

THE GABELLI UTILITIES FUND

Statement of Additional Information

April 30, 2009

This Statement of Additional Information (the "SAI"), which is not a prospectus, describes The Gabelli Utilities Fund (the "Fund"). This SAI should be read in conjunction with the Fund's Prospectuses for Class A Shares, Class B Shares, Class C Shares, Class I Shares, and Class AAA Shares, each dated April 30, 2009. This SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Fund's Prospectuses. For a free copy of a Prospectus, please contact the Fund at the address, telephone number, or Internet website printed below. Portions of the Fund's annual report to shareholders are incorporated by reference into this SAI.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Fund is a diversified, open-end, management investment company organized under the laws of the state of Delaware on May 18, 1999. The Fund commenced investment operations on August 31, 1999.

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

The Fund's Prospectuses discuss the investment objective of the Fund and the principal strategies to be employed to achieve that objective. This SAI contains supplemental information concerning certain types of securities and other instruments in which the Fund may invest, additional strategies that the Fund may utilize, and certain risks associated with such investments and strategies.

CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES

The Fund may invest in convertible securities. In evaluating a convertible security, Gabelli Funds, LLC the Fund's adviser (the "Adviser") places primary emphasis on the attractiveness of the underlying common stock and the potential for capital appreciation through conversion. The use of convertible securities will allow the Fund to have greater exposure to the telecommunications companies that have superior growth characteristics compared to traditional public utility companies. The Fund will normally purchase only investment grade, convertible debt securities having a rating of, or equivalent to, at least "BBB" (which securities may have speculative characteristics) by Standard & Poor's Ratings Service ("S&P") or, if unrated, judged by the Adviser to be of comparable quality. However, the Fund may also invest up to 25% of its assets in more speculative convertible debt securities.

Convertible securities may include corporate notes or preferred stock, but are ordinarily a long-term debt obligation of the issuer convertible at a stated exchange rate into common stock of the issuer. As with all debt securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, to increase as interest rates decline. Convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality. However, when the market price of the common stock underlying a convertible security exceeds the conversion price, the price of the convertible security tends to reflect the value of the underlying common stock. As the market price of the underlying common stock declines, the convertible security tends to trade increasingly on a yield basis, and thus may not depreciate to the same extent as the underlying common stock. Convertible securities rank senior to common stocks on an issuer's capital structure and are consequently of higher quality and entail less risk than the issuer's common stock, although the extent to which such risk is reduced depends in large measure upon the degree to which the convertible security sells above its value as a fixed-income security.

In selecting convertible securities for the Fund, the Adviser relies primarily on its own evaluation of the issuer and the potential for capital appreciation through conversion. It does not rely on the rating of the security or sell because of a change in rating absent a change in its own evaluation of the underlying common stock and the ability of the issuer to pay principal and interest or dividends when due without disrupting its business goals. Interest or dividend yield is a factor only to the extent it is reasonably consistent with prevailing rates for securities of similar quality and thereby provides a support level for the market price of the security. The Fund will purchase the convertible securities of highly leveraged issuers only when, in the judgment of the Adviser's portfolio management team, the risk of default is outweighed by the potential for capital appreciation.

The issuers of debt obligations having speculative characteristics may experience difficulty in paying principal and interest when due in the event of a downturn in the economy or unanticipated corporate developments. The market prices of such securities may become increasingly volatile in periods of economic uncertainty. Moreover, adverse publicity or the perceptions of investors over which the Adviser has no control, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the market price and liquidity of such investments. Although the Adviser will attempt to avoid exposing the Fund to such risks, there is no

assurance that it will be successful or that a liquid secondary market will continue to be available for the disposition of such securities.

