

KAISER ALUMINUM CORP
Form PRE 14A
April 16, 2015

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A
(Rule 14a-101)
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
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
 Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12
Kaiser Aluminum Corporation
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

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Kaiser Aluminum Corporation
27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610-2831

April [], 2015

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Kaiser Aluminum Corporation to be held at the company's corporate office, located at 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200, Foothill Ranch, California 92610 on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., local time.

During the Annual Meeting, stockholders will consider and vote upon (i) the election of three members to the board of directors, (ii) the approval, on a non-binding, advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers, (iii) the approval of the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, (iv) the amendment of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections, and (v) the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015. The attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement describe fully the formal business to be transacted at the Annual Meeting.

While the company does not expect to make a separate presentation, certain directors and officers will be present at the Annual Meeting and will be available to respond to any questions you may have.

Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to review carefully the accompanying material and to vote by proxy without delay. To do so, please submit your voting instructions over the Internet or by telephone as indicated on the enclosed proxy card or by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy card and returning it by mail in the accompanying envelope. If you attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote in person even if you have previously submitted your voting instructions over the Internet, by telephone or by mail.

Jack A. Hockema
President, Chief Executive Officer and
Chairman of the Board

Kaiser Aluminum Corporation
27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610-2831

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON JUNE 2, 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Kaiser Aluminum Corporation will be held at the company's corporate office, located at 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200, Foothill Ranch, California 92610 on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., local time, for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect three members to our board of directors for three-year terms to expire at our 2018 annual meeting of stockholders;
- (2) To approve, on a non-binding, advisory basis, the compensation of our named executives officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement;
- (3) To approve the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (4) To amend our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections;
- (5) To ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015; and
- (6) To consider such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Information concerning the matters to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting is set forth in the accompanying Proxy Statement.

The close of business on April 10, 2015 has been fixed as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof.

We urge stockholders to vote by proxy by submitting voting instructions over the Internet or by telephone as indicated on the enclosed proxy card or by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy card and returning it by mail in the accompanying envelope, which does not require postage if mailed in the United States.

By Order of the Board of Directors

John M. Donnan
Executive Vice President - Legal,
Compliance and Human Resources

April [], 2015
Foothill Ranch, California

Kaiser Aluminum Corporation
 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200
 Foothill Ranch, CA 92610-2831

PROXY STATEMENT
 FOR
 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
 To Be Held On June 2, 2015

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Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on June 2, 2015: The Proxy Statement and our Annual Report to Stockholders are available at www.envisionreports.com/kalu.

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: When is the Proxy Statement being sent to stockholders and what is its purpose?

A: This Proxy Statement is first being sent to our stockholders on or about May [], 2015 at the direction of our board of directors in order to solicit proxies for our use at the Annual Meeting.

Q: When is the Annual Meeting and where will it be held?

A: The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at our corporate office, located at 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200, Foothill Ranch, California 92610.

Q: Who may attend the Annual Meeting?

A: All of our stockholders may attend the Annual Meeting.

Q: Who is entitled to vote?

A: Stockholders as of the close of business on April 10, 2015 are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each share of our common stock is entitled to one vote.

Q: On what am I voting?

A: You will be voting on:

• The election of three members to our board of directors to serve until our 2018 annual meeting of stockholders;

• The approval, on a non-binding, advisory basis, of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement;

• The approval of the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan, which we refer to as the Equity Incentive Plan and a copy of which is attached as Appendix A to this Proxy Statement, for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code;

• The amendment of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections.

• The ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015; and

• Such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments.

Q: How does the board of directors recommend that I vote?

A: The board of directors recommends that you vote your shares:

• “FOR ALL” the director nominees identified in “Proposals Requiring Your Vote - Proposal for Election of Directors” below;

•“FOR” the approval of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement;

•"FOR" the approval of the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated Equity and Performance Incentive Plan for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code;

•"FOR" the amendment of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections; and

•“FOR” the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015.

Q: How can I vote?

A: You can vote in person at the Annual Meeting or you can vote prior to the Annual Meeting by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy without delay.

Q: How do I vote by proxy?

A: If you choose to vote your shares by proxy, you have the following options:

• **Over the Internet:** You can vote over the Internet at the website shown on your proxy card. Internet voting will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on Monday June 1, 2015.

• **By telephone:** You can vote by telephone by calling the toll-free number shown on your proxy card. Telephone voting will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on Monday, June 1, 2015.

• **By mail:** You can vote by mail by completing, signing and dating your proxy card and returning it in the enclosed prepaid envelope.

Q: I want to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person. How do I obtain directions to the Annual Meeting?

A: You may obtain directions to the Annual Meeting by calling us at (949) 614-1740.

Q: What constitutes a quorum?

As of April 10, 2015, the record date, 17,220,496 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding. A majority of these shares present or represented by proxy will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. If you properly vote by proxy by submitting your voting instructions over the Internet, by telephone or by mail, then your shares will be counted as part of the quorum. Abstentions or votes that are withheld on any matter will be counted towards a quorum but will be excluded from the vote relating to the particular matter under consideration. Broker non-votes are counted towards a quorum but are excluded from the vote with respect to the matters for which they are applicable. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the broker does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that proposal and has not received instructions with respect to that proposal from the beneficial owner. Among our proposals, brokers will have discretionary voting power only with respect to the proposal to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015.

Q: What are the voting requirements for the proposals?

A: There are different voting requirements for the proposals.

Directors will be elected by a plurality vote of all votes cast for the election of directors at the Annual Meeting. Accordingly, the three nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected. If you withhold authority to vote for any particular director nominee, your shares will not be counted in the vote for that nominee and will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

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The approval of the holders of a majority of the total number of outstanding shares of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and actually voted on the proposal is necessary (1) to approve, on a non-binding, advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement, (2) to approve the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, and (3) to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015. If you abstain from voting on the proposal to approve the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement, the proposal to approve the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, and/or the proposal to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015, your shares will not be counted in the vote for such proposal(s) and will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

The affirmative vote of the holders of at least 67% of the total number of outstanding shares of our common stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is required to approve the amendment to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections. If you abstain from voting on the proposal to amend our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, your shares will effectively be a vote against that proposal.

Q: If my shares are held in "street name" by my broker, will my broker vote my shares for me?

A: As discussed above, among our proposals, brokers will have discretionary voting power only with respect to the proposal to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015. To be sure your shares are voted, you should instruct your broker to vote your shares using the instructions provided by your broker.

Q: What will happen if the compensation of the company's named executive officers is not approved by the stockholders?

A: Because this is an advisory vote, our board of directors and compensation committee will not be bound by the approval of, or the failure to approve, the executive compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement. The board of directors and the compensation committee, however, value the opinions that our stockholders express in their votes and will consider the outcome of the vote when determining future executive compensation programs.

Q: What will happen if the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan is not approved by the stockholders for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code?

A: If the Equity Incentive Plan is approved by our stockholders for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, we would continue to have the flexibility to grant awards that qualify for the performance-based exclusion from the deduction limitations under Section 162(m). Section 162(m) generally limits the deductibility of compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to our principal executive officer and our next three highest-paid executive officers, other than the principal financial officer, unless certain criteria are satisfied. If the Equity Incentive Plan is not approved by our stockholders, we will cease to have the flexibility to grant awards that qualify for the performance-based exclusion from the deduction limitations under Section 162(m).

Q: What will happen if the proposed amendment of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation is not approved by stockholders?

A: If the amendment of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections is not approved by stockholders at the Annual Meeting, the amendment will not become effective, the voting standard in uncontested director elections will remain a plurality standard and our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, bylaws and corporate governance guidelines will not be amended as described in this Proxy Statement.

Q: What will happen if the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015 is not ratified by the stockholders?

A: Pursuant to the audit committee charter, the audit committee of our board of directors has sole authority to appoint our independent registered public accounting firm, and the audit committee will not be bound by the ratification of, or failure to ratify, the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP. The audit committee will, however, consider any failure to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP in connection with the appointment of our independent

registered public accounting firm the following year.

Q: Can I change my vote after I give my proxy?

A: Yes. If you vote by proxy, you can revoke that proxy at any time before voting takes place at the Annual Meeting.
You may revoke your proxy by:

- voting again over the Internet or by telephone no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on Monday, June 1, 2015;
- submitting a properly signed proxy card with a later date;

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•delivering, no later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Monday, June 1, 2015, written notice of revocation to our Secretary, c/o Computershare, P.O. Box 43126, Providence, Rhode Island 02940-5138; or

•attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

Your attendance alone will not revoke your proxy. To change your vote, you must also vote in person at the Annual Meeting. If you instruct a broker to vote your shares, you must follow your broker's directions for changing those instructions.

Q: What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

A: If you receive more than one proxy card, it is because your shares are held in more than one account. You must vote each proxy card to ensure that all of your shares are voted at the Annual Meeting.

Q: Who will count the votes?

A: Representatives of Computershare, our transfer agent, will tabulate the votes and act as inspectors of election.

Q: How much will this proxy solicitation cost?

A: We have hired MacKenzie Partners, Inc. to assist us in the distribution of proxy materials and solicitation of votes at a cost not to exceed \$4,500, plus out-of-pocket expenses. We will reimburse brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to the owners of our common stock. Our officers and regular employees may also solicit proxies, but they will not be specifically compensated for these services. In addition to the use of the mail, proxies may be solicited personally or by telephone by our employees or by MacKenzie Partners.

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PROPOSALS REQUIRING YOUR VOTE

Proposal for Election of Directors

General

Our board of directors currently has 11 members, consisting of our President and Chief Executive Officer and 10 independent directors. William F. Murdy will retire from our board of directors upon the expiration of his current term on June 2, 2015. To facilitate this transition, we temporarily increased the size of our board of directors from 10 to 11 in September 2014 and appointed L. Patrick Hassey to our board of directors. Following Mr. Murdy's retirement, the size of our board of directors will be reduced back to 10 members. Our current directors are:

Carolyn Bartholomew	William F. Murdy
David Foster	Alfred E. Osborne, Jr., Ph.D.
L. Patrick Hassey	Jack Quinn
Jack A. Hockema	Thomas M. Van Leeuwen
Teresa A. Hopp	Brett E. Wilcox
Lauralee E. Martin	

Mr. Hockema, our President and Chief Executive Officer, serves as our Chairman of the Board, and Dr. Osborne serves as our Lead Independent Director.

Our board of directors represents a breadth of experience and diversity in perspective and background, as reflected in the summary of their collective qualifications below. Additionally, our directors have a broad range of tenures, from less than one year to nine years of service. This balances institutional knowledge and experience with new perspectives and ideas, as well as ensures a smooth succession over time.

Experience/Qualifications	Bartholomew	Foster	Hassey	Hockema	Hopp	Martin	Murdy	Osborne	Quinn	Van Leeuwen	Wilcox
Board of Directors											
Leadership / Management											
Aluminum Industry											
Economic, Regulatory and/or Policy											
Labor / Talent Management & Development											
Financial / Investment											

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide for a classified board of directors consisting of three classes. The term of our Class III directors expires at this year's annual meeting of stockholders; the term of our Class I directors will expire at the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders; and the term of our Class II directors will expire at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders.

The nominating and corporate governance committee of our board of directors has recommended, and our board of directors has approved, the nomination of the three nominees listed below. The nominees have indicated their

willingness to serve as members of the board of directors if elected; however, in case any nominee becomes unavailable for election to the board of directors for any reason not presently known or contemplated, the proxy holders have discretionary authority to vote proxies for a substitute nominee. Proxies cannot be voted for more than three nominees.

The board of directors recommends a vote "FOR ALL" of the persons nominated by the board of directors.

Nominees for Class III Directors

Set forth below is information about the Class III director nominees, including their ages, present principal occupations, other business experiences, directorships in other public companies, membership on committees of our board of directors, and reasons why each individual nominee's specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills led the nominating and corporate governance committee to recommend and our board of directors to conclude that the nominee should serve as a director of the company.

David Foster, 67, has served as a director of Kaiser since June 2009. Mr. Foster has been Senior Advisor to the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy since June 2014 and an adjunct faculty member of the University of Minnesota since January 2003. Prior to that, Mr. Foster was Executive Director of Blue Green Alliance, a strategic national partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations to expand the job-creating potential of the green economy and improve the rights of workers at home and around the world, from June 2006 to June 2014. Mr. Foster was also previously a director of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL-CIO, CLC (referred to herein as the "USW") for District #11. Mr. Foster has been a member of the board of directors of Evraz North America, d/b/a Oregon Steel Manufacturing, a subsidiary of Evraz, a global steel company, since June 2006. Mr. Foster serves on the nominating and corporate governance and talent development committees of our board of directors. Pursuant to the terms of the Director Designation Agreement described below, Mr. Foster was designated by the USW as a director candidate in connection with our 2009 and 2012 annual meetings of stockholders and again in 2015 in connection with the upcoming Annual Meeting. However, his experience with our company exceeds 18 years and includes his role as the primary USW negotiator of our master labor agreement with the USW. Mr. Foster's extensive labor experience representing the USW and with the Blue Green Alliance allow him to provide guidance and insight to our board and management regarding labor relations, including with the USW, relations with our hourly workforce, the impact of environmental and regulatory initiatives on US based manufacturers and sustainability.

L. Patrick Hassey, 69, has served as a director of Kaiser since September 2014. Prior to his retirement in May 2011, Mr. Hassey served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Allegheny Technologies Incorporated ("ATI"), a global leader in the production of specialty materials for the aerospace, chemical and oil and gas industries, where he was elected to the board of directors in July 2003, appointed as the President and Chief Executive Officer in October 2003, and became Chairman in May 2004. Mr. Hassey served as ATI's President until August 2010. Before joining ATI, Mr. Hassey served as Executive Vice President and as a member of the corporate executive committee of Alcoa, as Executive Vice President of Alcoa and Group President of Alcoa Industrial Components, and as Executive Vice President of Alcoa and President of Alcoa Europe, Inc. Mr. Hassey is a member of the board of directors of Ryder Systems, Inc., a global leader of transportation and supply chain management solutions, where he is chairman of the compensation committee and a member of the corporate governance and nominating committee, and of Alpha Natural Resources, one of America's leading producers of coal, where he is a member of the audit committee and the compensation committee. Mr. Hassey's extensive experience and background and qualification as a chief executive officer in the aluminum and specialty metal industries allows him to provide guidance and insight to our board of directors and management regarding business and strategic issues.

Teresa A. Hopp, 55, has served as a director of Kaiser and chair of the audit committee since July 2006. Prior to Ms. Hopp's retirement, she was the Chief Financial Officer for Western Digital Corporation, a hard disk drive manufacturer, where she also served as Vice President, Finance. Prior to that, Ms. Hopp was with Ernst & Young LLP, where she served as an audit partner for four years, managed audit department resource planning and scheduling, and served as internal education director and information systems audit and security director. Ms. Hopp also served on the board of directors of On Assignment, Inc and as its audit committee chair. Ms. Hopp serves on the executive, audit, and talent development committees of our board of directors. Ms. Hopp was selected by a search committee consisting of our creditors (referred to herein as the "search committee") to serve as a director of our company upon our

emergence from chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2006 because of her accounting and finance experience and background, including her prior experience with Ernst & Young, and because of her prior experience as a board member and audit committee chair. Ms. Hopp's experience and background, qualification as an audit committee financial expert, experience as a director of our company and chair of the audit committee of our board of directors since 2006, and understanding of our company's financial statements allow her to provide guidance and insight to our board of directors and management regarding accounting and financial issues.

Continuing Directors

Set forth below is information about our continuing directors, including their ages, present principal occupations, other business experiences, directorships in other public companies, membership on committees of our board of directors, and reasons why each individual director's specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills led our board of directors to conclude that the director should serve on our board of directors.

