The Zweig Total Return Fund, Inc. Authorizes Declaration Of A Distribution

NEW YORK, Dec. 21, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- The Zweig Total Return Fund, Inc. (NYSE: ZTR) announced that its board of directors declared a distribution payable January 11, 2016 to stockholders of record on December 31, 2015.

The Zweig Total Return Fund intends to distribute the greater of 0.58% (7% annualized) of its net asset value on December 31, 2015 or all available net investment income and net short and long term capital gains, in accordance with requirements under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Distributions may represent earnings from net investment income, capital gains, or if necessary, return of capital. You should not draw any conclusions about the Fund's investment performance from the amount of this distribution or from the terms of the Fund's Plan. The amount of the distribution will be announced on January 4, 2016.

The following chart discloses information on the sources of the most recent distribution:

Distribution Estimates	**November 2015 (MTD)**		**Year-to-date (YTD)** [1]	
(Sources)	*Per Share Amount*	*Percentage of Current Distribution*	*Per Share Amount*	*Percentage of Current Distribution*
Net Investment Income	$ 0.021	25.6%	$ 0.201	21.3%
Net Realized Foreign Currency Gains	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Net Realized Short-Term Capital Gains	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Net Realized Long-Term Capital Gains	0.060	74.4%	0.624	66.3%
Return of Capital (or other Capital Source)	-	0.0%	0.117	12.4%
Total Distribution	**$ 0.081**	**100.0%**	**$ 0.942**	**100.0%**

(1) YTD February 2, 2015 to January 11, 2016. (The distribution paid on January 9, 2015 was reportable for tax on Form 1099 in 2014)

The Fund estimates that it has distributed more than its income and net realized capital gains in the fiscal year to date; therefore, a portion of the distribution may be a return of capital. A return of capital may occur, for example, when some or all of the money that you invested in the Fund is paid back to you. A return of capital distribution does not necessarily reflect the Fund's investment performance and should not be confused with "yield" or "income."

The amounts and sources of distributions reported in this notice are only estimates and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and sources of the amounts for tax reporting purposes will depend upon the Fund's investment experience during the remainder of its fiscal year and may be subject to changes based on tax regulations. The Fund will send shareholders a Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for federal income tax purposes.

Information regarding the Fund's performance and distribution rates is set forth below. Please note that all performance figures are based on the Fund's NAV and not the market price of the Fund's shares. Performance figures are not meant to represent individual shareholder performance.

November 30, 2015	
Average Annual Total Return on NAV for the 5-year period ended this month [2]	7.36%
Current Fiscal YTD Annualized Distribution Rate [3]	7.47%
YTD Cumulative Total Return on NAV [4]	-3.24%
YTD Cumulative Distribution Rate [5]	6.85%

(2) Average Annual Total Return on NAV is the annual compound return for the five-year period. It reflects the change in the Fund's NAV

(2) Average Annual Total Return on NAV is the annualized compound return for the five year period. It reflects the change in the Fund's NAV and reinvestment of all distributions.
(3) Current Fiscal YTD Annualized Distribution Rate is the cumulative distribution rate annualized as a percentage of the Fund's NAV at month end.
(4) YTD Cumulative Total Return on NAV is the percentage change in the Fund's NAV from the first day of the year to this month end, including distributions paid and assuming reinvestment of those distributions.
(5) YTD Cumulative Distribution Rate is the dollar value of distributions from the first day of the year to this month end as a percentage of the Fund's NAV at month end.

Section 19(a) notices are posted on the Fund's website at:
ZTR 19A Notices

The Zweig closed-end funds are advised by Zweig Advisers LLC. For more information on the Fund, please contact shareholder services at 800.272.2700, by email at zweig@virtus.com, or visit us on the web at www.virtus.com.

SOURCE The Zweig Total Return Fund, Inc.