DEBT SECURITIES

The Fund may invest up to 25% of its assets in low rated and unrated corporate debt securities (often referred to as "junk bonds"), although the Fund does not expect to invest more than 10% of its assets in such securities. Corporate debt securities which are either unrated or have a predominantly speculative rating may present opportunities for significant long-term capital appreciation if the ability of the issuer to repay principal and interest when due is underestimated by the market or the rating organizations. Because of its perceived credit weakness, the issuer is generally required to pay a higher interest rate and/or its debt securities may be selling at a significantly lower market price than the debt securities of issuers actually having similar strengths. When the inherent value of such securities is recognized, the market value of such securities may appreciate significantly. The Adviser believes that its research on the credit and balance sheet strength of certain issuers may enable it to select a limited number of corporate debt securities which, in certain markets, will better serve the objective of capital appreciation than alternative investments in common stocks. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Adviser will be successful. In its evaluation, the Adviser will not rely exclusively on ratings and the receipt of income is only an incidental consideration.

The ratings of Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") and S&P generally represent the opinions of those organizations as to the quality of the securities that they rate. Such ratings, however, are relative and subjective, are not absolute standards of quality and do not evaluate the market risk of the securities. Although the Adviser uses these ratings as a criterion for the selection of securities for the Fund, the Adviser also relies on its independent analysis to evaluate potential investments for the Fund. See Appendix A "Description of Corporate Debt Ratings."

As in the case of the convertible debt securities discussed above, low rated, and unrated corporate debt securities are generally considered to be more subject to default and therefore significantly more speculative than those having an investment grade rating. They also are more subjective to market price volatility based on increased sensitivity to changes in interest rates and economic conditions or the liquidity of their secondary trading market.

INVESTMENTS IN WARRANTS AND RIGHTS

The Fund may invest in warrants and rights (in addition to those acquired in units or attached to other securities) which entitle the holder to buy equity securities at a specific price for or at the end of a specific period of time. The Fund will do so only if the underlying equity securities are deemed appropriate by the Adviser for inclusion in the Fund's portfolio.

Investing in rights and warrants can provide a greater potential for profit or loss than an equivalent investment in the underlying security, and thus can be a speculative investment. The value of a right or warrant may decline because of a decline in the value of the underlying security, the passage of time, changes in interest rates or in the dividend or other policies of the Fund whose equity underlies the warrant, or a change in the perception as to the future price of the underlying security, or any combination thereof. Rights and warrants generally pay no dividends and confer no voting or other rights other than the right to purchase the underlying security.

INVESTMENTS IN FOREIGN SECURITIES

The Fund may invest up to 40% of the value of its total assets in foreign securities or depositary receipts for foreign securities. Foreign securities investments may be affected by changes in currency rates or exchange control regulations, changes in governmental administration or economic or monetary policy (in the United States and abroad) or changed circumstances in dealings between nations. Dividends paid by foreign issuers may be subject to withholding and other foreign taxes that may decrease the net return on these investments

as compared to dividends paid to the Fund by domestic corporations. In addition, there may be less publicly available information about foreign issuers than about domestic issuers, and some foreign issuers are not subject to uniform accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards and requirements comparable to those of domestic issuers. Securities of some foreign issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable domestic issuers and foreign brokerage commissions may be fixed or higher than in the United States. Foreign securities markets may also be less liquid, more volatile, and less subject to government supervision than those in the United States. Investments in foreign countries could be affected by other factors not present in the United States, including expropriation, confiscatory taxation, and potential difficulties in enforcing contractual obligations. Securities purchased on foreign exchanges may be held in custody by a foreign branch of a domestic bank.

INVESTMENT IN ILLIQUID SECURITIES

The Fund will not invest, in the aggregate, more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities. These securities include securities which are restricted for public sale, securities for which market quotations are not readily available, and repurchase agreements maturing or terminable in more than seven days. Securities freely saleable among qualified institutional investors pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"), and as adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), may be treated as liquid if they satisfy liquidity standards established by the Board of Trustees (the "Board"). The continued liquidity of such securities is not as well assured as that of publicly traded securities, and accordingly, the Board will monitor their liquidity. The Board will review pertinent factors such as trading activities, reliability of price information, and trading patterns of comparable securities in determining whether to treat any such security as liquid for purposes of the foregoing 15% test. To the extent the Board treats such securities as liquid, temporary impairment to trading patterns of such securities may adversely affect a Fund's liquidity.