Class I Directors

Alfred E. Osborne, Jr., Ph.D., 70, has served as a director of Kaiser since July 2006. Dr. Osborne has been the Senior Associate Dean at the UCLA Anderson School of Management since July 2003 and a Professor of Global Economics and Management since July 2008. Dr. Osborne was previously an Associate Professor of Global Economics and Management and served as the Director of the Harold and Pauline Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Dr. Osborne has served on the board of directors of Nuverra Environmental Solutions, Inc. (formerly Heckmann Corporation), an environmental services company, since August 2007, of First Pacific Advisor's International Value Fund since August 2011, of First Pacific Advisor's New Income Fund, Capital Fund, and Crescent Fund since December 1999, and of Wedbush, Inc., a financial services and investment firm, since January 1998. Dr. Osborne also previously served on the board of directors of AFH Acquisition VII, Inc., EMAK Worldwide, Inc., K2, Inc. and Nordstrom, Inc. Dr. Osborne serves on the audit and nominating and corporate governance committees of our board of directors and is our Lead Independent Director. Dr. Osborne has served on many boards and board committees of public companies and investment funds over a more than 25-year period. During that time, Dr. Osborne worked extensively on the development of board and director best practices, as well as director training and governance programs sponsored by the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Dr. Osborne was one of the original directors selected by the search committee to serve as a director of our company upon our emergence from chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2006 and was selected because of his public company experience and governance background. During his service on our board of directors, Dr. Osborne has gained an understanding of our company and the environment in which we operate. Dr. Osborne's experience as a director of public companies, as a member of various board committees of public companies, and as an educator in the fields of business management and corporate governance allow him to draw on his experience and offer guidance to our board of directors and management on issues that affect our company, including governance and board best practices.

Jack Quinn, 64, has served as a director of Kaiser since July 2006. Mr. Quinn has been the President of Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York since April 2008. From September 2013 to December 2013, Mr. Quinn was Commissioner of the Tax Relief Commission, which was formed to investigate and explore methods to reduce taxes for New York residents under the state's 2014 budget plan. From January 2013 to March 2013, Mr. Quinn was Commissioner of the Hurricane Sandy Task Force for the State of New York, assisting the state in securing federal funding for the repairs of damages caused by Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Quinn was previously the President of Cassidy & Associates, a government relations firm which assists clients promoting policy and appropriations objectives in Washington, D.C. with a focus on transportation, aviation, railroad, highway, infrastructure, corporate and industry clients. Mr. Quinn served as a United States Congressman for the state of New York. While in Congress, Mr. Quinn was Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads. He was also a senior member of the Transportation Subcommittees on Aviation, Highways and Mass Transit. In addition, Mr. Quinn was Chairman of the Executive Committee in the Congressional Steel Caucus. Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. Quinn served as supervisor of the town of Hamburg, New York. Mr. Quinn has served as a trustee of the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust since 2005. Mr. Quinn serves on the compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees of our board of directors. Mr. Quinn was selected by the search committee to serve as a director of our company upon our emergence from chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2006 because of his background and experience in Washington, D.C. Mr. Quinn was designated by the USW as a director candidate in connection with the search process, and pursuant to the terms of the Director Designation Agreement, Mr. Quinn was designated by the USW as a director candidate in connection with our 2007, 2010 and 2013 annual meetings of stockholders. During his service on our board of directors, Mr. Quinn has gained an understanding of our company and the environment in which we operate. Mr. Quinn's experience in Washington, D.C., including as a U.S. Congressman, and his working relationship with the USW allow him to offer guidance and insight to our board of directors and management regarding government relations, policy and appropriations for defense and other government funded programs that utilize our products and labor relations.

Thomas M. Van Leeuwen, 58, has served as a director of Kaiser since July 2006. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Van Leeuwen served as a Director - Senior Equity Research Analyst for Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. Mr. Van Leeuwen also previously served as a Director - Senior Equity Research Analyst for Credit Suisse First Boston and as First Vice President of Equity Research with Lehman Brothers. Mr. Van Leeuwen held the positions of research analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., Inc. and systems analyst with The Procter & Gamble Company. Mr. Van Leeuwen is also a Chartered Financial Analyst. Mr. Van Leeuwen serves on the audit, compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees of our board of directors. Mr. Van Leeuwen was selected by the search committee to serve as a director of our company upon our emergence from chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2006 because of his experience working with investment banks, including as an analyst in the aluminum industry. Mr. Van Leeuwen's experience as an equity research analyst and service as a director of our company since 2006 allow him to provide guidance and insight to our board of directors and management with respect to financial analyses of our company, whether generated internally or externally, as well as other financial issues, and with respect to the investment community's understanding of our company.

Class II Directors

Carolyn Bartholomew, 57, has served as a director of Kaiser since June 2007. Ms. Bartholomew has served as Commissioner of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission since April 2003. She also served as its Vice Chairman for 2006, 2008 and 2010 and as its Chairman for 2007 and 2009. In addition, from October 2012 to April 2014, Ms. Bartholomew also served as Vice President - Development and Corporate Initiatives of the Blue Green Alliance, a partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations formed to increase support for building a more efficient and more competitive sustainable American clean economy. In such role, she developed strategies for funding and initiatives to create and strengthen relationships between business and the labor and environmental communities on issues of shared interest. She is also a Visiting Professor at Antioch University New England. Ms. Bartholomew also served as Legislative Director, District Director and Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. Ms. Bartholomew serves on the audit and nominating and corporate governance committees of our board of directors. Pursuant to the terms of the Director Designation Agreement, Ms. Bartholomew was designated by the USW to fill a vacancy on our board of directors in 2007, and Ms. Bartholomew was designated by the USW as a director candidate in connection with our 2008, 2011 and 2014 annual meetings of stockholders. Ms. Bartholomew's experience in Washington, D.C., and with the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission and the Blue Green Alliance, allow her to provide guidance and insight to our board of directors and management regarding government relations, policy and appropriations for defense and other government funded programs that utilize our products, and our efforts to expand into Chinese markets and effectively compete with Chinese manufacturers, as well as environmental, regulatory and labor initiatives potentially impacting U.S.-based manufacturers.

Jack A. Hockema, age 68, our President and Chief Executive Officer, serves as Chairman of the Board and serves on the executive committee of our board of directors. For information as to Mr. Hockema, see "Executive Officers" below. Mr. Hockema's substantial experience with our company and in the metals industry allows him to provide a unique perspective to our board of directors regarding our business and strategic direction for our company.

Lauralee E. Martin, 64, has served as a director of Kaiser since September 2010. Ms. Martin has served as Chief Executive Officer and President of HCP, Inc., a real estate investment trust focusing on properties serving the healthcare industry, since October 2013. Ms. Martin also serves as a member of HCP, Inc.'s board of directors. Prior to joining HCP, Inc., Ms. Martin served as Chief Executive Officer of the Americas Division of Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc., a financial and professional services firm specializing in real estate services and investment management, from January 2013 to October 2013. Prior to that, Ms. Martin served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Jones Lang LaSalle since January 2002 and was appointed Chief Operating and Financial Officer in October 2005. She joined Jones Lang LaSalle after 15 years with Heller Financial, Inc., a commercial finance company with international operations, where she was Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Senior Group President, and President of the Real Estate group. Prior to joining Heller Financial, Ms. Martin held certain senior management positions with General Electric Credit Corporation. She was a member of the board of directors of each of Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc. from October 2005 to October 2013, Key Corp, a bank holding company, from December 2003 to November 2010, Gables Residential Trust, a real estate investment trust and Heller Financial. Ms. Martin serves on the audit, compensation, and talent development committees of our board of directors. Having served as both the chief financial officer and the head of the real estate lending group at Heller Financial and having served as the chief operating and financial officer for Jones Lang LaSalle for more than seven and 12 years, respectively, as well as having served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Americas division of Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc. and being the Chief Executive Officer of HCP, Inc., Ms. Martin has significant experience in all aspects of corporate financial and operational matters, including the oversight of complex financial, accounting and corporate infrastructure functions. Her service as a member of the boards of directors of two real estate investment trusts and a major bank holding company have reinforced those qualifications and also have deepened her expertise in corporate governance and matters relating to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Ms. Martin also has a deep foundation in evaluating acquisition

opportunities, managing banking relationships and investor relations. Ms. Martin's experience and background, qualification as an audit committee financial expert, and understanding of our company's financial statements allow her to provide guidance and insight to our board of directors and management regarding business, strategic, accounting and financial issues.

Brett E. Wilcox, 61, has served as a director of Kaiser since July 2006. Mr. Wilcox has been an active investor in, on the board of directors of, or an executive consultant for, a number of metals and energy companies since 2005. From June 2005 to December 2011, Mr. Wilcox served as Chief Executive Officer of Summit Power Alternative Resources where he managed the development of wind generation and new energy technologies. Prior to that, Mr. Wilcox served as Chief Executive Officer of Golden Northwest Aluminum Company and its predecessors. Mr. Wilcox has also served as Executive Director of Direct Services Industries, Inc., a trade association of large aluminum and other energy-intensive companies; an attorney with Preston, Ellis & Gates in Seattle, Washington; Vice Chairman of the Oregon Progress Board; Chairman of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission; a member of the Oregon Governor's Comprehensive Review of the Northwest Regional Power System; and a member of the Oregon Governor's Task Forces on structure and efficiency of state government,

employee benefits and compensation, and government performance and accountability. Mr. Wilcox serves on the executive, audit, compensation and talent development committees of our board of directors. Mr. Wilcox was selected by the search committee to serve as a director of our company upon our emergence from chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2006 because of his business and financial background and experience, including his experience as the Chief Executive Officer of Golden Northwest Aluminum Company and its predecessors, his experience working successfully with the USW and his experience in the power industries, and because of his qualification as an audit committee financial expert. Mr. Wilcox was designated by the USW as a director candidate in connection with the search process, and, pursuant to the terms of the Director Designation Agreement, Mr. Wilcox was designated by the USW as a director candidate in connection with our 2008, 2011 and 2014 annual meetings of stockholders. Mr. Wilcox's experience as a chief executive officer, his financial expertise and his working relationship with the USW allow him to offer guidance and insight to our board of directors and management on business, finance, strategic and labor issues.

Proposal for Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

In accordance with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, or the Dodd-Frank Act, and Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, we are asking stockholders to vote on a non-binding, advisory resolution regarding executive compensation. Our board of directors has adopted a policy to hold annual advisory votes on executive compensation until the next advisory vote on the frequency of stockholder votes on executive compensation at the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, or until our board of directors determines to hold such advisory vote at a different frequency. The vote is not intended to address any specific component of our executive compensation program, but rather the overall compensation of our named executive officers as described in this Proxy Statement. The text of the resolution is as follows:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the named executive officers of Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, as described in the proxy statement for the company's 2015 annual meeting of stockholders pursuant to Item 402 of SEC Regulation S-K (which disclosure includes the "Executive Compensation - Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section and the Summary Compensation Table and other compensation tables and related narrative discussion within the "Executive Compensation" section), is hereby APPROVED.

As described in further detail in the "Executive Compensation - Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section of this Proxy Statement, or CD&A, our 2014 compensation structure was developed and designed to:

- align the interest of our named executive officers and stockholders by tying a significant portion of compensation to enhancing stockholder return;
- attract, motivate and retain highly experienced executives vital to our short-term and long-term success, profitability and growth;
- deliver a mix of fixed and at-risk compensation with the portion of compensation at risk increasing with seniority; and
- tie our executive compensation to our ability to pay and safety, quality, delivery, cost and individual performance.

The compensation of our named executive officers is targeted at the 50th to 65th percentile of our compensation peer group and, in 2014, consisted primarily of the following components:

- a base salary targeted at the 50th percentile of our compensation peer group (1) compensating each named executive officer based on the level of responsibility, individual expertise and prior experience and (2) providing a fixed amount of cash compensation upon which our named executive officers can rely;

a short-term annual cash incentive targeted at the 50th percentile of our compensation peer group (1) payable only if our company achieves a certain adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or Adjusted EBITDA, performance goal determined using an economic value added, or EVA, calculation reflecting the adjusted pre-tax operating income, or PTOI, of our core Fabricated Products business less a capital charge calculated as a percentage of our adjusted net assets as more fully described below, and (2) adjusted based on (a) our safety performance based on our total case incident rate, or TCIR, which is the average number of work-related injuries incurred by 100 workers during a one-year period, (b) our quality performance based on our no-fault claim rate, (c) delivery performance based on our on-time delivery rate, (d) cost performance based on actual manufacturing costs compared to historical manufacturing costs and (e) individual performance based on individual, facility, and/or functional performance; and

an equity-based, long-term incentive targeted at between the 50th and 65th percentile of our compensation peer group and designed to align compensation with the interests of our stockholders and to enhance retention of our named executive officers consisting of (1) restricted stock with three-year cliff vesting and (2) performance shares that vest, if at all, based on our total shareholder return, or TSR, compared to our peers in the S&P SmallCap 600 Materials Index.

We no longer maintain a defined benefit pension plan or retiree medical program that covers members of senior management. Retirement benefits to our senior management, including our named executive officers, are provided through a defined contribution retirement program consisting of a 401(k) plan (which we refer to as our Savings Plan) and a nonqualified and unsecured deferred compensation plan intended to restore benefits that would be payable to designated participants but for the limitations on benefit accruals and payments imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (which we refer to as our Restoration Plan).

For 2014, approximately 75% of our chief executive officer's target total compensation, and approximately 67% of the target total compensation of our other named executive officers, consisted of at-risk compensation, which we define as compensation that either (1) will be realized, if at all, only if certain financial performance levels are achieved as in the case of our annual short-term incentive and the portion of our long-term incentive consisting of performance shares or (2) is substantially impacted by the overall performance of the company as in the case of the portion of our long-term incentive compensation consisting of restricted stock.

Our compensation structure is also supported by our corporate governance practices, which further align the interests of senior management and our stockholders. The table below sets forth the best practice compensation features we adopted.

Best Practice Compensation Features

What We Do

DO align pay and performance by linking a significant portion of total compensation to company performance, including financial, safety, quality, delivery and cost performance, as well as individual performance

DO balance both short-term (one-year) and long-term (three-years) performance across our incentive programs

DO enhance retention with time-based, three-year cliff vesting schedule for restricted stock awards

DO subject the vesting of 50% (64% for our CEO) of long-term incentive awards to performance targets based on relative TSR over a three-year performance period

DO maintain rigorous stock ownership guidelines (6x base salary for CEO and non-employee directors and 3x for executive officers)

DO maintain a clawback policy for both equity and cash awards

DO cap payouts for awards under both of our short- and long-term incentive plans

DO strive to award incentive compensation that qualifies as performance-based compensation under

What We Don't Do

NO compensation or incentive that encourages unnecessary or excessive risk taking

NO repricing or buyout of "underwater" stock options or appreciation rights without stockholder approval

NO pledging of our securities

NO hedging or speculative transactions involving our securities

NO guaranteed payout for cash incentive compensation or equity grants

NO excessive perquisites or other benefits

NO equity plan evergreen provisions

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code
DO appoint a compensation committee comprised
solely of independent directors
DO use an independent compensation consultant

We urge our stockholders to review our CD&A which describes our compensation philosophy and programs in detail and to approve the compensation of our named executive officers. While this vote on executive compensation is non-binding and solely advisory in nature, our board of directors and the compensation committee value the opinions that our stockholders express in their votes and will consider the outcome of the vote when determining future executive compensation programs. At our 2014 annual meeting, the advisory vote on our executive compensation received the approval of 96% of the votes cast.

The board of directors recommends a vote “FOR” the approval of the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement.

