing surveillance and reporting safeguards are designed to deter and detect possible manipulative behavior which might arise from listing and trading options on ETFs, including options on

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<sup>24</sup> See BOX Rules 3120(d) and 3140(c).

Commodity-Based Trust Shares. Also, the Exchange may obtain trading information via the Intermarket Surveillance Group (“ISG”)<sup>25</sup> from other exchanges who are members of the ISG. In addition, the Exchange has a Regulatory Services Agreement with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). Pursuant to a multi-party 17d-2 joint plan, all options exchanges allocate regulatory responsibilities to FINRA to conduct certain options-related market surveillances. Further, the Exchange will implement any new surveillance procedures it deems necessary to effectively monitor the trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The Exchange has also analyzed its capacity and represents that it believes the Exchange and the Options Price Reporting Authority (“OPRA”) have the necessary systems capacity to handle the additional traffic associated with the listing of new series of ETFs, including options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share, up to the number of expirations currently permissible under the Exchange Rules. The Exchange believes any additional traffic generated from the trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares would be manageable. The Exchange represents that Exchange Participants will not have a capacity issue as a result of this proposed rule change. Further, quotation and last sale information for Commodity-Based Trust Shares is available via the Consolidated Tape Association (“CTA”) high speed line. Quotation and last sale information for such securities is also available from the exchange on which such securities are listed. Quotation and last sale information for options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will be available via OPRA<sup>26</sup> and major market data vendors. The Exchange notes that the Commission has previously approved generic listing standards pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e) of the Act<sup>27</sup> for

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<sup>25</sup> A complete list of the current members of the ISG, is available at <http://www.isgportal.org>.

<sup>26</sup> Last sale reports and quotations are the core of the information that OPRA disseminates. OPRA also disseminates certain other types of information with respect to the trading of options on the markets of the OPRA participants, such as the number of options contracts traded, open interest and end of day summaries. OPRA also disseminates certain kinds of administrative messages.

<sup>27</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(e).

ETFs based on indexes that consist of stocks listed on U.S. exchanges.<sup>28</sup> In addition, the Commission has previously approved proposals for the listing and trading of options on ETFs based on international indexes as well as global indexes (e.g., based on non-U.S. and U.S. component stocks).<sup>29</sup>

In approving Commodity-Based Trust Shares for equities exchange trading, the Commission thoroughly considered the structure of the Commodity-Based Trust Shares, their usefulness to investors and to the markets, and SRO rules that govern their trading. The Exchange believes that allowing the listing of options overlying Commodity-Based Trust Shares that are listed pursuant to Commission approval on equities exchanges and applying Rule 19b-4(e)<sup>30</sup> should fulfill the intended objective of that rule by allowing options on those Commodity-Based Trust Shares that have satisfied the generic listing standards to commence trading, without the need for the public comment period and Commission approval. The proposed rule change has the potential to significantly reduce the time and costs associated with bringing options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares to market, thereby reducing the burden on issuers and other market participants, while also promoting competition among options exchanges, to the benefit of the investing public. The failure of a particular Commodity-Based Trust Share to comply with the generic listing standards under Rule 19b-4(e)<sup>31</sup> would not, however, preclude the Exchange

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<sup>28</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54739 (November 9, 2006), 71 FR 66993 (November 17, 2006) (SR-AMEX-2006-78) (approval order relating to generic listing standards for ETFs based on international or global indexes).

<sup>29</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 56778 (November 9, 2007), 72 FR 65113 (November 19, 2007) (SR-AMEX-2007-100) (approval order to list and trade options on iShares MSCI Mexico Index Fund; and 55648 (April 19, 2007), 72 FR 20902 (April 26, 2007) (SR-AMEX-2007-09) (approval order to list and trade options on Vanguard Emerging Markets ETF). See also Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 50189 (August 12, 2004), 69 FR 51723 (August 20, 2004) (SR-AMEX-2004-05) (approving the listing and trading of certain Vanguard International Equity Index Funds); and 44700 (August 14, 2001), 66 FR 43927 (August 21, 2001) (SR-Amex-2001-34) (approving the listing and trading of series of the iShares Trust based on foreign stock indexes).

<sup>30</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(e).

<sup>31</sup> Id.

from submitting a separate filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(2),<sup>32</sup> requesting Commission approval to list and trade options on a particular Commodity-Based Trust Share.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>33</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>34</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes the proposal will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because it would allow BOX to immediately list and trade options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares, provided the initial listing criteria has been met, without requiring additional approvals from the Commission.<sup>35</sup>

Commodity-Based Trust Shares are securities approved for trading by the Commission. The Exchange believes that allowing options on qualifying Commodity-Based Trust Shares soon after the listing of such underlying security in the primary market will benefit investors and the public interest as it will afford market participants the opportunity to hedge their positions in the underlying ETF in a timely manner. Given the potential to reduce the time to market for options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares, the proposed rule change will also reduce the burdens on issuers and other market participants, while promoting competition among options exchanges to the benefit of the investing public.