CORPORATE REORGANIZATIONS

In general, securities of companies engaged in reorganization transactions sell at a premium to their historic market price immediately prior to the announcement of the tender offer or reorganization proposal. However, the increased market price of such securities may also discount what the stated or appraised value of the security would be if the contemplated transaction were approved or consummated. Such investments may be advantageous when the discount significantly overstates the risk of the contingencies involved; significantly undervalues the securities, assets, or cash to be received by shareholders of the prospective portfolio company as a result of the contemplated transaction; or fails adequately to recognize the possibility that the offer or proposal may be replaced or superseded by an offer or proposal of greater value. The evaluation of such contingencies requires unusually broad knowledge and experience on the part of the Adviser which must appraise not only the value of the issuer and its component businesses as well as the assets or securities to be received as a result of the contemplated transaction, but also the financial resources and business motivation of the offeror as well as the dynamics of the business climate when the offer or proposal is in progress.

In making such investments, the Fund will not violate any of its diversification requirements or investment restrictions (see below, "Investment Restrictions") including the requirements that, except for the investment of up to 25% of its assets in any one company or industry, not more than 5% of its assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer. Since such investments are ordinarily short term in nature, they will tend to increase the Fund's portfolio turnover ratio, thereby increasing its brokerage and other transaction expenses. The Adviser's portfolio management team for the Fund intends to select investments of the type described which, in its view, have a reasonable prospect of capital appreciation which is significant in relation to both the risk involved and the potential of available alternate investments.

WHEN ISSUED, DELAYED DELIVERY SECURITIES, AND FORWARD COMMITMENTS

The Fund may enter into forward commitments for the purchase or sale of securities, including on a "when issued" or "delayed delivery" basis in excess of customary settlement periods for the type of securities involved. In some cases, a forward commitment may be conditioned upon the occurrence of a subsequent event, such as approval and consummation of a merger, corporate reorganization, or debt restructuring (i.e., a when, as, and if issued security). When such transactions are negotiated, the price is fixed at the time of the commitment, with payment and delivery taking place in the future, generally a month or more after the date of the commitment. While the Fund will only enter into a forward commitment with the intention of actually acquiring the security, the Fund may sell the security before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable.

Securities purchased under a forward commitment are subject to market fluctuation, and no interest (or dividends) accrues to the Fund prior to the settlement date. The Fund will segregate with its custodian, through book-entry notations, cash or liquid securities in an aggregate amount at least equal to the amount of its outstanding forward commitments.

REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with banks and non-bank dealers of U.S. government securities which are listed as reporting dealers of the Federal Reserve Bank and which furnish collateral at least equal in value or market price to the amount of their repurchase obligation. In a repurchase agreement, the Fund purchases a debt security from a seller which undertakes to repurchase the security at a specified resale price on an agreed future date. The resale price generally exceeds the purchase price by an amount which reflects an agreed-upon market interest rate for the term of the repurchase agreement.

The Fund's risk is primarily that, if the seller defaults, the proceeds from the disposition of underlying securities and other collateral for the seller's obligation are less than the repurchase price. If the seller becomes bankrupt, the Fund might be delayed in selling the collateral. Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), repurchase agreements are considered loans. Repurchase agreements usually are for short periods, such as one week or less, but could be longer. Except for repurchase agreements for a period of a week or less in respect to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies, or instrumentalities, not more than 15% of the Fund's total assets may be invested in repurchase agreements. In addition, the Fund will not enter into repurchase agreements of a duration of more than seven days if, taken together with restricted securities and other securities for which there are no readily available quotations, more than 15% of its total assets would be so invested. These percentage limitations are fundamental and may not be changed without shareholder approval.

BORROWING

The Fund may not borrow money except for (1) short-term credits from banks as may be necessary for the clearance of portfolio transactions, and (2) borrowings from banks for temporary or emergency purposes, including the meeting of redemption requests, which would otherwise require the untimely disposition of its portfolio securities. Borrowing may not, in the aggregate, exceed 15% of assets after giving effect to the borrowing, and borrowing for purposes other than meeting redemptions may not exceed 5% of the value of the Fund's assets after giving effect to the borrowing. The Fund will not make additional investments when borrowings exceed 5% of assets. The Fund may mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate up to 30% of its assets (not including the amounts borrowed) to secure such borrowings.