Proposal for Approval of the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan for Purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code

General

The Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan, which we refer to herein as the Equity Incentive Plan, initially became effective on July 6, 2006. Thereafter, our board of directors amended and restated the Equity Incentive Plan effective as of February 6, 2008, again effective as of June 2, 2009 and again effective as of March 1, 2010; these amendments were not material and did not affect the number of shares available for delivery under the Equity Incentive Plan. Subsequently, the Equity Incentive Plan was amended and restated by our board of directors and approved by our stockholders effective as of June 8, 2010; in this instance, the amendments increased the number of shares available for issuance under the Equity Incentive Plan. Following June 8, 2010, our board of directors amended and restated the Equity Incentive Plan as of February 8, 2012 and again effective as of April 10, 2013, to read as set forth in Appendix A to this Proxy Statement; these amendments were not material and did not affect the number of shares available for issuance under the Equity Incentive Plan.

We are requesting our stockholders’ approval of the Equity Incentive Plan solely so that we continue to have the flexibility to grant awards that qualify for the performance-based exclusion from the deduction limitations under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code as described below. No increase in the number of shares of common stock available for issuance in respect of awards will result from our stockholders’ approval of the Equity Incentive Plan.

Flexibility to Grant Performance-Based Compensation Under Section 162(m)

Section 162(m) generally limits the deductibility of compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to our principal executive officer and our next three highest-paid executive officers other than the principal financial officer (each, a “covered employee”). However, certain types of compensation are not subject to the limit, including compensation that is “performance-based” within the meaning of Section 162(m) and related regulations promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service. Generally, compensation will be considered to be “performance-based” if:

(1) the compensation is to be paid solely on account of attainment of one or more pre-established performance goals pursuant to an objective compensation formula;

(2) such performance goal(s) are established by a compensation committee comprised solely of two or more independent directors;

(3) the compensation committee certifies, in writing, prior to payment of the compensation that the performance goal(s) and any other material terms were satisfied; and

(4) the material terms of the performance goals in respect of which the compensation is to be paid are disclosed to, and approved by, stockholders before the compensation is paid.

Since March 2012, the compensation committee has annually approved umbrella arrangements under our Equity Incentive Plan (which were designed to allow the qualification of awards under Section 162(m)) to preserve the deductibility of the compensation paid under our incentive programs. Although we could from time to time pay

compensation to our executives that is not fully deductible, the compensation committee routinely evaluates steps that can be taken to increase or otherwise preserve deductibility in the future. Accordingly, we are seeking our stockholders' renewed approval of the Equity Incentive Plan for purposes of Section 162(m), so that we maintain the flexibility to grant awards that qualify for the performance-based exclusion from the limitations that otherwise affect the deductibility of compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to covered employees. However, even if we grant awards intended to qualify for the performance-based exclusion, there can be no assurance that those awards will so qualify or ultimately be deductible.

The board of directors recommends a vote "FOR" approval of the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Description of the Equity Incentive Plan

The Equity Incentive Plan authorizes the issuance of option rights, appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units, awards to non-employee directors and directors emeritus, and other awards, including awards in the forms of cash, shares of common stock, notes or other property. The following is a general description of the Equity Incentive Plan and is qualified in its entirety by the complete text of the Equity Incentive Plan, which is attached as Appendix A to this Proxy Statement.

Shares Available for Awards

The Equity Incentive Plan provides that, subject to certain adjustments that may be required from time to time to prevent dilution or enlargement of the rights of participants under the Equity Incentive Plan, a maximum of 2,722,222 shares of common stock may be issued pursuant to the Equity Incentive Plan, taking into account all shares issued or reserved under the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan since it initially became effective on July 6, 2006. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, approximately [] shares are available for additional awards.

Any shares issued or reserved and subject to awards that expire or are forfeited or are cancelled will again become available for issuance under the Equity Incentive Plan, but shares withheld by us to satisfy the tax withholding obligation will not again become available for issuance under the Equity Incentive Plan. Shares of common stock issued pursuant to the Equity Incentive Plan may be shares of original issuance or treasury shares or a combination of both.

Administration of the Plan

The Equity Incentive Plan is administered by a committee of non-employee directors of our board of directors, currently the compensation committee. The compensation committee has the authority to interpret and construct, and make any determination pursuant to, any provision of the Equity Incentive Plan and any document evidencing the grant of any award, and such interpretation, construction and determination will be final and conclusive. The compensation committee may also delegate all or any part of its authority under the Equity Incentive Plan to a subcommittee of the compensation committee. Members of the compensation committee are appointed by the board of directors and may be removed from the compensation committee by the board of directors from time to time.

Eligibility

Officers and other key employees (and persons who have agreed to commence serving in any of those capacities within 90 days) who are selected by the compensation committee, as well as our non-employee directors, are eligible to participate in the Equity Incentive Plan. Any director emeritus and any person who provides services to us or any of our subsidiaries that are equivalent to those typically provided by employees and who are selected by the compensation committee are also eligible to participate in the Equity Incentive Plan. Additionally, all of our non-employee directors are eligible to receive awards under the Equity Incentive Plan.

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, approximately 60 members of management, including our named executive officers, and other key employees had been selected by the compensation committee to receive awards under the Equity Incentive Plan.

Participant Award Limits

No Equity Incentive Plan participant may be granted option rights, appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units or other awards under the Equity Incentive Plan, in the aggregate, for more than 500,000 shares of common stock during any calendar year. No Equity Incentive Plan participant may receive an award of performance shares, performance units or other awards under the Equity Incentive Plan having an aggregate maximum value, determined as of their respective dates of grants, in excess of \$5 million.

Form of Awards Available Under the Equity Incentive Plan

The forms of awards authorized under the plan are described below. Individual grants may have different terms and conditions, as determined by the compensation committee consistent with the provisions of the Equity Incentive Plan.

Stock Options. A stock option represents the right to purchase a share of our common stock at a predetermined price. The compensation committee may authorize the grant of incentive stock options that are intended to qualify as such under

Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code (“incentive stock options”) or stock options that are not intended to qualify as incentive stock options (“non-qualified stock options”).

The exercise price of each stock option granted may not be less than the market value per share on the date of the grant, and in the case of incentive stock options granted to an employee possessing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of our shares or one of our subsidiaries (a “10% stockholder”), the option price per share may not be less than 110% of the market value per share on the date of the grant.

Generally, no option will be exercisable more than 10 years from the date of the grant, and, in the case of incentive stock options granted to 10% stockholders, no such option will be exercisable more than five years from the date of the grant.

Vesting of stock options will be based on the required period or periods of continuous service by the optionee, and may also be contingent upon the optionee’s achievement of certain management objectives. In addition, a grant of option rights may provide for earlier exercise in the event of termination of employment, whether by retirement, death, disability or otherwise, or a change in control.

Each option grant must specify whether payment for shares of common stock purchased upon the exercise of an option may be made:

- in cash or by check acceptable to us or by wire transfer of immediately available funds;

- by transfer to us of shares of common stock, having a value at the time of exercise equal to the total option price, that are owned by the participant for at least six months;

- by a combination of such methods of payment; or

- by such other methods as may be approved by the compensation committee.

The compensation committee may determine, at or after the date of the grant, that payment of the option price of any non-qualified stock options may be made in whole or in part in the form of restricted stock or other shares of common stock that are forfeitable or subject to restrictions on transfer, or in the form of restricted stock units.

Appreciation Rights. An appreciation right entitles the recipient to receive a payment in cash, shares of common stock, or a combination thereof. The compensation committee may specify that the amount payable on exercise of appreciation rights may not exceed a specified amount and may grant to the recipient or retain in the compensation committee the right to elect among these payment alternatives. An appreciation right may be granted independent of (a “free-standing appreciation right”) or in tandem with (a “tandem appreciation right”) an option.

A free-standing appreciation right entitles the participant to receive from us an amount determined by the compensation committee, which is expressed as a percentage of the spread (not exceeding 100%) of the market value per share over the base price established for the appreciation right at the time of exercise. The base price of a free-standing appreciation right may not be less than the market value per share on the date of grant. No free-standing appreciation right may be exercisable more than 10 years from the date of grant.

A tandem appreciation right entitles the optionee to receive from us, upon exercise by surrendering the related option, an amount determined by the compensation committee, which is expressed as a percentage of the spread (not exceeding 100%) of the market value per share over the base price established for the appreciation right at the time of exercise. The base price of the tandem appreciation right is the option price of the related option. Tandem appreciation

rights may be granted at any time prior to the exercise or termination of the related option rights, except that a tandem appreciation right awarded in relation to an incentive stock option must be granted concurrently with such incentive stock option. A tandem appreciation right may be exercised only (1) at a time when the related option right is exercisable and the spread is positive, and (2) by surrendering the related option right for cancellation. Similarly, the exercise of an option will result in the cancellation on a share-for-share basis of a tandem appreciation right in respect of such option.

Vesting of appreciation rights will be based on waiting periods before exercise and permissible exercise dates and may also be contingent upon the participant's achievement of certain management objectives. In addition, the grant of an appreciation right may specify that the appreciation right may be exercised only in the event of, or earlier in the event of, termination of employment, whether by retirement, death, disability or otherwise, or a change in control.

Restricted Stock. Restricted stock consists of shares of our common stock that are awarded subject to restrictions on transfer and vesting requirements as may be determined by the compensation committee in accordance with the Equity Incentive Plan. Recipients of restricted stock have the same rights as stockholders, including the right to vote the shares and receive dividends in the form of cash or stock. Except for grants to non-employee directors (discussed below), each grant of restricted stock will provide that the restricted stock covered by the grant will be subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture for a period of not less than one year and may provide for earlier lapse of such substantial risk of forfeiture in the event of termination of employment, whether by retirement, death, disability or otherwise, or a change in control. Subject to the foregoing, any grant of restricted stock may specify management objectives that, if achieved, will result in the termination or early termination of the restriction applicable to such restricted stock.

Restricted Stock Units. A restricted stock unit represents a right to receive our common stock or cash, subject to the fulfillment of conditions (which may include the achievement of management objectives) during the restriction period specified by the compensation committee. Each restricted stock unit is subject to a restriction period of not less than one year, determined by the compensation committee at the date of the grant, and may provide for the earlier lapse or other modification of such restriction period in the event of termination of employment, whether by retirement, death, disability or otherwise, or a change in control. During the applicable restriction period, the participant will have no right to transfer any rights under the award, will have no rights of ownership in the shares of common stock underlying restricted stock units and will have no right to vote such shares.

Performance Shares and Performance Units. Performance shares or performance units entitle the recipient to receive cash, common stock or a combination thereof upon achievement of specified performance goals during the performance period. The compensation committee may grant to the participant or retain in the compensation committee the right to elect among these payment alternatives and may specify that the amount payable with respect thereto may not exceed a specified amount. The performance period with respect to each performance share or performance unit may not be less than one year from the date of grant, and may be subject to earlier lapse or other modification in the event of termination of employment, whether by retirement, death, disability or otherwise, or a change in control.

Other Awards. The compensation committee may grant other stock or performance-based awards, subject to limitations under applicable law, and determine the terms and conditions of such awards. The compensation committee may also grant cash awards as an element of or supplement to any other award. Additionally, the compensation committee may grant shares of common stock as a bonus, or may grant other awards in lieu of our obligations under the Equity Incentive Plan or under our other plans or compensatory arrangements.

Performance Goals

Performance goals may be described in terms of company-wide objectives or in terms of objectives that are related to the performance of the individual participant or function within our company or the subsidiary, division, department, region or function within our company in which the participant is employed or on which the participant's efforts have the most influence. In connection with the establishment of performance goals, the compensation committee may provide that any evaluation of performance may include or exclude certain items that may occur during any fiscal year, including (1) asset write downs; (2) litigation or claim judgments or settlements; (3) the effect of changes in tax laws, accounting principles, or other laws or provisions affecting reported results; (4) any reorganization and restructuring programs; (5) extraordinary nonrecurring items; (6) acquisitions or divestitures; and (7) foreign exchange gains and losses. To the extent such inclusions or exclusions affect awards to recipients that are intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m), they must be prescribed in a form that meets the requirements of Section 162(m) for deductibility. The performance goals may be made relative to the performance of other companies, and performance goals applicable to any award to a recipient that is intended to qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) will be based on specified levels of, growth in or performance

relative to peer company performance in, one or more of the following criteria, either alone or in any combination:

- (a) Earnings per share;
- (b) Net income (before or after taxes);
- (c) Cash flow;
- (d) Return measures (including, but not limited to, return on assets, revenue, equity or sales);
- (e) Cash flow return on investments;

- (f) Earnings before or after taxes, interest, depreciation and amortization;
- (g) Growth in sales or revenues;
- (h) Share price (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total shareholder return);
- (i) Operating measures (including, but not limited to, operating margin and operating costs); and
- (j) Any of the above criteria as compared to the performance of a published or a special index deemed applicable by the compensation committee, including, but not limited to, the S&P's 500 Stock Index.

If the compensation committee determines that a change in our business, operations, corporate structure or capital structure, or the manner in which we conduct our business, or other events or circumstances render the performance goals unsuitable, the compensation committee may in its discretion modify such performance goals or the related minimum acceptable level of achievement, in whole or in part, as the compensation committee deems appropriate and equitable, except in the case of a covered employee where such action would result in the loss of the otherwise available exemption of the award under Section 162(m). In such case, the compensation committee will not make any modification of the performance goals or minimum acceptable level of achievement with respect to such covered employee.

Awards to Non-Employee Directors

Our board of directors may grant to non-employee directors options, appreciation rights or other awards and may grant or sell to non-employee directors shares of common stock, restricted stock or restricted stock units.

Options granted to a non-employee director may not have an option price per share that is less than the market value per share on the date of the grant. No option may be exercisable more than 10 years from the date of the grant. The payment to us to exercise the option rights may be made in cash or in shares of common stock then owned by the optionee for at least six months or in a combination of cash and such shares. Restricted stock, appreciation rights and restricted stock units may be granted to non-employee directors as described above, except that the period for which the restricted stock will be subject to substantial risk of forfeiture and the restriction period for the restricted stock units may be less than one year.

The Equity Incentive Plan also permits non-employee directors to elect to receive shares of our common stock in lieu of any or all of the annual cash retainers paid to non-employee directors, including retainers for serving as a committee chair or Lead Independent Director.

Foreign Employees and French Sub-Plan

The compensation committee may provide for such special terms for awards to participants who are foreign nationals or who are employed by us or any of our subsidiaries outside of the United States or who provide services to us under an agreement with a foreign nation or agency, as the compensation committee may consider necessary or appropriate to accommodate differences in local law, tax policy or custom. Additionally, the compensation committee may approve such supplements to or amendments, restatements or alternative versions of the Equity Incentive Plan as it may consider necessary or appropriate for such purposes, without thereby affecting the terms of the Equity Incentive Plan as in effect for any other purpose, and our Secretary or other appropriate officer may certify any such document as having been approved and adopted in the same manner as the Equity Incentive Plan. No such special terms, supplements, amendments or restatements, however, will include any provisions that are inconsistent with the terms of the Equity Incentive Plan as then in effect unless the Equity Incentive Plan could have been amended to eliminate

such inconsistency without further approval by our stockholders.

In December 2008, the compensation committee approved a French sub-plan for issuance of restricted stock units to eligible employees of our French subsidiary. Under the French sub-plan, the restriction period on the restricted stock units may not be less than two years from the date of the grant and the recipient of such restricted stock units is not entitled to dividend equivalent payments in the event that we declare dividends on shares of our common stock. The recipient is also subject to a holding period of not less than two years after the expiration of the restriction period during which the recipient may not transfer shares of our common stock issued pursuant to the vesting of such restricted stock units. Under no circumstances may the recipient sell such common stock: (1) during the 10 trading days preceding and following the date on which we release our earnings, and (2) during a period starting from the date on which management becomes aware of any non-public information which, if made public, could significantly affect our stock price and ending on the close of the tenth trading day after such information is made public.

Detrimental Activity by Participants

Under the Equity Incentive Plan, any award agreement may provide that, if the compensation committee determines that a participant has engaged in any detrimental activity, either during employment by us, or within a specified period after termination of employment, the participant is required to, among other things:

forfeit any award under the Equity Incentive Plan held by the participant,

return to us (in exchange for our payment to the participant of any cash amount that the participant paid to us for such an award) all shares of our common stock acquired under the Equity Incentive Plan that the participant has not disposed of, and

with respect to any shares acquired under the Equity Incentive Plan that the participant has disposed of, pay to us the difference between the market value of those shares on the date they were acquired and any amount that the participant paid for such shares.

