The mission of the CFTC is to promote the integrity, resilience, and vibrancy of the U.S. derivatives markets through sound regulation. U.S. derivatives markets see more than $4 trillion in notional activity each day. They are critical to the health of the U.S. economy and the pocketbook of every American, helping inform the price of everything from food and gasoline to home mortgage interest. Congress created the CFTC as an independent agency in 1974 to regulate the commodity futures and options markets. The Commission is composed of five commissioners. Each commissioner is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The President also selects the Commission Chairman, who leads the agency as its Chief Executive.

Under the authority of the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA), the CFTC writes rules and supervises market activity and market participants—including exchanges, clearing organizations, large traders, and the companies and individuals who handle customer funds or offer trading advice. The agency also investigates and prosecutes violations of the CEA and Commission regulations. And, the CFTC educates market customers about their rights, protections, and how to spot, avoid, and report fraud.

CONTACT US
• VISIT: cftc.gov
• EMAIL: questions@cftc.gov
• CALL: 866.366.2382
• WRITE: Commodity Futures Trading Commission
  1155 21st Street, NW
  Washington, DC 20581
• SUBMIT A TIP OR COMPLAINT: cftc.gov/complaint
• CHECK FIRM REGISTRATION: cftc.gov/check
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