Borrowing may exaggerate the effect on net asset value ("NAV") of any increase or decrease in the market value of securities purchased with borrowed funds. Money borrowed will be subject to interest costs which may or may not be recovered by an appreciation of securities purchased.

SHORT SALES

The Fund may, from time to time, make short sales of securities it owns or has the right to acquire through conversion or exchange of other securities it owns. In a short sale, the Fund does not immediately deliver the securities sold or receive the proceeds from the sale. The market value of the securities sold short of any one issuer will not exceed either 5% of the Fund's total assets or 5% of such issuer's voting securities. The Fund may not make short sales or maintain a short position if it would cause more than 25% of the Fund's total assets, taken at market value, to be held as collateral for the sales. However, short sales "against the box" are not subject to any limitation.

The Fund may make a short sale both to obtain capital appreciation and to hedge against market risks when it believes that the price of a security may decline, causing a decline in the value of a security owned by the Fund or a security convertible into, or exchangeable for, the security.

A Fund's obligation to replace the borrowed security will be secured by collateral deposited with the broker-dealer, usually cash, U.S. government securities or other liquid securities. A Fund will also be required to deposit similar collateral with its Custodian to the extent, if any, necessary so that the value of both collateral deposits in the aggregate is at all times equal to the greater of the price at which the security is sold short or 100% of the current market value of the security sold short.

SWAPS

The Fund may enter into total rate of return, credit default or other types of swaps and related derivatives for various purposes, including to gain economic exposure to an asset or group of assets that may be difficult or impractical to acquire or for hedging and risk management. These transactions generally provide for the transfer from one counterparty to another of certain risks inherent in the ownership of a financial asset such as a common stock or debt instrument. Such risks include, among other things, the risk of default and insolvency of the obligor of such asset, the risk that the credit of the obligor or the underlying collateral will decline or the risk that the common stock of the underlying issuer will decline in value. The transfer of risk pursuant to a derivative of this type may be complete or partial, and may be for the life of the related asset or for a shorter period. These derivatives may be used as a risk management tool for a pool of financial assets, providing the Fund with the opportunity to gain or reduce exposure to one or more reference securities or other financial assets (each, a "Reference Asset") without actually owning or selling such assets in order, for example, to increase or reduce a concentration risk or to diversify a portfolio. Conversely, these derivatives may be used by the Fund to reduce exposure to an owned asset without selling it.

Because the Fund would not own the Reference Assets, the Fund may not have any voting rights with respect to the Reference Assets, and in such cases all decisions related to the obligors or issuers of the Reference Assets, including whether to exercise certain remedies, will be controlled by the swap counterparties.

Total rate of return swaps and similar derivatives are subject to many risks, including the possibility that the market will move in a manner or direction that would have resulted in gain for the Fund had the swap or other derivative not been utilized (in which case it would have been had the Fund not engaged in the transactions), nearly unlimited exposure to changes in the value of the Reference Assets, total loss to the Fund of the entire notional amount of the swap, the risk of imperfect correlation between the risk sought to be hedged and the derivative transactions utilized, the possible inability of the counterparty to fulfill its obligations under the swap and potential illiquidity of the instrument utilized, which may make it difficult for the Fund to close out or unwind one or more transactions.

Total rate of return swaps and related derivatives are a relatively recent development in the financial markets. Consequently, there are certain legal, tax and market uncertainties that present risks in entering into such arrangements. There is currently little or no case law or litigation characterizing total rate of return swaps or related derivatives, interpreting their provisions, or characterizing their tax treatment. In

addition, additional regulations and laws may apply to these types of derivatives that have not previously been applied. There can be no assurance that future decisions construing similar provisions to those in any swap agreement or other related documents or additional regulations and laws will not have an adverse effect on the Fund that utilizes these instruments. The Fund will monitor these risks and seek to utilize these instruments in a manner that does not lead to undue risk regarding the tax or other structural elements of the Fund. The Fund will not invest in these types of instruments if the Reference Assets are commodities except for bona fide hedging or risk management purposes.