Under the Equity Incentive Plan, “detrimental activity” is generally defined to include (1) conduct resulting in an accounting restatement due to material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirements under U.S. federal securities laws, (2) competing with us, (3) soliciting any of our employees to terminate his or her employment with us, (4) disclosing our confidential business information, (5) failing or refusing to promptly disclose and assign to us rights in certain intellectual property that the participant conceived during his or her employment with us, and (6) activity that results in the termination of the participant’s employment by us for cause, which we typically define to include violation of our code of business conduct and ethics. Since the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan initially became effective on July 6, 2006, each award agreement thereunder, other than award agreements with non-employee directors and director emeritus, has contained such provisions that are applicable if the compensation committee determines the participant has engaged in detrimental activity, either during employment by us or generally within one year after termination of employment.

Transferability

Generally, no option, appreciation right or other derivative security or award will be transferable by the recipient except by will or the laws of descent and distribution. To the extent authorized in an evidence of award, a non-qualified stock option, appreciation right or other derivative security or award may be transferable upon the death of the recipient, without payment of consideration, to any one or more family members of the recipient properly designated in writing by the recipient. To the extent authorized in an evidence of award, a non-qualified stock option, appreciation right or other derivative security or award may also be transferable by the recipient, without payment of consideration, to any one or more family members of the recipient, except that such transfer will not be effective until notice of such transfer is delivered to us and any such transferee will be subject to the same terms and conditions as the recipient. Except as otherwise determined by the compensation committee, options and appreciation rights will be exercisable during the recipient’s lifetime only by him or her or, in the event of the recipient’s legal incapacity to do so, by his or her guardian or legal representative acting on behalf of the participant in a fiduciary capacity under state law and/or court supervision.

Term

The Equity Incentive Plan will expire on July 6, 2016. No grants will be made under the plan after that date, but all grants made on or prior to such date will continue in effect thereafter subject to the terms thereof and of the Equity Incentive Plan. We plan to seek shareholder approval of a new equity and performance incentive plan prior to the

expiration of the Equity Incentive Plan.

Termination and Amendment of the Plan

Our board of directors may, in its discretion, terminate the Equity Incentive Plan at any time. The termination of the Equity Incentive Plan would not affect the rights of participants or their successors under any awards outstanding and not exercised in full on the date of termination.

Our board of directors may at any time and from time to time amend the Equity Incentive Plan in whole or in part. Any amendment which must be approved by our stockholders in order to comply with applicable law or the rules of the principal securities exchange, association or quotation system on which our common stock is then traded or quoted will not be effective

unless and until such approval has been obtained. The compensation committee will not, without the further approval of the stockholders: (i) amend any outstanding stock option or appreciation right to reduce the exercise price or base price of such outstanding stock option or appreciation right; (ii) cancel any outstanding stock option or appreciation right in exchange for an award with an exercise price or base price that is less than the original option price or base price; or (iii) cancel any outstanding stock option or appreciation right with an exercise price or base price that is greater than the then-current market value per share in exchange for cash or other property.

Tax Withholding

To the extent that we are required to withhold federal, state, local or foreign taxes in connection with any payment made or benefit realized by an award recipient under the Equity Incentive Plan, and the amounts available to us for such withholding are insufficient, it is a condition to the receipt of such payment or the realization of such benefit that the recipient makes arrangements satisfactory to us for payment of such taxes required to be withheld. Such arrangement, in the discretion of the compensation committee, may include relinquishment of a portion of such payment or benefit, provided that the number of shares relinquished may not exceed the minimum number of shares required to satisfy the payment of the statutory minimum amount of taxes that the company is required to withhold in connection with the realization of such benefit.

United States Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following is a brief discussion of the principal U.S. federal income tax consequences to award recipients and us with respect to participation in the Equity Incentive Plan. This summary contains general statements based on current U.S. federal income tax statutes, regulations and currently available interpretations thereof. This summary is not intended to be exhaustive, and does not discuss the income tax laws of any city, state or foreign jurisdiction in which an award recipient may reside. Tax consequences may vary depending on particular circumstances and administrative and judicial interpretations of the application of the federal income tax laws are subject to change.

Grants of Stock Options and Other Awards

Non-Qualified Stock Options. In general, no income will be recognized by a recipient at the time a non-qualified stock option is granted. At the time of exercise of the stock option, the recipient will recognize ordinary income if the shares are not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture (as defined in Section 83 of the Internal Revenue Code). The amount of such income will be equal to the difference between the option price paid for the shares and the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise. At the time of the sale of the shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of a non-qualified stock option, appreciation (or depreciation) in value of the shares after the date of exercise will generally be treated as either short-term or long-term capital gain (or loss) depending on how long the shares have been held. Long-term capital gains may be eligible for reduced rates if applicable holding period requirements are satisfied. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to certain limitations which are not addressed in this summary.

Incentive Stock Options. In general, no income will be recognized by a recipient upon the grant of an option intended to be an incentive stock option, as defined under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code, and generally no income will be recognized by the recipient upon the exercise of an incentive stock option if the option is exercised while the recipient is employed by us or our subsidiary or not later than three months after terminating employment (12 months if the recipient is disabled). The exercise of an incentive stock option, however, may result in alternative minimum tax, or AMT liability, as discussed below. If shares of common stock are issued to the recipient pursuant to the exercise of an incentive stock option, and if no disqualifying disposition of the shares is made by the recipient within two years after the date of grant or within one year after the transfer of such shares to the recipient, then upon the sale of the shares, any amount realized in excess of the option price will be taxed to the recipient as a capital gain and any loss sustained will be a capital loss.

If shares of common stock acquired upon the exercise of an incentive stock option are disposed of prior to the expiration of either holding period described above, the recipient generally will recognize ordinary income in the year of disposition in an amount equal to the excess (if any) of the fair market value of such shares at the time of exercise (or, if less, the amount realized on the disposition of such shares if a sale or exchange) over the option price paid for the shares. Any further gain (or loss) realized by the participant generally will be taxed as a capital gain (or loss).

Individuals are subject to an AMT based upon an expanded tax base to the extent that the AMT exceeds the regular tax liability. The AMT is generally imposed on the taxpayer's alternative minimum taxable income in excess of an exemption amount. Alternative minimum taxable income generally is the taxpayer's taxable income, increased or decreased by certain adjustments and increased by certain preferences. For AMT purposes, incentive stock options are generally treated in a manner similar to the regular tax treatment of non-qualified stock options described above. Thus, for example, for AMT purposes, upon

the exercise of an incentive stock option, the amount of the spread between the exercise price of the option and the fair market value of the underlying shares of common stock on the date of exercise will be included in alternative minimum taxable income, and the basis of the shares will equal their fair market value when the stock option is exercised. A tax credit may be available in a subsequent taxable year for some or all of any AMT paid.

Appreciation Rights. Generally, the recipient of an appreciation right will not recognize income when the right is granted. Upon exercise of an appreciation right, the amount of any cash received and the fair market value on the exercise date of any unrestricted shares of common stock received are taxable to the recipient as ordinary income.

Restricted Stock. A recipient of restricted stock generally will be subject to tax at ordinary income rates on the fair market value of the restricted stock (reduced by any amount paid by the participant for the restricted stock) at such time as the stock is no longer subject to forfeiture or restrictions on transfer for purposes of Section 83 of the Internal Revenue Code (the "restrictions"). However, a recipient who makes an election under Section 83(b) within 30 days of the date of transfer of the stock will have taxable ordinary income on the date of transfer of the stock equal to the excess of the fair market value of such stock (determined without regard to the restrictions) over the purchase price, if any, paid for the restricted stock. If a Section 83(b) election has not been made, any dividends received with respect to restricted stock that is subject to the restrictions generally will be treated as compensation that is taxable as ordinary income to the participant and not as dividend income.

Restricted Stock Units. A recipient generally will not recognize income upon the grant of restricted stock units. Any subsequent transfer of cash or shares of common stock in satisfaction of the grant will generally result in the recipient recognizing ordinary income at the time of transfer, in an amount equal to the amount of cash and the fair market value of the shares at the time of such transfer (reduced by any amount paid by the participant). If the shares transferred constitute substantially non-vested property within the meaning of Section 83, the rules described above for restricted stock will generally apply to such shares.

Performance Shares and Performance Units. No income generally will be recognized upon the grant of performance shares or performance units. The recipient generally will be required to include as ordinary income in the year of receipt an amount equal to the amount of cash received and the fair market value of any non-restricted shares of common stock received in satisfaction of a grant of performance shares or performance units.

Special Rules Applicable to Directors and Officers

In limited circumstances where the sale of stock that is received as the result of a grant of an award could subject a director or officer to suit to recover short-swing profits under Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (a "short-swing profit recovery suit"), the tax consequences to the director or officer may differ from the tax consequences described above. In these circumstances, unless a Section 83(b) election has been made so that the insider was taxed on the date of grant of the award, the principal difference will usually be to postpone valuation and taxation of the stock received from the time of the insider's receipt of the stock until the sale of stock received could no longer subject the director or officer to a short-swing profit recovery suit, but not longer than six months.

Tax Consequences to our Company

To the extent that an award recipient recognizes ordinary income in the circumstances described above, we or the subsidiary for whom the recipient performs services would be entitled to a corresponding federal income tax deduction, provided in general that (1) the amount is an ordinary and necessary business expense and such income meets the test of reasonableness, (2) the deduction is not disallowed pursuant to the annual compensation limit set forth in Section 162(m), and (3) certain statutory provisions relating to so-called "excess parachute payments" do not apply. Awards granted under the Equity Incentive Plan may be subject to acceleration in the event of a change in

control of our company. Therefore, it is possible that these change in control features may affect whether amounts will be deductible by us under the “excess parachute payments” provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Future Awards Under the Equity Incentive Plan

The granting of awards under the Equity Incentive Plan is subject to the discretion of the compensation committee. Accordingly, as of the date of this Proxy Statement, the type or amount of awards, if any, that will be received by or allocated to the following persons or groups under the Equity Incentive Plan in the future are not determinable: (1) our chief executive officer, (2) each of our other named executive officers, (3) our executive officers as a group, (4) our non-employee directors as a group, and (5) our employees (other than our executive officers) as a group.

Proposal to Amend our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to Implement a Majority Voting Standard in Uncontested Director Elections

At the Annual Meeting, our stockholders will be asked to consider a proposal to approve an amendment to Section 1 of Article VII of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation that would implement a majority voting standard in uncontested elections of directors.

The proposed amendment would provide that, in an uncontested election of directors, a candidate would be elected as a director only if the votes cast for the candidate exceed the votes withheld from the candidate. Abstentions and broker non-votes would not be counted as votes cast for or withheld from a candidate. If, however, the board of directors were to determine that an election of directors is contested (i.e., the number of candidates exceeds the number of directors to be elected), a plurality voting standard would apply and the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes would be elected.

We believe that the adoption of a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections will give our stockholders a greater voice in determining the composition of our board of directors by limiting the opportunity for a director nominee to be elected when withheld votes exceed the votes for the director nominee.

We believe, however, that a plurality voting standard should continue to apply in situations where the number of candidates exceeds the number of directors to be elected. If a majority voting standard is used in that circumstance, it is possible that not all of the director positions up for election would be filled, since it is possible that no candidate would receive a majority of the votes cast in his or her election.

If the proposed amendment becomes effective, our bylaws would be amended to remove references to plurality voting. Additionally, if the proposed amendment becomes effective, in order to address the issue of “holdover” directors who are not re-elected but remain directors because their successor has not been elected or appointed, our corporate governance guidelines would be amended to implement a director resignation policy. This policy would provide that an incumbent director who is not re-elected by a majority vote in an uncontested election must tender to the board of directors his or her resignation as a director promptly following the certification of the election results. The nominating and corporate governance committee would promptly consider the resignation and make a recommendation to the board of directors as to whether to accept or reject the tendered resignation and whether other action should be taken. The board of directors would then consider each tendered resignation and act on each, taking into account its fiduciary duties to the company and its stockholders. Within 90 days following certification of the election results, the company would publicly disclose the decision of the board of directors whether to accept or reject each tendered resignation and, if applicable, the reasons for rejecting a tendered resignation. Pursuant to the provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws, if a director’s tendered resignation is rejected, he or she would continue to serve until his or her successor is elected, or until his or her earlier resignation, removal or death. If a director’s tendered resignation is accepted, then the board of directors would have the sole discretion to fill any resulting vacancy or decrease the number of directors, in each case pursuant to the provisions of and to the extent permitted by our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws. Any director who tenders his or her resignation pursuant to this policy would be required to abstain from participating in the nominating and corporate governance committee’s deliberations and recommendation and in the decision of the board of directors as to whether to accept or reject the tendered resignation.

The proposed amendment consists of the deletion of the reference to plurality voting in the fifth sentence of Section 1 of Article VII of the company’s amended and restated certificate of incorporation and the addition, immediately following such sentence, of four new sentences describing the new voting requirements for the election of directors. The text of the revised sentence, marked to show the proposed deletion from that sentence and the addition immediately following that sentence of the four new sentences, is included in Appendix B to this Proxy Statement.

The description of the proposed amendment to the company's amended and restated certificate of incorporation included above is only a summary of the amendment and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual text of the proposed amendment included in Appendix B to this Proxy Statement. If adopted, the amendment to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested elections of directors will become effective upon the filing of a certificate of amendment with the Secretary of State of Delaware, which is expected to occur promptly following a favorable stockholder vote.

The board of directors recommends a vote "FOR" the amendment of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections.

Proposal for Ratification of the Selection of our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Pursuant to the audit committee charter, the audit committee has the sole authority to retain an independent registered public accounting firm for our company. The board of directors requests that the stockholders ratify the audit committee's selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015.

The audit committee will not be bound by the ratification of, or failure to ratify, the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP, but the audit committee will consider any failure to ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP in connection with the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for 2016.

The board of directors recommends a vote "FOR" the ratification of the audit committee's selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Our board of directors is responsible for providing effective governance over the affairs of our company. Our corporate governance practices are designed to align the interests of our board of directors and management with those of our stockholders and to promote honesty and integrity throughout the company. Highlights of our corporate governance practices are described below.

A copy of the current charter, as approved by our board of directors, for each of the executive committee, audit committee, compensation committee, nominating and corporate governance committee and talent development committee, and a copy of our corporate governance guidelines and code of business conduct and ethics, which applies to all of our employees, including our executive officers, are available on our website at www.kaiseraluminum.com under "Investor Relations - Corporate Governance." Copies are also available to stockholders upon request from our Corporate Communications Department, Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610-2831. Furthermore, we will post any amendments to our code of business conduct and ethics, or waivers of the code for our directors or executive officers, on our website at www.kaiseraluminum.com under "Investor Relations - Corporate Governance."

Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors

Our stockholders may communicate with our board of directors as a group or with the chair of the executive committee, audit committee, compensation committee or nominating and corporate governance committee by sending an email to boardofdirectors@kaiseraluminum.com, execchair@kaiseraluminum.com, auditchair@kaiseraluminum.com, compchair@kaiseraluminum.com, or nominatingchair@kaiseraluminum.com, respectively, or by writing to such group or person at Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, Attn: Corporate Secretary (Board of Directors), 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200, Foothill Ranch, California 92610-2831. Communications that are intended specifically for any other group of directors or for any individual director, such as the independent directors as a group or the Lead Independent Director, should be sent to the attention of our corporate secretary at the address above or via email to corpsecretary@kaiseraluminum.com and should clearly state the individual director or group of directors that is the intended recipient of the communication.

