To the Shareholders of Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred Income Opportunity Fund ("PFO"):

In many markets, investors experienced a bumpy, downhill ride during the third fiscal quarter[1]. However, the preferred securities market was better behaved, with only modest negative performance for the quarter. Total return[2] on net asset value ("NAV") for your Fund was -0.7% for the quarter and 2.4% for the first nine months of fiscal 2015. Market price of Fund shares didn't fare as well, as Fund shares went from trading at a premium over NAV to a discount. Total return on market price of Fund shares over the same periods were -12.5% and -6.5%, respectively.

The world is always an uncertain place, and a handful of those uncertainties attracted investor focus late in the quarter. Forecasts for slower economic growth in China and a policy decision in mid-August to devalue the Chinese currency were unwelcome surprises. The action sharpened market focus on what slower growth in China could mean for economies around the world. Simultaneously, European economic growth slipped, after improving in late 2014 and early 2015. Equity markets sold off sharply: better-performing markets "merely" gave up 2015 year-to-date gains and many markets, especially in Asia, traded materially lower. Credit markets (including preferred securities) outperformed equities, but they were still generally in negative territory.

Lower prices for oil and other commodities, a strong U.S. dollar, and an unpredictable (if entertaining) 2016 presidential campaign also contributed to higher volatility in equity markets and, to a lesser extent, credit markets.

U.S. monetary policy added to market uncertainty when the Federal Reserve indicated it was nearing "lift-off" for monetary policy—and then demurred. Having just passed its September meeting, we now know the Federal Open Market Committee ("FOMC") delayed an initial rate hike for at least another month or three—possibly even until 2016. Monetary policy in the U.S. moved into uncharted territory many years ago with multiple rounds of Quantitative Easing ("QE"). As we move into the next phase of removing monetary accommodation, markets are understandably worried about policy mistakes—moving too fast, or not moving fast enough. Meanwhile, monetary policy in many other areas of the world continues to be very accommodative, and all signs point to continued global easing over the near-term (mostly in the form of QE). Whenever it decides to raise U.S. rates, we expect the FOMC to move slowly in light of global headwinds to growth.

Despite this sea of uncertainty, the preferred securities market experienced comparatively smooth sailing. Prices drifted a bit lower in general, but high income offset much of that price weakness to keep total returns on preferred securities only slightly negative overall. A steady stream of high income, over time, can offset price weakness, which is why long-term creditworthiness is a focus of the Fund.

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[1] June 1, 2015—August 31, 2015

[2] Following the methodology required by the Securities and Exchange Commission, total return assumes dividend reinvestment.

Credit quality remains healthy, with only modest impacts from many of the broader issues discussed above. The preferred securities market (absent some energy issuers) has limited direct exposure to oil or other commodity markets. Even banks that lend to the energy sector have limited exposure, which makes it unlikely that this would be an issue for creditworthiness of the broader banking system. The preferred securities market has no direct credit exposure to China, although the impact of an economic slowdown in China may be felt in the U.S. over time. Supply in the domestic preferred securities market trended lower during the quarter, which is supportive of spreads, and yields continue to be attractive when compared to fixed-income alternatives.

Many of the uncertainties we discussed will persist for the foreseeable future, but we believe their impact on the preferred securities market will remain muted. The market is always subject to weakening in sympathy with other markets, but we believe preferreds continue to be an attractive asset class that will hold their own as events unfold over coming months and years.

As always, we encourage you to visit the Fund's website, www.preferredincome.com for timely and important information.

Sincerely,

The Flaherty & Crumrine Portfolio Management Team:

R. Eric Chadwick
Donald F. Crumrine
Bradford S. Stone

September 22, 2015