OPTIONS

The Fund may purchase or sell listed call or put options on securities as a means of achieving additional return or of hedging the value of the Fund's portfolio. A call option is a contract that, in return for a premium, gives the holder of the option the right to buy from the writer of the call option the security underlying the option at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the option. The writer of the call option has the obligation, upon exercise of the option, to deliver the underlying security upon payment of the exercise price during the option period. A put option is a contract that gives the holder the right to sell the security to the writer and obligating the writer to purchase the underlying security from the holder.

A call option is "covered" if the Fund owns the underlying security covered by the call or has an absolute and immediate right to acquire that security without additional cash consideration (or for additional cash consideration held in a segregated account by its custodian) upon conversion or exchange of other securities held in its portfolio. A call option is also covered if the Fund holds a call on the same security as the call written where the exercise price of the call held is (1) equal to or less than the exercise price of the call written, or (2) greater than the exercise price of the call written if the difference is maintained by the Fund in cash, U.S. government securities or other high grade short-term obligations in a segregated account held with its custodian. Whenever the Fund is required to establish a segregated account, notations on the books of the Fund's custodian or fund accounting agent are sufficient to constitute a segregated account. A put option is "covered" if the Fund maintains cash or other liquid portfolio securities with a value equal to the exercise price in a segregated account held with its custodian, or else holds a put on the same security as the put written where the exercise price of the put held is equal to or greater than the exercise price of the put written.

If the Fund has written an option, it may terminate its obligation by effecting a closing purchase transaction. This is accomplished by purchasing an option of the same series as the option previously written. However, once the Fund has been assigned an exercise notice, the Fund will be unable to effect a closing purchase transaction. Similarly, if the Fund is the holder of an option it may liquidate its position by effecting a closing sale transaction. This is accomplished by selling an option of the same series as the option previously purchased. There can be no assurance that either a closing purchase or sale transaction can be effected when the Fund so desires.

The Fund will realize a profit from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is less than the premium received from writing the option or is more than the premium paid to purchase the option; the Fund will realize a loss from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is more than the premium received from writing the option or is less than the premium paid to purchase the option. Since call option prices generally reflect increases in the price of the underlying security, any loss resulting from the repurchase of a call option may also be wholly or partially offset by unrealized appreciation of the underlying security. Other principal factors affecting the market value of a put or a call option include supply and demand, interest rates, the current market price and price volatility of the underlying security, and the time remaining until the expiration date.

An option position may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for an option of the same series. Although the Fund will generally purchase or write only those options for which there appears to be an active secondary market, there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an

exchange will exist for any particular option. In such event it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options, so that the Fund would have to exercise its options in order to realize any profit and would incur brokerage commissions upon the exercise of call options and upon the subsequent disposition of underlying securities for the exercise of put options. If the Fund, as a covered call option writer, is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or otherwise covers the position.

In addition to options on securities, the Fund may also purchase and sell call and put options on securities indices. A stock index reflects in a single number the market value of many different stocks. Relative values are assigned to the stocks included in an index and the index fluctuates with changes in the market values of the stocks. The options give the holder the right to receive a cash settlement during the term of the option based on the difference between the exercise price and the value of the index. By writing a put or call option on a securities index, the Fund is obligated, in return for the premium received, to make delivery of this amount. The Fund may offset its position in stock index options prior to expiration by entering into a closing transaction on an exchange or it may let the option expire unexercised.

The Fund may write put and call options on stock indices for the purposes of increasing its gross income and protecting its portfolio against declines in the value of the securities it owns or increases in the value of securities to be acquired. In addition, the Fund may purchase put and call options on stock indices in order to hedge its investments against a decline in value or to attempt to reduce the risk of missing a market or industry segment advance. Options on stock indices are similar to options on specific securities. However, because options on stock indices do not involve the delivery of an underlying security, the option represents the holder's right to obtain from the writer cash in an amount equal to a fixed multiple of the amount by which the exercise price exceeds (in the case of a put) or is less than (in the case of a call) the closing value of the underlying stock index on the exercise date. Therefore, while one purpose of writing such options is to generate additional income for the Fund, the Fund recognizes that it may be required to deliver an amount of cash in excess of the market value of a stock index at such time as an option written by the Fund is exercised by the holder. The writing and purchasing of options is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The successful use of protective puts for hedging purposes depends in part on the Adviser's ability to predict future price fluctuations and the degree of correlation between the options and securities markets.