Our corporate secretary will review each communication and determine whether or not the communication is appropriate for delivery. Communications that, in the judgment of our corporate secretary, are clearly of a marketing nature, that advocate that our company engage in illegal activity, that do not reasonably relate to our company or our business or that are similarly inappropriate will not be furnished to the intended recipient. If, in the judgment of the corporate secretary, any communication pertains to an accounting matter, it will be forwarded to our compliance officer.

Communications that, in the judgment of our corporate secretary, are appropriate for delivery will, unless requiring immediate attention, be assembled and delivered to the intended recipients on a periodic basis, generally at or in advance of each regularly scheduled meeting of our board of directors. Any communication that, in the judgment of our corporate secretary, requires immediate attention will be promptly delivered. In no case will the corporate secretary provide anyone but a member of our board of directors with access to any such communication, except as noted above with respect to communications pertaining to accounting matters.

Board and Committee Meetings and Consents in 2014

During 2014, our board of directors held seven meetings and acted by unanimous written consent four times. In addition to meetings of our full board of directors, directors attended meetings of committees of our board of directors. Each incumbent director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings that our full board of

directors held during the period he or she was a director in 2014 and that each committee on which he or she served held during the period he or she served on such committee in 2014.

Annual Meetings of Stockholders

Members of our board of directors are expected to make reasonable efforts to attend our annual meetings of stockholders. All directors then serving attended our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders.

Director Independence

Our corporate governance guidelines require that a majority of the members of our board of directors satisfy the independence requirements set forth in the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market. We refer to these requirements as the general independence criteria. Additionally, the audit committee charter, compensation committee charter and nominating and corporate governance committee charter require that all respective committee members satisfy the general independence criteria. There are no family relationships among our officers or directors.

Based upon information requested from and provided by each of our directors concerning his or her background, employment and affiliations, including family relationships, our board of directors has determined that each of Mmes. Bartholomew, Hopp and Martin and Messrs. Foster, Hassey, Murdy, Osborne, Quinn, Van Leeuwen and Wilcox, representing 10 of our 11 directors, satisfies the general independence criteria and is independent within the meaning of such term under our corporate governance guidelines. The eleventh director, Mr. Hockema, cannot meet the independence requirement as our President and Chief Executive Officer. In making such determination, our board of directors considered the relationships that each of our directors had with our company and all other facts and circumstances our board of directors deemed relevant in determining the independence of each of our directors in accordance with the general independence criteria.

Annual Performance Reviews

Under our corporate governance guidelines, our board of directors is required to conduct an annual self-evaluation to determine whether our board of directors and its committees are functioning effectively. Additionally, the charter for each committee of our board of directors requires each committee to annually evaluate its performance. In addition to the evaluation performed by the nominating and corporate governance committee with respect to whether an incumbent director should be nominated for re-election to the board of directors upon expiration of such director's term, the chair of the nominating and corporate governance committee conducts performance reviews of individual directors. We further strengthen the performance evaluation process by having one-on-one interviews with each individual director conducted by a member of our senior management to discuss, among other things, the annual self-evaluation. The results from the one-on-one interviews are summarized and reviewed with the nominating and corporate governance committee and the board of directors.

Stock Ownership Guidelines and Securities Trading Policy

Our stock ownership guidelines require our non-employee directors to own company stock equal to six times their annual base retainer within five years of becoming a member of our board of directors. For purposes of measuring our non-employee directors' compliance with our stock ownership guidelines, restricted stock is valued at the closing price of our common stock on the grant date and all other shares of common stock purchased or acquired are valued at the purchase price of such shares. Currently, each of our non-employee directors satisfies the applicable stock ownership requirements under the stock ownership guidelines. Our stock ownership guidelines also apply to senior management. For additional information regarding our stock ownership guidelines, see "Executive Compensation - Stock Ownership Guidelines."

Our securities trading policy contains anti-hedging and anti-pledging provisions prohibiting our directors and employees, including our named executive officers, from engaging in any speculative transactions involving our securities, including (1) buying or selling puts or calls, (2) short sales, (3) buying on margin or holding our securities in a margin account, or (4) pledging our securities as collateral for a loan or any other obligations.

Director Designation Agreement

On July 6, 2006, we entered into a Director Designation Agreement with the USW under which the USW has certain rights to designate director nominees. In connection with the renewal and ratification of a new five-year collective bargaining agreement with members of the USW at our Spokane, Washington and Newark, Ohio facilities, in January 2015, the rights of the USW under the Director Designation Agreement which were set to expire on September 30, 2015 were extended to December 31, 2020. Under the Director Designation Agreement, the USW generally has the right to designate the minimum number of director candidates necessary to ensure that, assuming the nominated candidates are elected by our stockholders, at least 40% of the members of our board of directors have been nominated by the USW.

The Director Designation Agreement contains requirements as to the timeliness, form and substance of the notice the USW must give to the nominating and corporate governance committee in order to nominate candidates. The nominating and corporate governance committee is required to determine in good faith whether each properly submitted candidate satisfies the qualifications set forth in the Director Designation Agreement. Pursuant to the terms of the Director Designation Agreement, if the nominating and corporate governance committee determines that a nominated candidate satisfies the qualifications, the

committee will, unless otherwise required by its fiduciary duties, recommend the candidate to our board of directors for inclusion in the slate of directors to be recommended by the board of directors in our proxy statement. Similarly, the board of directors will, unless otherwise required by its fiduciary duties, accept the recommendation and include the candidate in the slate of directors that the board of directors recommends.

A candidate nominated by the USW may not be an officer, employee, director or member of the USW or any of its local or affiliated organizations as of the date of his or her designation as a candidate or election as a director. In addition, the Director Designation Agreement requires the USW to meet with us not less than annually to discuss each director designated for nomination by the USW and requires the USW to obtain approval prior to re-designating an incumbent for nomination.

The Director Designation Agreement also provides that the USW will have the right to nominate an individual to fill a vacancy on the board of directors resulting from the death, resignation, disqualification or removal of a director nominated by the USW. The Director Designation Agreement further provides that, in the event of newly created directorships resulting from an increase in the number of our directors, the USW will have the right to nominate the minimum number of individuals to fill the newly created directorships necessary to ensure that at least 40% of the members of the board of directors have been nominated by the USW, except that we have the ability to increase the size of the board of directors from 10 to up to 12 members without increasing the number of candidates that the USW has the right to designate for nomination. In each case, the USW, the nominating and corporate governance committee and the board of directors will be required to follow the nomination and approval procedures described above. Upon the termination of the Director Designation Agreement, the USW is required to cause each director designated by the USW to submit his or her resignation to the board of directors, which submission the board of directors may accept or reject in its discretion.

Each candidate nominated by the USW must also satisfy:

- the general independence criteria;

the qualifications to serve as a director as set forth in any applicable corporate governance guidelines adopted by the board of directors and policies adopted by the nominating and corporate governance committee establishing criteria to be utilized by it in assessing whether a director candidate has appropriate skills and experience; and

- any other qualifications to serve as director imposed by applicable law.

Finally, the Director Designation Agreement provides that, so long as our board of directors maintains an audit committee, executive committee or nominating and corporate governance committee, each of these committees will, unless otherwise required by the fiduciary duties of our board of directors, include at least one director nominated by the USW (provided at least one director nominated by the USW is qualified to serve on the applicable committee as determined in good faith by our board of directors). Current members of our board of directors that have been nominated by the USW are Ms. Bartholomew and Messrs. Foster, Quinn and Wilcox.

Board Leadership Structure and Risk Oversight

Mr. Hockema, our President and Chief Executive Officer, serves as the Chairman of the Board, and Dr. Osborne serves as our Lead Independent Director. We believe that Mr. Hockema's experience with our company and in the metals industries, the independence of the other directors, our governance structure and the interaction between and among Mr. Hockema, our Lead Independent Director and the other directors make our board leadership structure the most appropriate for our company and our stockholders. As a result of his substantial experience with our company and in the metals industries, Mr. Hockema is uniquely qualified to provide clear leadership for our company and a

single point of accountability. Our corporate governance guidelines and governance structure require an Independent Lead Director to be selected by a majority of the independent directors, thereby ensuring that there is independent leadership within our board of directors and allowing our independent directors to function as a body distinct from management and to evaluate the performance of Mr. Hockema and our management independently and objectively. In addition, each of the audit, compensation and nominating and corporate governance committees consists solely of independent directors.

Under our corporate governance guidelines, each member of our board of directors may submit items to be included on the agenda for any meeting of our board of directors and raise subjects that are not on the agenda at any meeting of our board of directors, and our independent directors are required to meet at least quarterly in executive sessions at which only independent directors are present. Our Lead Independent Director establishes the agenda for executive sessions, may call a meeting of independent directors upon the request of a majority of independent directors and serves as a liaison between our independent directors and our chief executive officer. Our Lead Independent Director has other responsibilities that the independent

directors designate, presides at meetings of our independent directors, solicits advice and input from our independent board members, and routinely meets and confers with our chief executive officer to address comments, issues and areas of interest expressed or identified by our independent directors, to assess the governance of our board of directors and our company, and to review board responsibilities, meeting schedules, meeting agenda and information requested or otherwise provided to our directors routinely or in connection with meetings of our board of directors. The chair of each committee of our board of directors serves as a liaison to keep our full board of directors and our chief executive officer apprised of the work performed by such committee at each of our regularly scheduled board meetings and as otherwise required. Finally, under our bylaws, special meetings of our board of directors may be called by a majority of our board members, 10 of 11 of whom are currently independent.

We encourage direct communication among our directors and with our chief executive officer before, during and after formal board and committee meetings and facilitate those communications around our scheduled meetings. Our directors also have full access to our officers, employees and advisors. The nominating and corporate governance committee of our board of directors is specifically charged with responsibility for, among other things, identifying new director candidates, evaluating incumbent directors, evaluating our chief executive officer, evaluating stockholder recommendations, recommending nominees for election at annual stockholder meetings, reviewing our corporate governance guidelines and assisting in management succession planning, including with respect to the chairman of our board of directors and our chief executive officer.

We have policies in place to identify, assess and manage potential risks and to continually review the procedures that we have designed and implemented to mitigate such risks. We believe that our board of directors provides effective oversight of the risk management function. Under its charter, the audit committee of our board of directors is responsible for discussing our risk management policies, including, without limitation, the steps to be taken to monitor and control our major financial risk exposures. In addition, our full board of directors is actively engaged in the review and assessment of our risk management policies, conducts a comprehensive review at least annually during a regularly scheduled board meeting and routinely requests that specific risk-related items be included on board and committee meeting agendas. Since 2009, we have engaged in an ongoing enterprise risk management process pursuant to which we formally identify, categorize and assess our risks and risk mitigation strategies and have routinely updated the audit committee and our full board of directors regarding this process.

Risks Arising from Compensation Policies and Practices

Our compensation policies and practices, discussed more fully below, are designed to create and maintain alignment between our employees and stockholders by rewarding employees, including our senior management, for achieving strategic goals that successfully drive our operations and enhance stockholder value and to preclude the taking of unreasonable risks through the use of incentive compensation that rewards decisions that result in strong performance in both the short- and long-term. We do not believe that our compensation policies and practices for our employees are likely to have a material adverse effect on our company. Our determination is based on, among other factors, the following:

- Potential payouts under our incentive plans are capped, and overall variable compensation does not materially impact our financial results;

- Our overall compensation is comprised of a mix of long- and short-term compensation which discourages short-term decisions that could be at the expense of long-term results;

- A significant portion of the variable compensation is in the form of restricted stock and performance shares with three-year vesting and performance periods, which ensure that three years of unvested grants are outstanding at any time and encourage decisions that create long-term value for our stockholders;

All of our incentive programs contain clawback provisions, described in more detail in the “Proposal Requiring Your Vote - Proposal for approval of the Kaiser Aluminum Corporation Amended and Restated 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan for Purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code” above, which provide for the forfeiture of outstanding unvested awards and the return of vested awards;

Our short-term incentive plan and our performance shares require the attainment of threshold company performance levels before any payments are earned or performance shares vest; and

Our stock ownership guidelines require our board of directors and senior management to retain significant equity interests in our company to ensure the ongoing alignment of senior management and our stockholders.

Board Committees

Currently, we have five standing committees of the board of directors: an executive committee; an audit committee; a compensation committee; a nominating and corporate governance committee; and a talent development committee.

The following table sets forth the chair and members of each committee of our board of directors, the number of meetings each committee held during 2014, and the number of times each committee acted by unanimous written consent.

Committee	Members	Number of Meetings Held in 2014	Number of Times Acted By Unanimous Written Consent
Executive Committee	Jack A. Hockema* Teresa A. Hopp William F. Murdy Alfred E. Osborne, Jr. Brett E. Wilcox	-	2
Audit Committee	Carolyn Bartholomew Teresa A. Hopp* Lauralee E. Martin Alfred E. Osborne, Jr. Thomas M. Van Leeuwen Brett E. Wilcox	8	1
Compensation Committee	Lauralee E. Martin William F. Murdy* Jack Quinn Thomas M. Van Leeuwen Brett E. Wilcox	7	4
Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee	Carolyn Bartholomew David Foster William F. Murdy Alfred E. Osborne, Jr.* Jack Quinn Thomas M. Van Leeuwen	6	1
Talent Development Committee	David Foster Teresa A. Hopp Lauralee E. Martin William F. Murdy Brett E. Wilcox*	1	-

*Committee chair

Executive Committee

The executive committee of our board of directors manages our business and affairs requiring attention prior to the next regular meeting of our board of directors. However, the executive committee does not have the power to (1) approve or adopt, or recommend to our stockholders, any action or matter expressly required by law to be submitted to our stockholders for approval, (2) adopt, amend or repeal any bylaw of our company, or (3) take any other action reserved for action by our board of directors pursuant to a resolution of our board of directors or otherwise prohibited to be taken by the executive committee by law or pursuant to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or

bylaws.

The executive committee charter requires that a majority of the members of the executive committee satisfy the general independence criteria. In addition, the members of the executive committee must include the chairman of our board of directors and at least one of the directors nominated by the USW. The executive committee is currently comprised of the chairman of our board of directors and the chair of each of the committees of the board of directors.

Audit Committee

The audit committee of our board of directors oversees our accounting and financial reporting practices and processes and the audits of our financial statements on behalf of our board of directors. The audit committee is responsible for appointing, compensating, retaining and overseeing the work of our independent accounting firm. Other duties and responsibilities of the audit committee include:

- establishing hiring policies for employees or former employees of the independent accounting firm;
- reviewing our systems of internal accounting controls;
- discussing risk management policies;
- approving related-party transactions;
- establishing procedures for complaints regarding financial statements or accounting policies; and
- performing other duties delegated to the audit committee by our board of directors from time to time.

The audit committee charter requires that all members of the audit committee satisfy the general independence criteria. The charter also requires that no audit committee member may have participated in the preparation of our financial statements during the three years prior to his or her appointment as a member and that each audit committee member be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including a balance sheet, an income statement and a cash flow statement. Additionally, at least one member of the audit committee must have had past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience which results in that individual's financial sophistication, including being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities and that member or another member must have sufficient education or experience to have acquired the attributes necessary to meet the criteria of an "audit committee financial expert," as that term is defined in the rules promulgated by the SEC. In addition, the members of the audit committee must include at least one of the directors nominated by the USW.

Our board of directors has determined that all six members of the audit committee (1) meet the general independence criteria, as well as the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act, and (2) are able to read and understand fundamental financial statements. Our board of directors also determined that no member of the audit committee participated in the preparation of our financial statements during the three years prior to their appointment as members of the committee. Finally, our board of directors has determined that Mmes. Hopp and Martin and Mr. Wilcox satisfy the financial sophistication criteria described above and satisfy the criteria necessary to serve as the "audit committee financial expert," in each case based on his or her experience described in "Proposals Requiring Your Votes - Proposal for Election of Directors" above.

