

December 4, 2025

Senator Ben Gilmore Representative Les D. Eaves Arkansas Legislative Council State Capitol, Room 315 Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Submission of Investments for Review Under Act 1211 of 2009 (A.C.A. §19-11-1302)

Investments: ARTRS MSCI ACWI Ex-China Ex-Hong Kong IMI U/A

Niobrara Founders Fund, LP Truelink Capital II, LP

Dear Senator Gilmore and Representative Eaves:

By means of the enclosed Investment Summaries, Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS) is submitting three investments for review by the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) as required under ACA §19-11-1302 et seq., otherwise referred to as Act 1211 of 2009.

The ATRS Board (Board) recently authorized the termination of an investment in the Blackrock MSCI ACWI IMI Index Fund and redeployment of assets to the ARTRS MSCI ACWI Ex-China Ex-Hong Kong IMI U/A to comply with Act 937 of 2025. The new fund was recommended by Aon Hewitt Investment Consulting, general investment consultants for ATRS, and ATRS staff concurs.

The Board also approved an investment of up to \$45 million to be made in Niobrara Founders Fund, LP, a private equity fund that will target middle-market technology companies in North America and Europe. The investment was recommended by Franklin Park Associates, private equity consultants for ATRS, and ATRS staff concurs with the recommendation.

In addition, an investment of up to \$45 million in Truelink Capital II, LP was authorized by the Board. This is a private equity fund that will focus on investments in middle-market technology and industrial companies in North America. Franklin Park also recommended this investment, and ATRS staff concurs.

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The ATRS Board approved each of the investments described above at its regular quarterly meeting on December 1, 2025 and anticipates closing dates from late December through the first quarter of 2026. A summary of each investment including key terms and investment strategy is enclosed for review by ALC. If any additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me on my direct line at 501-621-8853 or by email at: markw@artrs.gov

Respectfully,

Mark White

**Executive Director** 

Mark White

MW:lw enclosures

## Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Public Market Investment Executive Summary

**Investment** ARTRS MSCI ACWI ex-China ex-Hong Kong IMI U/A (the "Fund")

Managing Party BlackRock Institutional Trust Company

ATRS Legal Interest ATRS will own units of the fund.

**Report Date** December 2025

Expected Closing Date

ATRS is expected to close in the first quarter of 2026.

ATRS
Commitment &
Reason for Entry

The transfer of an existing investment of approximately \$775 million is to ensure ATRS is complying with Act 937 of 2025. The fund was recommended by the ATRS general investment consultant.

**Placement Agent** No placement agent was used.

**Key Terms** <u>Management Fee</u>: The management fee is a tiered structure:

0.04% (4 basis points) on the first \$250 million under management in

the fund and 0.025% (2.5 basis points) thereafter.

<u>Carried Interest</u>: There is no carried interest associated with this investment.

Justification of Investment Term & Anticipated Termination Date

The Fund is of the "open end" variety and investors may exit subject to notification requirements. The investment will remain until liquidated, if ever, but actual fund amounts will vary over time with funds in excess of the initial allocation added at times and at other times funds would be withdrawn taking the funding level lower based on market returns, liquidity needs, and investment consultant recommended rebalancing from time to time.

Investment Strategy

The fund is a global equity investment designed to mirror the MSCI ACWI IMI Index (excluding China and Hong Kong).

Management Team The management team is led by Jennifer Hsui, Peter Sietsema, Matt Waldron, and Peter Tsang. This team has around 100 years of combined industry experience.

Historical Performance

The fund is new and will be an ex China ex Hong Kong version of the current ATRS investment with this firm. The current ATRS investment has returned 9.9% since inception.

## Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Private Equity Investment Executive Summary

**Investment** Niobrara Founders Fund, L.P. (the "Fund")

Managing Party Niobrara Capital Partners (the "General Partner")

ATRS Legal Interest ATRS will be a limited partner.

**Report Date** December 2025

Expected Closing Date

ATRS is expected to close in the first quarter of 2026.

ATRS
Commitment &
Reason for Entry

The investment of up to \$45 million is to help achieve the 12% target allocation to private equity. The fund was recommended by the ATRS private equity consultant.

**Placement Agent** 

No placement agent was used for fundraising.

**Key Terms** 

Management Fee: The Fund will charge an annual management fee of 2.0% of capital commitments during the five-year investment period. Thereafter, management fees will equal 1.75% of net invested capital.

<u>Carried Interest</u>: The General Partner will be entitled to receive 20% of the fund's profits after the limited partners have received their capital contributions for realized portfolio investments, write-offs, fees, expenses and an 8% preferred return.

Justification of Investment Term & Anticipated Termination Date The term is ten years (anticipated termination in 2036) plus three oneyear extensions which is common for private equity funds due to the time required for buying, improving and selling underlying companies.

Investment Strategy The Fund will primarily target buyouts and control-oriented investments in middle market technology businesses in North America and Europe. Investments will be made across the technology industry including B2B software, services, fintech and hardware (semiconductor, data centers, sensors) businesses that are benefitting from macro trends.

Management Team Based in New York, Niobrara Capital was founded in 2024 by Chip Schorr and Todd Bradley. The senior team consists of Messrs. Schorr and Bradley, Mike Pompeo, Clayton Albertson and one additional partner (to be named).

Historical Performance

As a recently formed fund, the general partner does not have an independent track record. However, Mr. Schorr has twenty-seven years of experience primarily in the technology sector with prior firms including One Equity, Blackstone and CVC. His own track record of attributed investments totals over \$4 billion in twenty-nine transactions, and his track record with One Equity included \$1.4 billion in fourteen deals that generated a 24% gross IRR.

## Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Private Equity Investment Executive Summary

**Investment** Truelink Capital II, L.P. (the "Fund")

**Managing Party** Truelink Capital (the "General Partner")

ATRS Legal Interest ATRS will be a limited partner.

**Report Date** December 2025

Expected Closing Date

ATRS is expected to close in the first quarter of 2026.

Date

**ATRS** 

Commitment & Reason for Entry

The investment of up to \$45 million is to help achieve the 12% target allocation to private equity. The fund was recommended by the ATRS private equity consultant.

**Placement Agent** 

William Blair was used for fundraising. However, the allocation for ATRS was sourced directly from the General Partner.

**Key Terms** 

Management Fee: The Fund will charge an annual management fee of 2.0% of capital commitments during the five-year investment period. Thereafter, management fees will equal 2.0% of net invested capital.

<u>Carried Interest</u>: The General Partner will be entitled to receive 20% of the fund's profits after the limited partners have received their capital contributions and an 8% preferred return.

Justification of Investment Term & Anticipated Termination Date The term is ten years (anticipated termination in 2036) plus two oneyear extensions which is common for private equity funds due to the time required for buying, improving and selling underlying companies.

Investment Strategy The Fund is being formed primarily to make control equity investments in middle market U.S. businesses. Under-optimized companies in the tech-enabled services and industrial sectors will be targeted. Typical transaction types will include corporate carve-outs and divestitures, recapitalizations, ownership transitions, restructurings and distressed situations.

Management Team Based in Los Angeles, Truelink was founded in 2022 by Todd Golditch and Luke Myers (principals) who worked together at Platinum Equity for twelve years. They are supported by six mid-level and junior investments professionals, a vice-president of business development, a chief financial and compliance officer, a head of operations and a mid-level operations professional.

**Historical Performance** 

The firm has one prior fund that generated gross returns of 1.6X cost and 56.4% IRR as of June 30, 2025. Historical returns are not indicative of future performance.