Use of options on securities indices entails the risk that trading in the options may be interrupted if trading in certain securities included in the index is interrupted. The Fund will not purchase these options unless the Adviser is satisfied with the development, depth and liquidity of the market and the Adviser believes the options can be closed out.

Price movements in the Fund's portfolio may not correlate precisely with movements in the level of an index and, therefore, the use of options on indices cannot serve as a complete hedge and will depend, in part, on the ability of the Adviser to predict correctly movements in the direction of the stock market generally or of a particular industry. Because options on securities indices require settlement in cash, the Adviser may be forced to liquidate portfolio securities to meet settlement obligations.

The Fund also may buy or sell put and call options on foreign currencies. A put option on a foreign currency gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell a foreign currency at the exercise price until the option expires. A call option on a foreign currency gives the purchaser of the option the right to purchase the currency at the exercise price until the option expires. Currency options traded on U.S. or other exchanges may be subject to position limits which may limit the ability of the Fund to reduce foreign currency risk using such options. Over-the-counter options differ from exchange-traded options in that they are two-party contracts with price and other terms negotiated between buyer and seller and generally do not have as much market liquidity as exchange-traded options.

Although the Adviser will attempt to take appropriate measures to minimize the risks relating to the Fund's writing of put and call options, there can be no assurance that the Fund will succeed in any option-writing program it undertakes.

LOANS OF PORTFOLIO SECURITIES

The Fund may lend its portfolio securities to broker-dealers or financial institutions provided that the loans are callable at any time by the Fund. Loans by the Fund, if and when made, (1) will be collateralized in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and (2) will be limited so that the value of all loaned securities does not exceed 33% of the value of the Fund's total assets.

The Fund lends its portfolio securities in order to generate revenue to defray certain operating expenses. The advantage of this practice is that the Fund continues to receive the income on the loaned securities while at the same time earns interest on the cash amounts deposited as collateral, which will be invested in short-term obligations.

A loan may generally be terminated by the borrower on one Business Day's notice, or by the Fund on five Business Days' notice. If the borrower fails to deliver the loaned securities within five days after receipt of notice, the Fund could use the collateral to replace the securities while holding the borrower liable for any excess of replacement cost over collateral. As with any extensions of credit, there are risks of delay in recovery and in some cases even loss of rights to the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially. However, loans of portfolio securities will only be made to firms deemed by the Fund's management to be creditworthy and when the income that can be earned from the loans justifies the attendant risks. The Board will oversee the creditworthiness of the contracting parties on an ongoing basis. Upon termination of the loan, the borrower is required to return the securities to the Fund. Any gain or loss in the market price during the loan period would inure to the Fund. The risks associated with loans of portfolio securities are substantially similar to those associated with repurchase agreements. Thus, if the party to whom the loan was made petitions for bankruptcy or becomes subject to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, the law regarding the rights of the Fund is unsettled. As a result, under extreme circumstances, there may be a restriction on the Fund's ability to sell the collateral and the Fund could suffer a loss.

When voting or consent rights that accompany loaned securities pass to the borrower, the Fund will follow the policy of calling the loaned securities, to be delivered within one day after notice, to permit the exercise of such rights if the matters involved would have a material effect on the Fund's investment in such loaned securities. The Fund will pay reasonable finder's, administrative and custodial fees in connection with a loan of its securities.

