

# The Adams Express Company

Seven St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

January 17, 2003

## 2002 TAX INFORMATION

**Please Read Carefully**

To our Stockholders:

This letter, showing the investment income dividends and the capital gain distributions paid by the Company during the calendar year 2002, is sent to assist you in preparing your federal income tax return. The dates and amounts of the payments are as follows:

<u>Date Paid</u> <u>2002</u>	(I) <u>Investment</u> <u>Income</u> <u>Dividends</u> <u>(Per share)</u>	(a) <u>Percentage Entitled</u> <u>To Corporate</u> <u>Dividend Deduction</u>	(II) <u>Short-Term</u> <u>Capital Gain</u> <u>Distribution</u> <u>(Per share)</u>	(III) <u>Long-Term</u> <u>Capital Gain</u> <u>Distribution</u> <u>(Per share)</u>
March 1 .....	\$0.02	15.2%	\$0.03	\$0.03
June 1 .....	0.08	100.0%	—	—
September 1 .....	0.08	100.0%	—	—
December 27 .....	0.01*	100.0%	—	0.51*
Totals .....	<u>\$0.19</u>		<u>\$0.03</u>	<u>\$0.54</u>

\*These payments are taxable whether taken in shares of the Company's stock or in cash. The cost, for income tax purposes, of full shares received is \$10.715 per share.

The Company has qualified as a "regulated investment company" as defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Stockholders who were entitled to receive the investment income dividends and capital gain distributions, described above, should report them for federal income tax purposes as follows:

I. *The investment income dividends* should be reported as ordinary dividend income. The enclosed Form 1099, "U.S. Information Return," shows the total amount of dividends distributed to you. Column (a) indicates the percentage of each investment income dividend that qualifies for the 70% dividends received deduction allowed certain corporations, with respect to dividends received from domestic corporations.

II. *The short-term capital gain distribution*, whether received in stock or cash, should be reported as ordinary dividend income. This amount is included in your enclosed Form 1099, "U.S. Information Return," under dividend income. Column (a) indicates the percentage of each short-term capital gain distribution that qualifies for the 70% dividends received deduction allowed certain corporations, with respect to short-term capital gain distributions received from domestic corporations.

III. *The long-term capital gain distribution*, whether received in stock or in cash, should be reported as a "capital gain dividend" and treated by you as a long-term capital gain regardless of the length of time you have held the shares. Capital gain distributions do not qualify for the dividends received deduction described in paragraphs (I) and (II) above.

The Company had 2.4% of income derived from U.S. Government Obligations in 2002.

Recent federal tax legislation makes some shareholders eligible for a reduced capital gain tax rate for capital gain distributions on securities held more than 5 years by the Company. For those shareholders who are eligible, the qualified 5-year gain is 100% of the total capital gain distributions for 2002. Please note that due to different rules, the federal and state percentage for the 5-year gain may differ.

The information above is provided to assist you in preparing your federal and state tax returns. **Please consult your tax adviser regarding your individual tax situation. Retain this letter for tax purposes.**

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

LAWRENCE L. HOOPER, JR.  
*Vice President, Secretary & General  
Counsel*