Compensation Committee

General

The compensation committee of our board of directors establishes and administers our policies, programs and procedures for compensating our senior management, including determining and approving the compensation of our executive officers. Other duties and responsibilities of the compensation committee include:

administering plans adopted by our board of directors that contemplate administration by the compensation committee, including the Equity Incentive Plan;

overseeing regulatory compliance with respect to compensation matters;

reviewing director compensation; and

performing other duties delegated to the compensation committee by our board of directors from time to time.

The compensation committee solicits the views of our chief executive officer on compensation matters, including as they relate to our compensation of the other members of senior management reporting to our chief executive officer. The

compensation committee has retained Meridian Compensation Partners, LLC (referred to herein as Meridian) to advise the compensation committee on all matters related to compensation of our chief executive officer and other members of senior management. The compensation committee has reviewed the factors that could affect Meridian's independence. Based on this review, the compensation committee has determined there are no conflicts of interest.

Meridian's services include (1) providing competitive market data and related assessments of executive compensation as background against which the compensation committee considers executive compensation, (2) preparing and reviewing tally and compensation summary sheets for our named executive officers, (3) apprising the compensation committee of trends and best practices associated with executive and director compensation, (4) providing support with respect to legal, regulatory and accounting considerations impacting compensation and benefit programs, (5) the development and review of a list of compensation peer group companies, and (6) attending meetings of the compensation committee and our board of directors when requested. These services are typically directed by the compensation committee and coordinated with our human resources department.

The compensation committee charter requires that all members of the compensation committee satisfy the general independence criteria, as well as qualify as "non-employee directors" within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act. Additionally, each of our compensation committee members also qualifies as an outside director, allowing us to make awards that qualify as performance based compensation under 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The compensation committee may create one or more subcommittees, each subcommittee to consist of one or more members of the committee, and may delegate to the subcommittee any or all of the powers and authority of the committee.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Neither Ms. Martin or Messrs. Murdy, Quinn, Van Leeuwen or Wilcox, the members of the compensation committee during 2014, (1) was an officer or employee of our company during 2014, (2) was formerly an officer of our company, or (3) had any relationships requiring disclosure by us under the SEC's rules with respect to certain relationships and related-party transactions. Furthermore, none of our executive officers serves as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our board of directors or compensation committee.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The nominating and corporate governance committee of our board of directors identifies individuals qualified to become members of our board of directors, recommends candidates to fill vacancies and newly-created positions on our board of directors, recommends director nominees for election by stockholders at the annual meetings of stockholders and develops and recommends to our board of directors our corporate governance guidelines.

We believe that the nominating and corporate governance committee considers an appropriate range of criteria in assessing candidates for a position on the board of directors. Our corporate governance guidelines require that the criteria utilized by the corporate governance committee in assessing such candidates include factors such as judgment, diversity, integrity, experience with businesses and other organizations of comparable size, the interplay of a candidate's experience with the experience of other members of the board of directors and anything else that may bear upon the extent to which a candidate would be a desirable addition to our board of directors and any committees of our board of directors. The policies relating to the recommendation of director candidates adopted by the nominating and corporate governance committee are designed to ensure flexibility with respect to the process of evaluating candidates and do not establish specific minimum qualifications that an individual must meet to become a member of

our board of directors. The nominating and corporate governance committee believes that our company is best served when it can draw from a variety of experiences and backgrounds provided by members of our board of directors. However, the nominating and corporate governance committee also believes that our company is best served when each member of the board of directors:

- exhibits strong leadership in his or her particular field or area of expertise;
- possesses the ability to exercise sound business judgment;
- has a strong educational background or equivalent life experiences;
- has substantial experience both in the business community and outside the business community;
- contributes positively to the existing collaborative culture among members of our board of directors;

• represents the best interests of all of our stockholders and not just one particular constituency;

• has experience as a senior executive of a company of significant size or prominence or another business or organization comparable to our company;

• possesses skills and experience which make him or her a desirable addition to a standing committee of our board of directors;

• consistently demonstrates integrity and ethics in his or her professional and personal life; and

• has the time and ability to participate fully in activities of our board of directors, including attendance at, and active participation in, meetings of our board of directors and the committee or committees of which he or she is a member.

Other duties and responsibilities of the nominating and corporate governance committee include:

• assisting in management succession planning, including with respect to the chairman of our board of directors and our chief executive officer;

• considering possible conflicts of interest of members of our board of directors and management and making recommendations to prevent, minimize or eliminate such conflicts of interests;

• evaluating whether an incumbent director should be nominated for re-election to our board of directors upon expiration of the incumbent's term;

• making recommendations to our board of directors regarding the appropriate size of our board of directors; and

• performing other duties delegated to the nominating and corporate governance committee by our board of directors from time to time.

The nominating and corporate governance committee has adopted policies and procedures by which our stockholders may submit director candidates to the nominating and corporate governance committee for consideration. If the nominating and corporate governance committee receives, by a date not less than 120, nor more than 150, calendar days before the anniversary of the date that the proxy statement was mailed to stockholders in connection with our previous year's annual meeting, a recommendation for a director nominee from a stockholder or group of stockholders that beneficially owned more than 5% of our outstanding common stock for at least one year as of the date of the recommendation, then such director candidate will be considered and evaluated by the nominating and corporate governance committee for the annual meeting immediately succeeding the date that proper written notice was timely delivered to and received by the nominating and corporate governance committee. When the date of our annual meeting of stockholders changes by more than 30 calendar days from the previous year's annual meeting, the written notice of the recommendation for the director candidate will be considered timely if, and only if, it is received by the nominating and corporate governance committee no later than the close of business on the tenth calendar day following the first day on which notice of the date of the upcoming annual meeting is publicly disclosed by us.

Written notice from an eligible stockholder or group of eligible stockholders to the nominating and corporate governance committee recommending a director candidate must contain or be accompanied by:

• proof that the stockholder or group of stockholders submitting the recommendation has beneficially owned, for the required one-year holding period, more than 5% of our outstanding common stock;

a written statement that the stockholder or group of stockholders intends to continue to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding common stock through the date of the next annual meeting of our stockholders;

the name and record address of each stockholder submitting a recommendation for the director candidate, the written consent of each such stockholder and the director candidate to be publicly identified (including, in the case of the director candidate, to be named in the company's proxy materials) and the written consent of the director candidate to serve as a member of our board of directors (and any committee of our board of directors to which the director candidate is assigned to serve by our board of directors) if elected;

a description of all arrangements or understandings between or among any of the stockholders or group of stockholders submitting the recommendation, the director candidate and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the submission of the recommendation is to be made by such stockholder or group of stockholders;

with respect to the director candidate, (1) his or her name, age, business and residential address and principal occupation or employment, (2) the number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned by him or her, (3) a resume or similar document detailing his or her personal and professional experiences and accomplishments, and (4) all other information relating to the candidate that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filing made in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the election of directors pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act, the rules of the SEC or the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market; and

a written statement that each submitting stockholder and the director candidate shall make available to the nominating and corporate governance committee all information reasonably requested in connection with the committee's evaluation of the candidate.

The notice must be signed by each stockholder submitting the proposal and the director candidate. The notice must be sent to the following address by registered or certified mail: Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, Attn: Corporate Secretary (Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee), 27422 Portola Parkway, Suite 200, Foothill Ranch, California 92610-2831.

The nominating and corporate governance committee charter requires that all members of the nominating and governance committee satisfy the general independence criteria. In addition, the members of the nominating and corporate governance committee must include at least one of the directors nominated by the USW so long as at least one such director is appropriately qualified.

Talent Development Committee

The talent development committee of our board of directors was formed in 2014 to review and evaluate (1) the succession planning for our executive officers, other than the chief executive officer, and (2) the leadership and development training of key employees with the potential to succeed our executive officers, including the progression of such key employees. The talent development committee meets with our chief executive officer to review its observations and management's criteria for evaluating the performance and advancement potential of key employees and reports regularly its activities to our board of directors.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth the names and ages of each of our executive officers and the positions they held as of April 10, 2015, the record date.

Name	Age	Position(s)
Jack A. Hockema	68	President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board; Director
Daniel J. Rinkenberger	56	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
John M. Donnan	54	Executive Vice President - Legal, Compliance and Human Resources
Keith A. Harvey	55	Executive Vice President - Fabricated Products
John Barneson	64	Senior Vice President - Corporate Development
Melinda C. Ellsworth	56	Vice President and Treasurer
Mark R. Krouse	63	Vice President - Human Resources

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Ray Parkinson	56	Vice President - Advanced Engineering
Jason Walsh	35	Vice President - Financial Planning and Analysis
Neal E. West	56	Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

Set forth below are brief descriptions of the business experience of each of our executive officers.

Jack A. Hockema has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer and a director since October 2001 and as Chairman of the Board since July 2006. He previously served as Executive Vice President of Kaiser Aluminum Corporation (referred to herein as Kaiser) and President of the Kaiser Fabricated Products division from January 2000 to October 2001, and Executive Vice President of Kaiser from May 2000 to October 2001. He served as Vice President of Kaiser from May 1997 to May 2000. Mr. Hockema was President of Kaiser Engineered Products from March 1997 to January 2000. He served as President of Kaiser Extruded Products and Engineered Components from September 1996 to March 1997. Mr. Hockema served as a consultant to Kaiser and acting President of Kaiser Engineered Components from September 1995 to September 1996. Mr. Hockema was an employee of Kaiser from 1977 to 1982, working at our Trentwood facility in Spokane, Washington, and serving as plant manager of our former Union City, California can plant and as operations manager for Kaiser Extruded Products. In 1982, Mr. Hockema left Kaiser to become Vice President and General Manager of Bohn Extruded Products, a division of Gulf+Western, and later served as Group Vice President of American Brass Specialty Products until June 1992. From June 1992 to September 1996, Mr. Hockema provided consulting and investment advisory services to individuals and companies in the metals industry. Mr. Hockema has served on the board of directors of Superior Industries International, Inc. since December 2014. He holds a Master of Science degree in Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, both from Purdue University. Mr. Hockema has more than 24 years of experience with Kaiser and another 21 years in the metals industries, and, as a result, has a depth of experience in the aluminum and metals industries. As the only management representative on the board of directors, Mr. Hockema provides an insider's perspective in board of directors discussions about our business and the strategic direction for our company.

Daniel J. Rinkenberger has served as our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since June 2012. Mr. Rinkenberger served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from April 2008 to June 2012, as our Vice President from January 2005 to April 2008 and as our Treasurer from January 2005 to July 2008. Prior to January 2005, he served as our Vice President of Economic Analysis and Planning from February 2002. He served as Vice President, Planning and Business Development of the Kaiser Fabricated Products division from June 2000 through February 2002. Prior to that, he served as Vice President, Finance and Business Planning of the Kaiser Flat-Rolled Products division from February 1998 to February 2000, and as our Assistant Treasurer from January 1995 through February 1998. Before joining Kaiser, he held a series of positions of increasing responsibility in the Treasury Department at Pennzoil Corporation. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree in finance from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Education degree from Illinois State University. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

John M. Donnan has served as our Executive Vice President - Legal, Compliance and Human Resources since June 2012. Mr. Donnan is responsible for our company's corporate legal, compliance, internal audit, environmental, safety, quality and human resources functions. He previously served as our Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel from December 2007 to June 2012 and as our Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel from January 2005 to December 2007. Mr. Donnan joined the legal staff of Kaiser in 1993 and was named Deputy General Counsel of Kaiser in 2000. Prior to joining Kaiser, Mr. Donnan was an associate in the Houston, Texas office of the law firm of Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Martin. He holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law and Bachelor of Business Administration degrees in finance and accounting from Texas Tech University. He is a member of the Texas and California bars.

Keith A. Harvey has served as our Executive Vice President - Fabricated Products since June 2014. He previously served as our Senior Vice President - Sales and Marketing, Aerospace and General Engineering from June 2012 to June 2014, Vice President - Sales and Marketing, Aerospace and General Engineering from 2000 to June 2012 and as our Vice President - Sales and Marketing of Extruded Products from 1996 to 2000. Mr. Harvey joined Kaiser in 1981 as an industrial engineer at the company's former rolling mill in West Virginia. He subsequently held positions of increasing responsibility in engineering and sales at several Kaiser locations and was named a Vice President in 1994. Mr. Harvey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University.

John Barneson has served as our Senior Vice President - Corporate Development since December 2007. He previously served as our Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer from August 2001 to December 2007 and as our Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer from December 1999 through August 2001. He served as Engineered Products Vice President of Business Development and Planning from September 1997 to December 1999. Mr. Barneson served as Flat-Rolled Products Vice President of Business Development and Planning from April 1996 to September 1997. Mr. Barneson has been an employee of Kaiser since September 1975 and has held a number of staff and operation management positions within the former Flat-Rolled and Engineered Products business units. He holds a Master of Science degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Oregon State University.

Melinda C. Ellsworth has served as our Vice President and Treasurer since July 2008. Prior to joining Kaiser, Ms. Ellsworth was Vice President, Treasurer and Investor Relations at HNI Corporation, a leading provider of office furniture and hearth

products, from February 2002 to May 2007. From May 1998 to January 2002, she served in several roles with Sunbeam Corporation, ending her tenure as Vice President, International Finance and Treasury. She additionally has over a decade of experience in commercial banking. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from St. Bonaventure University and is a Certified Public Accountant (inactive).

Mark R. Krouse has served as our Vice President - Human Resources since September 2013. Prior to joining Kaiser, Mr. Krouse served as Vice President, Human Resources of Samsung C&T Engineering and Construction, Americas from January 2012 to August 2013. Mr. Krouse was also an Adjunct Professor of California State University, Fullerton from September 2007 to June 2010. In addition, Mr. Krouse held various human resources positions, including Vice President, Human Resources, with Fluor Corporation from 1976 to 2006. Mr. Krouse holds a Master of Science degree in International Administration and a Bachelor of International Relations degree, both from the University of Southern California.

Ray Parkinson has served as our Vice President - Advanced Engineering since 2001. Dr. Parkinson joined Kaiser in 1986 as technical director for extruded products and has more than 30 years of experience in sales, operations, quality control, engineering and research and development in diverse manufacturing environments. Dr. Parkinson has a Ph.D. in metallurgy, as well as Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Engineering, from Imperial College in the United Kingdom and a Master of Business Administration from St. Mary's College.

Jason Walsh has served as our Vice President - Financial, Planning and Analysis since April 2012. Mr. Walsh joined Kaiser in 2006 as Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis and served as Group Controller, Common Alloy Products and Director, Financial Planning & Analysis. Prior to joining Kaiser, he held positions of increasing responsibility in manufacturing operations with Caterpillar Inc. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Neal E. West has served as our Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer since June 2008. Prior to joining Kaiser, Mr. West served as the Principal Accounting Officer of Gateway, Inc. from June 2005 to May 2008. Mr. West was also the Vice President and Corporate Controller of Gateway, Inc. from April 2005 to May 2008. Prior to joining Gateway, Inc., Mr. West was the Vice President and Controller for APL Logistic, Ltd. from April 2000 to April 2005. In addition, Mr. West has held a number of finance, service and support positions at APL Ltd. Mr. West also previously worked for Standard Pacific and West-Tronics, Inc. as Division Controller and Financial Manager. Mr. West is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Management Accountant and a Chartered Global Management Accountant and holds a Master of Science degree in information systems from Roosevelt University and a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and business administration from Illinois State University.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Committee Report

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed with management the compensation discussion and analysis section included below. Based on its review and discussions with management, the compensation committee recommended to the board of directors that such compensation discussion and analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

This report is submitted by the members of the compensation committee of the board of directors:

Compensation Committee

William F. Murdy (Chair)
Lauralee E. Martin
Jack Quinn
Thomas M. Van Leeuwen
Brett E. Wilcox

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Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Introduction

This section provides (1) our 2014 performance highlights, (2) an overview of the compensation committee, (3) a discussion of the objectives of our comprehensive compensation structure and the design of our overall 2014 compensation program for senior management, and (4) a discussion of all material elements of 2014 compensation for each of our named executive officers whose names and titles are set forth in the following table:

Name	Title
Jack A. Hockema	President and Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer)
Daniel J. Rinkenberger	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer)
John M. Donnan	Executive Vice President - Legal, Compliance and Human Resources
Keith A. Harvey	Executive Vice President - Fabricated Products
John Barneson	Senior Vice President - Corporate Development

2014 Performance Highlights

In 2014, despite continued economic uncertainty and challenges, we delivered solid operating performance. Our key achievements in 2014 include:

- net sales of \$1.4 billion;
- operating income of \$138 million;
- record heat treat plate, automotive extrusions and total shipments;
- record manufacturing efficiency facilitated by completed capital investments; and
- approximately \$70 million returned to shareholders through quarterly dividends and share repurchases.