This proposal will enable the listing of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares in the same manner as all other securities listed and traded on BOX. The Exchange notes that most ETFs

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<sup>32</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>33</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>34</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>35</sup> As noted herein, the Exchange believes this proposal is consistent with the OCC's determination that, based on a staff advisory from the CFTC, the "it no longer needs to seek product-by-product exemptive relief from the CFTC to clear spot commodity-based ETF products." See supra note 8.

are eligible for options trading without the need for additional approvals, provided the ETFs meet the initial listing criteria. Accordingly, the proposed rule change would align the treatment of Commodity-Based Trust Shares with other ETFs for purposes of options trading, which would add internal consistency to Exchange rules. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will facilitate the listing and trading of options on additional ETFs that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.

Similar to options on any other securities, options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will provide investors with the ability to hedge exposure to the underlying security. The Exchange believes that offering options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will benefit investors by providing them with a relatively lower-cost risk management tool, which will allow them to manage their positions and associated risk in their portfolios more easily in connection with exposure to the price of a commodity. Additionally, the Exchange's offering of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will provide investors with the ability to transact in such options in a listed market environment as opposed to in the unregulated OTC market, which would increase market transparency and enhance the process of price discovery conducted on BOX through increased order flow to the benefit of all investors. As noted herein, the Exchange already lists options on other commodity-based ETFs,<sup>36</sup> which are trusts structured in substantially the same manner as Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The Exchange has not identified any issues with the continued listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares.

The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, because it is consistent with current Exchange Rules previously filed with the Commission. Options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares must satisfy the initial listing standards and continued listing standards currently in the Exchange Rules applicable to options on all ETFs, including ETFs that

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<sup>36</sup> See BOX Rule 5020(h)(iv).

hold other commodities already deemed appropriate for options trading on BOX.<sup>37</sup> Options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will trade in the same manner as any other ETF options — the same Exchange Rules that currently govern the listing and trading of options, including permissible expirations, strike prices minimum increments, and margin requirements, will govern the listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares in the same manner.

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will result in increased competition as other exchanges will likely adopt an identical rule to the one proposed by the Exchange that would allow the listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares that are approved for trading on those other markets.<sup>38</sup> Multiple listing of ETFs, options and other securities and competition are some of the central features of the national market system. The Exchange believes that the proposal would encourage a more open market and national market system based on competition and multiple listing.

The Exchange represents that it has the necessary systems capacity to support the listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares as the Exchange lists these products today, except that it requires additional approvals prior to listing. The Exchange believes that its existing surveillance and reporting safeguards are designed to deter and detect possible manipulative behavior which might arise from listing and trading of options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares.

The Exchange believes the proposed deletion of IM-5020-1 will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, because it will delete a now unnecessary and duplicative definition of Commodity-Based Trust Shares to conform with the changes proposed herein.

#### B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. To the contrary,

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<sup>37</sup> See id.

<sup>38</sup> See supra note 6.

the Exchange believes that the proposal is pro-competitive and is a competitive response to BOX's inability to list options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares without submitting a separate proposed rule change. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will result in additional investment options and opportunities to achieve the investment objectives of market participants seeking efficient trading and hedging vehicles, to the benefit of investors, market participants, and the marketplace in general. Competition is one of the principal features of the national market system. The Exchange believes that this proposal will expand competitive opportunities to list and trade products on BOX as noted previously.

*Intramarket Competition:* The Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because Commodity-Based Trust Shares, like any other ETF, would have to satisfy the Exchange's initial listing standards to be eligible for options trading. Additionally, the proposed rule change would apply to all market participants in the same manner as options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares will be equally available to all market participants who wish to trade such options.

*Intermarket Competition:* The Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on inter-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as nothing prevents the other options exchanges from proposing similar rules to list and trade options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares. As noted herein, Nasdaq ISE, Cboe, MIAX, NYSE ARCA, and NYSE American have submitted proposals to adopt similar rules to allow them to list and trade options on Commodity-Based Trust Shares without submitting a separate proposed rule change.<sup>39</sup>

Furthermore, the Exchange notes that listing and trading options on a Commodity-Based Trust Share on BOX will subject such options to transparent exchange-based rules as well as

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<sup>39</sup> Id.

price discovery and liquidity, as opposed to alternatively trading such options in the OTC market. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change may relieve any burden on, or otherwise promote, competition as it is designed to increase competition for order flow on BOX in a manner that is beneficial to investors by providing them with a lower-cost option to hedge their investment portfolios in a timely manner.

The Exchange does not believe the proposed change to delete IM-5020-1 will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because it seeks to remove a now unnecessary and duplicative definition of Commodity-Based Trust Shares to conform with the changes proposed herein.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or

- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-BOX-2025-12 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

All submissions should refer to file number SR-BOX-2025-12. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-BOX-2025-12 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

**Stephanie J. Fouse,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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