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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JOHN HANCOCK INCOME SECURITIES TRUST  
ADOPTS SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAM**

**BOSTON, MA (March 12, 2015)** – John Hancock Income Securities Trust (NYSE: JHS) (the “Fund”), a closed-end fund advised by John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the “Adviser”) and subadvised by John Hancock Asset Management (U.S.) LLC, a division of Manulife Asset Management (the “Subadviser”), announced today that its Board of Trustees has approved a share repurchase program. Under the share repurchase program, the Fund may purchase, in the open market, up to 10% of its outstanding common shares between March 13, 2015 and December 31, 2015 (based on common shares outstanding as of February 28, 2015).

The Fund’s repurchase activity will be disclosed in its shareholder report for the relevant fiscal period. There is no assurance that the Fund will purchase shares at any specific discount levels or in any specific amounts. There is also no assurance that the market price of the Fund’s shares, either absolutely or relative to net asset value, will increase as a result of any share repurchases, or that the program will enhance shareholder value over the long-term.

*Statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements as defined by the United States securities laws. You should exercise caution in interpreting and relying on forward-looking statements because they are subject to uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond the Fund’s control and could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.*

*An investor should consider a Fund’s investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing.*

**About John Hancock Investments**

John Hancock Investments provides asset management services to individuals and institutions through a unique manager-of-managers approach. A wealth management business of John Hancock Financial, we managed \$126 billion in assets as of December 31, 2014, across mutual funds, college savings plans, and retirement plans.

**About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial**

John Hancock Financial is a division of Manulife Financial, a leading Canada-based financial services group with principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States, the Company offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management

services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were C\$691 billion (US\$596 billion) as of December 31, 2014. Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at [manulife.com](http://manulife.com).

The John Hancock unit, through its insurance companies, comprises one of the largest life insurers in the United States. John Hancock offers and administers a broad range of financial products, including [life insurance](#), [annuities](#), fixed products, [mutual funds](#), [401\(k\) plans](#), [long-term care insurance](#), [college savings](#), and other forms of business insurance. Additional information about John Hancock may be found at [johnhancock.com](http://johnhancock.com).