Overview of the Compensation Committee

The compensation committee of our board of directors is comprised entirely of independent directors. By design, members of the compensation committee also serve on other board committees, including the executive committee, audit committee, the nominating and corporate governance committee and the talent development committee. We believe this structure helps coordinate the efforts of the respective committees. The compensation committee's primary duties and responsibilities are to establish and implement our compensation policies and programs for senior management. While the nominating and corporate governance committee has the responsibility to evaluate the overall performance of the chief executive officer, the compensation committee coordinates with and assists the nominating and corporate governance committee in that evaluation.

The compensation committee has the authority under its charter to engage the services of outside advisors, experts and others to assist it. Pursuant to that authority, the compensation committee engaged Meridian to advise it on all matters related to compensation of our chief executive officer and other members of senior management, including the other named executive officers.

The compensation committee meets formally and informally throughout the year. Informal meetings frequently occur when our directors are together for meetings of our full board of directors and telephonically at the request of one or more committee members. Our chief executive officer, other members of our management and outside advisors may be invited to attend all or a portion of a compensation committee meeting depending on the nature of the agenda items; however, neither our chief executive officer nor any other member of management votes on items before the compensation committee.

The compensation committee works with our senior management and Meridian to determine the agenda for its formal meetings and to prepare meeting materials. The compensation committee and our board of directors also solicit the views of our chief executive officer on compensation matters, including, among others:

•objectives for our compensation programs;

- the structure of our compensation programs;
- the role of our compensation programs in management succession planning; and
- compensation of other members of senior management, including our other named executive officers.

Objectives of our Compensation Structure

Our compensation structure was developed to achieve the following objectives, which we believe are critical for enhancing stockholder value and our long-term success:

- creating alignment between our senior management and our stockholders by rewarding our senior management for achieving strategic goals that successfully drive our operations and enhance our stockholder return;
- attracting, motivating and retaining highly experienced executives vital to our short-term and long-term success, profitability and growth;
- correlating our senior management compensation with our actual performance; and
- providing competitive, targeted compensation levels that are benchmarked to our compensation peer group discussed below as follows:
 - for base salary, the 50th percentile;
 - for annual cash incentives at target-level performance, the 50th percentile; and
 - for annualized economic equity grant value of long-term incentives, between the 50th and the 65th percentiles.

Design of our 2014 Compensation Program

Our 2014 compensation program for our senior management, including the named executive officers, was designed to reinforce performance and accountability at the corporate, operational and individual levels through the use of:

- a short-term annual cash incentive payable only if the performance threshold is met; and
- an equity-based, long-term incentive consisting of (1) shares of restricted stock with a three-year cliff vesting schedule to promote senior management retention, and (2) performance shares that vest, if at all, based on our TSR compared to a group of peer companies over a three-year performance period (2014 through 2016).

In addition to focusing on “pay for performance,” our 2014 compensation program:

- balanced short-term and long-term goals, with:
 - approximately 57% of our chief executive officer's target total compensation being delivered through long-term incentives; and
 - approximately 45% of the target total compensation for our other named executive officers being delivered through long-term incentives;

delivered a mix of fixed and at-risk compensation directly related to our overall performance and the creation of stockholder value, with:

approximately 75% of our chief executive officer's target total compensation being at-risk compensation payable only if certain corporate performance levels are achieved; and

approximately 67% of the target total compensation for our other named executive officers being at-risk compensation payable only if certain corporate performance levels are achieved;

provided compensation that is competitive with our compensation peer group recommended by the compensation committee's independent compensation consultant;

utilized equity-based awards, including performance shares that vest only if we achieve a certain TSR performance goal, stock ownership guidelines and annual cash incentives linked to achievement of financial, corporate, operational and individual performance;

emphasized the importance of safety, quality, delivery and cost performance; and

utilized forfeiture provisions that can result in the loss of awards and resulting benefits if we determine that a recipient, including any of our named executive officers, has engaged in certain activities detrimental to us.

Periodically, but not less than annually, each element of compensation is reviewed and considered by the compensation committee and our board of directors both individually and collectively with the other elements of compensation to ensure that each element is consistent with the objectives of both our comprehensive compensation structure and that particular element of compensation. The compensation committee and our board of directors share suggestions or concerns identified in the course of that review with senior management and Meridian, who address the suggestions or concerns in a manner that is satisfactory to the compensation committee and our board of directors. This process occurs over a series of meetings of the compensation committee and our board of directors and executive sessions of the independent directors without members of management present.

In designing the overall compensation program and each individual element of compensation for senior management, including our named executive officers, the compensation committee considers the following factors, among others:

The external challenges to our near- and long-term ability to attract and retain strong senior management;

Each individual's contributions to our overall results;

Our historical and anticipated operating and financial performance compared with targeted goals; and

Our size and complexity compared with companies in our compensation peer group.

The compensation committee uses tally and other summary sheets that provide a summary of the compensation history of our chief executive officer and those members of our senior management reporting to our chief executive officer. These tally and information sheets include a historical summary of base salary, annual bonus and equity awards.

In reviewing and deliberating over our 2014 compensation program, the compensation committee considered, among other things:

the economic conditions in the United States and abroad;

the company's business plan and underlying assumptions;

the goal of maintaining alignment between our senior management and our stockholders through the use of short- and long-term, performance-based compensation;

the benefits of maintaining a consistent approach to compensation and the structure of our programs through business cycles;

the anticipated performance of the company's compensation programs based on the company's business plan and current financial position; and

information and reports prepared by proxy advisors, including Glass, Lewis & Co. and Institutional Shareholder Services Inc.

The review included discussions with Meridian and management regarding existing and contemplated market practices, as well as the structure and objectives of each component of our compensation program.

The compensation committee also reviews the compensation and benefit practices, as well as levels of pay, of a compensation peer group of companies. Working with our compensation consultant, our management selects for inclusion in our compensation peer group companies that are determined to: (1) be of a similar size; (2) have positions of similar complexity and scope of responsibility; and/or (3) compete with us for talent. The compensation committee, working with our compensation consultant, reviews, evaluates and updates the compensation peer group, which includes companies in both similar and different industries, at least annually. For 2014, our compensation committee approved the following 25-company peer group:

Applied Industrial Tech, Inc.	Olin Corporation
Brady Corporation	OMNOVA Solutions Inc.
Briggs & Stratton Corporation	Polaris Industries Inc.
Crane Company	Rayonier Inc.
Donaldson Company, Inc.	Steelcase Inc.
ESCO Technologies Inc.	Texas Industries, Inc.
Gardner Denver, Inc.	Valmont Industries, Inc.
Graco Inc.	Vulcan Materials Company
Kaman Corporation	Walter Energies, Inc.
Kennametal Inc.	Waters Corporation
Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.	Watts Water Technologies, Inc.
Mueller Water Products, Inc.	Woodward Governor Company
Neenah Paper, Inc.	

Due to the differences in size among the companies in our peer group, Meridian uses a form of regression analysis to adjust survey data results based on our revenue as compared to the revenue of other companies in our peer group. Importantly, the compensation committee recognizes that we compete for talent with companies much larger than those included in our compensation peer group. These larger companies, including Alcoa, Aleris, Constellium and Sapa, aggressively recruit for the best qualified talent in particularly critical functions. As a result, to attract and retain talent, the compensation committee may from time to time determine that it is in the best interests of our company and our stockholders to provide compensation packages that deviate from targeted pay levels.

Elements of 2014 Compensation

The table below summarizes the elements of our named executive officers' compensation in 2014:

Element	Form of Compensation	Objective	Performance Metrics
Base Salary	Cash	Provide a competitive, fixed compensation upon which our named executive officers can rely. Target at the 50th percentile of our compensation peer group.	Not performance based
Short-Term Incentives	Cash	Create financial incentive for achieving or exceeding company performance goals. Target at the 50th percentile of our compensation peer group.	Adjusted EBITDA (determined using an EVA calculation reflecting adjusted PTOI less a capital charge calculated as a percentage of our adjusted net assets), safety, quality, delivery, cost and individual performance.
Long-Term Incentives	Restricted Stock	Create financial incentive for continued employment with our company through three-year cliff vesting. Together with performance shares, target at between the 50th and 65th percentile of our compensation peer group.	Not performance based (retention based and "at risk" to the extent underlying performance impacts stock price)
	Performance Shares	Create financial incentive for achieving or exceeding long-term performance goals. Together with restricted stock, target at between the 50th and 65th percentile of our compensation peer group.	Relative TSR (compared to peer companies in the S&P 600 SmallCap Materials Index)
Retirement Benefits	Defined Contribution Plan	Part of our broad-based employee benefits program.	Not performance based (except for the portion of the company

			contribution attributable to the short-term incentive, which is performance based)
	Deferred Compensation Plan	Restore the benefits of matching and fixed rate contributions that we would otherwise pay but for the limitations on benefit accruals and payment imposed by the Internal Revenue Service.	Not performance based (except for the portion of the company contribution attributable to the short-term incentive, which is performance based)
Perquisites	Vehicle Allowance and Certain Reimbursements	In connection with base salary, attract, motivate and retain individuals in a competitive environment.	Not performance based

Each compensation element is discussed in detail below.

Base salary

The compensation committee reviews annually base salaries for our chief executive officer and other executive officers, including our other named executive officers, and determines whether a change is appropriate. In reviewing base salaries, the compensation committee considers factors, including, among others:

• level of responsibility;

• prior experience;

• base salaries paid for comparable positions by our compensation peer group; and

• the relationship among base salaries paid within our company.

Our intent is to fix base salaries at levels consistent with the design of our overall compensation program for the particular year. In 2014, the compensation committee increased the base salaries of our named executive officers by 3% to 4% principally to more closely align their base salaries with market and survey information regarding executive officers with similar experience and responsibilities. Base salaries for our named executive officers in 2014 were as follows:

Name	2014 Base Salary
Jack A. Hockema	\$ 856,000
Daniel J. Rinkenberger	\$ 424,400
John M. Donnan	\$ 397,800
Keith A. Harvey	\$ 395,000
John Barneson	\$ 350,100

Annual cash incentives

Our 2014 short-term incentive plan, which we refer to as our 2014 STI Plan, was designed to reward participants for achieving certain Adjusted EBITDA performance goals established using an EVA calculation reflecting the adjusted PTOI of our core Fabricated Products business less a capital charge calculated as a percentage of our adjusted net assets. The structure, terms and objectives of the 2014 STI Plan were generally consistent with those of the short-term incentive plan approved by the compensation committee in 2013, with the primary differences being the addition of performance modifiers for quality, delivery and cost, as recommended by management. Consistent with short-term incentive plans approved by the compensation committee in prior years, our 2014 STI Plan also included a modifier for safety and permitted, subject to the maximum payout opportunity described below, adjustments to individual awards, up to plus or minus 100% of the target award, based on actual performance, including individual, facility, and/or functional area performance. Individuals not meeting individual performance goals could receive a reduced, or even no, payout and individuals meeting or exceeding individual performance goals could receive increased payouts; provided, however, that no increase could exceed the maximum payout opportunity of three times the target.

Our 2014 STI Plan tied pay to performance subject to the payout maximum. Under our 2014 STI Plan, no payout would be made unless we (i) achieved the threshold Adjusted EBITDA and (ii) had a positive adjusted net income. A payout at target level required Adjusted EBITDA that was established based on adjusted PTOI of 15% of our adjusted net assets, and a payout at the maximum level required Adjusted EBITDA that was established based on adjusted PTOI of 35% of our adjusted net assets. Consistent with our objective of aligning senior management and our stockholders by rewarding our senior management for achieving strategic goals that successfully drive our operations and enhance our stockholder value, our 2014 STI Plan provided that performance in excess of the threshold level

would result in an increase in payouts up to the maximum payout opportunity. Under our 2014 STI Plan, potential payouts between the threshold and target levels and between the target and maximum levels would be linearly interpolated.

Emphasizing the value we place on employee safety, our product quality, our relationship with our customers and manufacturing efficiency, in addition to financial performance, our 2014 STI Plan took into consideration: corporate safety performance, as measured by TCIR; quality performance, as measured by our no-fault claim rate; delivery performance, as measured by our on-time delivery rate; and cost performance, as measured by manufacturing costs, compared to historical manufacturing costs. Under our 2014 STI Plan, subject to the maximum payout, the award multiplier resulting from actual 2014 Adjusted EBITDA would be adjusted for safety, quality and delivery performance above or below the applicable

threshold, each of which could increase or decrease the award multiplier by up to 10%, and for cost performance above or below the applicable threshold, which could increase or decrease the award multiplier by up to 20% for our executive officers, including the named executive officers, and 10% for all other participants.

In early 2015, our actual results for 2014 and the resulting award multiplier were determined. Under our 2014 STI Plan, Under our 2014 STI Plan, the award multiplier was calculated based on actual 2014 Adjusted EBITDA, which was determined using our reported consolidated operating income, calculated using generally accepted accounting principles, including depreciation and amortization and excluding the following non-run-rate items:

- mark-to-market gains and losses on derivative instruments;
- net periodic benefit income relating to our voluntary employees' beneficiary associations, or VEBAs;
- adjustment to plant-level last-in, first out, or LIFO, inventory;
- environmental income and expenses; and
- asset impairment charges.

The resulting award multiplier was then adjusted for actual safety, quality, delivery and cost performance in 2014. The final 2014 STI Plan award multiplier for our executive officers, including our named executive officers, was 1.177, representing performance greater than the target, but less than the performance required to achieve the maximum payout.

Each participant's individual award under the 2014 STI Plan was calculated by multiplying the final 2014 STI Plan multiplier of 1.177 by the participant's monetary incentive target, which was established at the beginning of 2014, taking into consideration, among other things:

- a targeted level benchmarked to the 50th percentile of our compensation peer group;
- internal compensation balance;
- position responsibilities;
- our business plan and its key underlying assumptions;
- the expectations under then-existing and anticipated market conditions; and
- the opportunity to create stockholder value.

There were no individual adjustments to the awards of our named executive officers under our 2014 STI Plan.

The table below sets forth the possible payouts that could have been earned by our named executive officers at each performance level and the actual amounts earned by them under the 2014 STI Plan.

Name	Below Threshold	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Actual
Jack A. Hockema	—	\$293,000	\$586,000	\$1,758,000	\$689,722
Daniel J. Rinkenberger	—	\$140,550	\$281,100	\$843,300	\$330,855
John M. Donnan	—	\$132,600	\$265,200	\$795,600	\$312,140

Keith A. Harvey	—	\$ 130,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 780,000	\$ 306,020
John Barneson	—	\$ 79,550	\$ 159,100	\$ 477,300	\$ 187,261

Long-term incentives

We believe that consistent execution of our strategy over multi-year periods will lead to an increase in our stockholder return. We use equity awards to provide our named executive officers with an incentive to focus on long-term stockholder value creation. Our long-term incentive program for 2014 through 2016, which we refer to as our 2014 - 2016 LTI Program, for key employees, including our named executive officers, was approved by the compensation committee on March 5, 2014. In 2014, we changed our long-term incentive program from an EVA-based program to a TSR-based program to further align

the interest of management and our stockholders. Our 2014 - 2016 LTI Program was designed to “pay-for-performance” and to include retention features by rewarding participants with (1) shares of time-vested restricted stock and (2) performance shares that vest only if a certain TSR performance over the 2014 through the 2016 period is achieved.

Our 2014 - 2016 LTI Program provides, with respect to the performance shares, for a threshold performance level up to which no performance shares will vest, a target performance level at which the target number of performance shares will vest, a maximum performance level at or above which the maximum number of performance shares (equal to two times the target number of performance shares) will vest, and pro rata vesting between the threshold and maximum performance levels. Each performance share that becomes vested entitles the participant to receive one share of our common stock.

Performance under our 2014 - 2016 LTI Program will be determined based on our TSR relative to the TSR of our peer companies in the S&P SmallCap 600 Materials Index. The threshold performance required for payout under the 2014 - 2016 LTI Program is a TSR ranking at the 25th percentile. The performance required for the maximum payout under the 2014 - 2016 LTI Program is a TSR ranking above the 90th percentile. If our TSR over the 2014 through 2016 performance period is negative, then the maximum number of shares that the participants can receive under the 2014 - 2016 LTI Program is the target number of performance shares regardless of our TSR percentile ranking.

The target monetary value for each named executive officer was determined in accordance with the following objectives of our compensation structure which we believe are critical for enhancing shareholder value and our long-term success:

- an annualized economic equity grant value of long-term incentives between the 50th and the 65th percentiles of our compensation peer group;
- balanced short-term and long-term goals, with:
 - over 50% of the chief executive officer's target total compensation being delivered through long-term incentives; and
 - over 40% of the target total compensation for the other named executive officers being delivered through long-term incentives;
- internal compensation balance; and
- recognition of differing position responsibilities.

The compensation committee determined that each named executive officer, with the exception of Mr. Hockema, should receive time-based restricted stock having an economic value equal to 50% of his target monetary value and a target number of performance shares having an economic value equal to 50% of his target monetary value. As provided by Mr. Hockema's employment agreement and consistent with the foregoing objectives, Mr. Hockema received time-based restricted stock having an economic value equal to 36% of his target monetary value and a target number of performance shares having an economic value equal to 64% of his target monetary value.

The table below sets forth the target monetary value under our 2014 - 2016 LTI Program and the number of shares of restricted stock and performance shares granted to our named executive officers during 2014:

Name	Target Monetary Value	Number of Shares of	Number of Performance Shares (2)
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		Restricted Stock (1)	
Jack A. Hockema	\$ 1,943,000	11,493	48,803
Daniel J. Rinkenberger	\$ 610,000	5,011	11,970
John M. Donnan	\$ 530,500	4,358	10,410
Keith A. Harvey	\$ 515,000	4,231	10,105
John Barneson	\$ 435,000	3,573	8,536

The restrictions on 100% of the shares of restricted stock granted will lapse on March 5, 2017 or earlier if the named executive officer's employment terminates as a result of death or disability, the named executive officer's (1) employment is terminated by us without cause, the named executive officer's employment is voluntarily terminated by him for good reason or in the event of a change in control. If the employment of an named executive officer, other than Mr. Hockema,

terminates before March 5, 2017 as a result of his retirement at or after age 65, the shares of restricted stock granted to him will remain outstanding and the restrictions on 100% of such shares will lapse on March 5, 2017. If Mr. Hockema's employment terminates before March 5, 2017 as a result of his retirement, the shares of restricted stock granted to him will remain outstanding and the restrictions on a prorated portion of such shares, determined based on the actual days of Mr. Hockema's employment during the restriction period, will lapse on March 5, 2017. The number of shares of restricted stock granted was calculated by dividing the applicable percentage (i.e., 36% for Mr. Hockema and 50% for the other named executive officers) of the target monetary value by the sum of (i) the average of the closing prices of our company's common stock for the 20 trading days prior to the grant date, which was \$68.80 per share, reduced by (ii) 11.53%, the discount factor provided by Meridian to reflect the design characteristics, including the vesting period, of the restricted stock.

(2) The table below sets forth the number of performance shares that will vest for each of Messrs. Hockema, Rinckenberger, Donnan, Harvey and Barneson under our 2014 - 2016 LTI Program at each performance level:

Name	Below Threshold	Threshold	Target	Maximum
Jack A. Hockema	—	12,200	24,401	48,803
Daniel J. Rinckenberger	—	2,992	5,985	11,970
John M. Donnan	—	2,602	5,205	10,410
Keith A. Harvey	—	2,526	5,052	10,105
John Barneson	—	2,134	4,268	8,536

The number of performance shares, if any, that vest based on the level of performance achieved during the three-year performance period will vest on the later to occur of March 5, 2017 and the date on which the compensation committee certifies the performance level achieved during the three-year performance period, which shall be no later than March 15, 2017. If, prior to December 31, 2016, the named executive officer's employment terminates as a result of death or disability, the target number of performance shares will vest. If, prior to December 31, 2016, the named executive officer's employment is terminated by us without cause or is voluntarily terminated by him for good reason, the performance shares granted to him will remain outstanding and the number of performance shares, if any, that will vest upon the vesting date will be determined based on the performance level achieved during the three-year performance period. If, prior to December 31, 2016, a change in control occurs, the performance shares granted to him will vest immediately and the number of performance shares, if any, that will vest will be determined based on the performance level achieved during the performance period through the change in control date. If, prior to the vesting date, the employment of a named executive officer, other than Mr. Hockema, terminates as a result of his retirement, the performance shares granted to him will remain outstanding and the number of performance shares, if any, that will vest upon the vesting date will be determined based on the performance level achieved during the three-year performance period. If, prior to the vesting date, Mr. Hockema's employment terminates as a result of his retirement at or after age 65, the performance shares granted to him will remain outstanding and the number of performance shares, if any, that will vest upon the vesting date will be determined based on the performance level achieved during the three-year performance period and prorated based on the actual days of Mr. Hockema's employment during the performance period.

The threshold, target and maximum number of performance shares that may vest, if at all, in 2017 under our 2014-2016 LTI Program are determined as follows:

the threshold number of performance shares reflects that no performance shares will vest in 2017 under our 2014-2016 LTI Program unless our company's performance exceeds the threshold performance required over the 2014 through 2016 performance period;

the target number of performance shares was calculated by dividing the applicable percentage (i.e., 64% for Mr. Hockema and 50% for the other named executive officers) of the target monetary value by the sum of (i) the average of the closing prices of our company's common stock for the 20 trading days prior to the grant date, which was \$68.80 per share, reduced by (ii) 25.93%, the discount factor provided by Meridian in connection with the calculation of the economic value of the performance shares for purposes of determining the number of performance shares to be

granted on the grant date; and
the maximum number of performance shares was calculated by dividing an amount equal to twice the target monetary value by the economic value of each performance share on the grant date.

On March 5, 2015, the three-year vesting period applicable to the grant of restricted stock under our long-term incentive program for 2012 through 2014, which we refer to as our 2012 - 2014 LTI Program, ended and the shares vested in accordance with the terms of the underlying grant. In addition, in early 2015 our compensation committee determined that 50% of the target performance shares (25% of the total performance shares) granted under our 2012 - 2014 LTI Program had been earned based on our performance over the 2012 through 2014 performance period. The remaining performance shares granted under

our 2012 - 2014 LTI Program were forfeited. Despite solid performance over the 2012 through 2014 performance period, our financial results and the resulting multiplier for the 2012 - 2014 LTI Program were negatively impacted by recessionary economic conditions during the restriction period.

Retirement benefits

We no longer maintain a defined benefit pension plan or retiree medical program that covers members of senior management. Retirement benefits to our senior management, including our named executive officers, are currently provided through a defined contribution retirement program consisting of the following two principal plans:

• the Kaiser Aluminum Savings and Investment Plan, a tax-qualified profit-sharing and 401(k) plan (which we refer to as our Savings Plan); and

a nonqualified and unsecured deferred compensation plan intended to restore benefits that would be payable to designated participants in the Savings Plan but for the limitations on benefit accruals and payments imposed by the Internal Revenue Code (which we refer to as our Restoration Plan).

The defined contribution retirement program has the following three primary components, which are discussed more fully below:

- A company match of the employee's pre-tax deferrals under our Savings Plan;
- A company contribution to the employee's account under our Savings Plan; and
- A company contribution to the employee's account under our Restoration Plan.

Under the terms of our Restoration Plan, cash balances are maintained in a “rabbi trust” where they remain subject to the claims of our creditors and are otherwise invested in funds designated by each individual from a menu of possible investments. In addition, the cash balances maintained in the rabbi trust are forfeited if the individual is terminated for cause.

The compensation committee believes the Savings Plan and the Restoration Plan support the objectives of our comprehensive compensation structure, including the ability to attract and retain senior and experienced mid- to late-career executives for critical positions within our organization. Each of these plans is discussed more fully below.

Perquisites

During 2014, all of our named executive officers received a vehicle allowance. Messrs. Donnan and Harvey were reimbursed for dues for club memberships.

Our use of perquisites as an element of compensation is very limited and largely based on business-related entertainment needs. We do not view perquisites as a significant element of our comprehensive compensation structure but do believe that they can be used in conjunction with base salary to attract, motivate and retain individuals in a competitive environment.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

In order to further align the interests of senior management, including our named executive officers, with those of our stockholders, we have stock ownership guidelines. Under those guidelines, members of our senior management are

expected to hold common stock having a value equal to a multiple of their base salary as determined by their position. The guidelines provide for a target multiple of six times base salary for our chief executive officer and three times base salary for the other named executive officers. Each member of senior management covered by our stock ownership guidelines is expected to retain at least 75% of the net shares resulting from equity compensation awards until he or she achieves the applicable ownership level required by the stock ownership guidelines. The ownership guidelines are expected to be met within five years. Each of our named executive officers has satisfied the applicable stock ownership requirements under the stock ownership guidelines.

For purposes of these guidelines, stock ownership includes shares over which the holder has direct or indirect ownership or control, including restricted stock and restricted stock units, but does not include unexercised stock options. For purposes of measuring compliance with our stock ownership guidelines (1) restricted stock and restricted stock units are valued at the closing price of the company's common stock on the grant date, (2) performance shares are valued using the target number of

performance shares and the closing price of our common stock on the grant date, and (3) all other shares of common stock purchased or acquired by members of our senior management are valued at the purchase price of the shares.

Securities Trading Policy

Our securities trading policy contains anti-hedging and anti-pledging provisions prohibiting our directors and employees from engaging in any speculative transactions involving our securities, including (1) buying or selling puts or calls, (2) short sales, (3) buying on margin or holding our securities in a margin account, and (4) pledging our securities as collateral for a loan or any other obligations.

Employment Contracts, Termination of Employment Arrangements and Change-in-Control Arrangements

As discussed more fully below, in March 2014 we entered into an amended and restated employment agreement with Mr. Hockema. The compensation committee, working with Meridian, determined that the negotiated terms of the agreement were consistent with market practice. The compensation committee also determined that extending the term of the employment agreement with Mr. Hockema was important to, among other things:

- provide an economic incentive for Mr. Hockema to delay his retirement until at least December 2016;

- improve our ability to retain other key members of senior management; and

- provide assurance to our customers and other stakeholders of the continuity of senior management for an extended period.

The compensation committee determined that the agreement and the terms of the agreement were in the best interests of our company and stockholders.

Also, as discussed more fully below, certain members of senior management, including each of our named executive officers, continue to have benefits related to terminations of employment in connection with a change in control, by us without cause and by the named executive officer with good reason. These protections were implemented in 2002 and limit our ability to downwardly adjust certain aspects of compensation, including base salaries and target incentive compensation, without triggering the ability of the affected named executive officer to receive termination benefits.

Tax Deductibility

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally limits the deductibility of compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to our principal executive officer and our next three highest paid executive officers, other than the principal financial officer, unless certain criteria are satisfied. The compensation committee considers the anticipated tax treatment to our company and our executive officers in the review and establishment of compensation programs and payments.

Historically, the compensation committee determined not to limit compensation to the compensation deductible under Section 162(m) in light of the limited impact of Section 162(m) on our company and our substantial tax attributes, including net operating loss carry-forwards, available to use to offset taxable income. Accordingly, through 2011, our short-term and long-term incentive plans and programs were not designed to meet all the requirements necessary for payouts thereunder to be considered “performance-based” for purposes of Section 162(m).

The compensation committee, however, continued to explore potential modifications to our short- and long-term incentive plans and programs that would increase the deductibility of our incentive compensation, and since March

2012, the compensation committee has annually approved umbrella arrangements under our Equity Incentive Plan (which were designed to allow the qualification of awards under Section 162(m)) to preserve the deductibility of compensation under our incentive programs. These umbrella arrangements are based on net cash provided by operating activities as a single objective performance metric. The payouts calculated under the umbrella arrangements are not intended to be the actual payouts to the covered employees; rather, it is anticipated that the payouts to the covered employees under the umbrella arrangements will be reduced by the compensation committee through the exercise of negative discretion (which is permitted under Section 162(m)) to match the payouts that would otherwise be earned and made under the underlying incentive plan, as the compensation committee did with the awards under the 2014 short-term incentive umbrella plan and the 2014-2017 long-term incentive umbrella plan. The umbrella arrangements will not result in any duplication of payouts. The approval of such arrangements is consistent with our policy to utilize available tax deductions whenever appropriate and consistent with our compensation philosophy. However, we could from time to time pay compensation to our executives that is not fully deductible.

Actions With Respect to 2015 Compensation

The compensation committee has reviewed and determined our compensation program for 2015. The review included discussions with Meridian and management regarding existing and contemplated market practices, as well as the structure and objectives of each component of our compensation program. Upon completion of the review, in March 2015, the compensation committee approved the annual base salaries of our named executive officers for 2015, effective April 1, 2015. For 2015, the compensation committee approved a 3% base salary increase for each of our named executive officers, except for Mr. Harvey, who received a base salary increase of 14%, reflecting his assumption of additional responsibilities related to operations during 2014 and his relocation to California, where our corporate office is located.

In addition, the compensation committee concluded that our short- and long-term incentives appeared to be well designed and performing through the business cycle as designed, determined that no material modification to the design of such incentives were necessary, and accordingly, approved (1) a short-term incentive plan for 2015 with a structure, terms and objectives generally consistent with the structure, terms and objectives of the short-term incentive plans approved by the compensation committee in 2014, except for the measurement of cost performance by comparing manufacturing costs to planned manufacturing costs rather than to historical manufacturing costs, and (2) a long-term incentive program for 2015 through 2017 with a structure, terms and objectives generally consistent with the structure, terms and objectives of our 2014 - 2016 LTI Program. For more information regarding the 2015 compensation of our named executive officers, see our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 9, 2015.

In March 2015, the compensation committee also approved umbrella arrangements under our Equity Incentive Plan similar to the arrangements approved in 2014 to preserve the deductibility of compensation under our 2015 incentive programs.

The Role of the Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

We provides our stockholders with the opportunity to cast an annual vote on executive compensation. At our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, a substantial majority of the shares of our common stock voted on the proposal were voted to approve the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in the proxy statement relating to such meeting. The compensation committee has considered the outcome of the vote on executive compensation at our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders and believes it affirms our stockholders' support of our overall approach to executive compensation. Accordingly, we have not made any changes to our overall approach to executive compensation as a result of the 2014 advisory vote. The compensation committee will continue to consider the outcome of the annual vote on executive compensation when making future compensation decisions for the named executive officers.

Summary Compensation Table

The table below sets forth information regarding compensation for our named executive officers: (1) Jack A. Hockema, our President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board; (2) Daniel J. Rinkenberger, our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; and (3) each of John M. Donnan, Keith A. Harvey and John Barneson, our three other most highly compensated executive officers (based on total compensation for 2014).

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Stock Awards (1)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (2)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (3)	All Other Compensation (4)	Total
Jack A. Hockema,	2014	\$856,000	\$ 2,804,575				