FUTURES CONTRACTS AND OPTIONS ON FUTURES

The Fund may enter into futures contracts that are traded on a U.S. exchange or board of trade, provided, however, that, other than to close an existing position, the Fund will not enter into futures contracts for which the aggregate initial margins and premiums would exceed 5% of the fair market value of the Fund's assets. Although the Fund has no current intention of using options on futures contracts, the Fund may do so at some future date, subject to the limitations stated in the preceding sentence. These investments will be made by the Fund solely for the purpose of hedging against changes in the value of its portfolio securities or securities it intends to purchase and reducing risks involved in the management of the Fund. In this regard, the Fund may enter into futures contracts or options on futures for the purchase or sale of securities indices or other financial instruments including but not limited to U.S. government securities. Futures exchanges and trading in the U.S. are regulated under the Commodity Exchange Act by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

A "sale" of a futures contract (or a "short" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to deliver the securities underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time. A "purchase" of a futures contract (or a "long" futures position) means the assumption of a contractual obligation to

acquire the securities underlying the contract at a specified price at a specified future time. Certain futures contracts, including stock and bond index futures, are settled on a net cash payment basis rather than by the sale and delivery of the securities underlying the futures contracts.

No consideration will be paid or received by the Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Initially, the Fund will be required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or cash equivalents equal to approximately 1% to 10% of the contract amount (this amount is subject to change by the exchange or board of trade on which the contract is traded and brokers or members of such board of trade may charge a higher amount). This amount is known as "initial margin" and is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the contract. Subsequent payments, known as "variation margin," to and from the broker will be made daily as the price of the index or security underlying the futures contract fluctuates. At any time prior to the expiration of a futures contract, the portfolio may elect to close the position by taking an opposite position, which will operate to terminate the Fund's existing position in the contract.

An option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time prior to the expiration of the option. Upon exercise of an option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer's futures margin account attributable to that contract, which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract exceeds, in the case of a call, or is less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. The potential loss related to the purchase of an option on futures contracts is limited to the premium paid for the option (plus transaction costs). Because the value of the option purchased is fixed at the point of sale, there are no daily cash payments by the purchaser to reflect changes in the value of the underlying contract; however, the value of the option does change daily and that change would be reflected in the NAV of the portfolio.

In the event the Fund enters into a futures contract representing a net long or short position, the Fund will segregate cash or liquid securities equal to the Fund's potential obligations and its exposure to the value of the contract will be segregated, thereby insuring that the use of the contract is unleveraged. Whenever the Fund is required to establish a segregated account, notations on the books of the Funds custodian or fund accounting agent are sufficient to constitute a segregated account.

The success of hedging depends on the Adviser's ability to predict movements in the prices of the hedged securities and market fluctuations. The Adviser may not be able to perfectly correlate changes in the market value of securities and the prices of the corresponding options or futures. The Adviser may have difficulty selling or buying futures contracts and options when it chooses and there may be certain restrictions on trading futures contracts and options. The Fund is not obligated to pursue any hedging strategy. While hedging can reduce or eliminate losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains. In addition, particular hedging instruments may not be available, may be too costly to be used effectively, or may be unable to be used for other reasons.

INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

The Fund's investment objectives and the following investment restrictions are fundamental and cannot be changed without the approval of a majority of the Fund's shareholders, defined in the 1940 Act as the lesser of (1) 67% of the Fund's shares present at a meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares are present in person or by proxy, or (2) more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding shares. In addition, as a fundamental policy the Fund will in normal circumstances invest at least 25% of its assets in the utilities industry. All other investment policies or practices are considered not to be fundamental and accordingly may be changed without shareholder approval. If a percentage restriction on investment or the use of assets set forth below is adhered to at the time the transaction is effected, later changes in percentage resulting from changing market values or total assets of the Fund will not be considered a deviation from policy. Under such restrictions, the Fund may not:

- 1.) Purchase the securities of any one issuer, other than the U.S. government, or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, if immediately after such purchase more than 5% of the value of its total assets would be invested in such issuer or the Fund would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, except that up to 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested without regard to such 5% and 10% limitations;
- 2.) Invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets in any particular industry other than the utilities industry (this restriction does not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or its instrumentalities);
- 3.) Make loans of its assets except for: (a) purchasing private or publicly distributed debt obligations, (b) engaging in repurchase agreements, and (c) lending its portfolio securities consistent with applicable regulatory requirements;
- 4.) Purchase securities on margin, but it may obtain such short-term credits from banks as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of securities;
- 5.) Issue senior securities, except to the extent permitted by applicable law;
- 6.) Borrow money, except subject to the restrictions set forth in this SAI;
- 7.) Mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate any of its assets except that, in connection with permissible borrowings mentioned in restriction (6) above, not more than 30% of the assets of the Fund (not including amounts borrowed) may be used as collateral and except for collateral arrangements with respect to options, futures, hedging transactions, short sales, when-issued and forward commitment transactions, and similar investment strategies;
- 8.) Engage in the underwriting of securities, except insofar as the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the 1933 Act, in disposing of a portfolio security;
- 9.) Purchase or sell commodities or commodity contracts except for bona fide hedging, yield enhancement and risk management purposes or invest in any oil, gas, or mineral interests;
- 10.) Purchase real estate or interests therein, other than mortgage-backed securities and securities of companies that invest in real estate or interests therein; or
- 11.) Invest for the purpose of exercising control over management of any company (the Fund does not view efforts to affect management or business decisions of portfolio companies as investing for the purpose of exercising control).

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

Employees of the Adviser and its affiliates will often have access to information concerning the portfolio holdings of the Fund. The Fund and the Adviser have adopted policies and procedures that require all employees to safeguard proprietary information of the Fund, which includes information relating to the Fund's portfolio holdings as well as portfolio trading activity of the Adviser with respect to the Fund (collectively, "Portfolio Holdings Information"). In addition, the Fund and the Adviser have adopted policies and procedures providing that Portfolio Holdings Information may not be disclosed except to the extent that it is (a) made available to the general public by posting on the Fund's website or filed as part of a required filing on Form N-Q or N-CSR or (b) provided to a third party for legitimate business purposes or regulatory purposes, that has agreed to keep such data confidential under terms approved by the Adviser's legal department or outside counsel, as described below. The Adviser will examine each situation under (b) with a view to determine that release of the information is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders and, if a potential conflict between the Adviser's interests and the Fund's interests arises, to have such conflict resolved by the Chief Compliance Officer or those Trustees who are not considered to be "interested persons," as defined in the 1940 Act (the "Independent Trustees"). These policies further provide that no officer of the Fund or employee of the Adviser shall communicate with the media about the Fund without obtaining the advance consent of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, or General Counsel of the Adviser.

Under the foregoing policies, the Fund currently may disclose Portfolio Holdings Information in the circumstances outlined below. Disclosure generally may be either on a monthly or quarterly basis with no time lag in some cases and with a time lag of up to 60 days in other cases (with the exception of proxy voting services which require a regular download of data).

- 1.) To regulatory authorities in response to requests for such information and with the approval of the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund;
- 2.) To mutual fund rating and statistical agencies and to persons performing similar functions where there is a legitimate business purpose for such disclosure and such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser;
- 3.) To service providers of the Fund, as necessary for the performance of their services to the Fund and to the Board when such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser. The Fund's current service providers that may receive such information are its administrator, sub-administrator, custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, legal counsel, and financial printers;
- 4.) To firms providing proxy voting or other proxy services provided such entity has agreed to keep such data confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser;
- 5.) To certain broker dealers, investment advisers, and other financial intermediaries for purposes of their performing due diligence on the Fund and not for dissemination of this information to their clients or use of this information to conduct trading for their clients. Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings Information in these circumstances requires the broker, dealer, investment adviser, or financial intermediary to agree to keep such information confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser and is further subject to prior approval of the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund and shall be reported to the Board at the next quarterly meeting; and
- 6.) To consultants for purposes of performing analysis of the Fund, which analysis may be used by the consultant with its clients or disseminated to the public, provided that such entity shall have agreed to keep such information confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser.

As of the date of this SAI, the Fund makes information about its portfolio securities available to its administrator, sub-administrator, custodian, and proxy voting service on a daily basis, with no time lag, to its typesetter on a quarterly basis with a ten day time lag, to its financial printers on a quarterly basis with a forty-five day time lag, and to its independent registered public accounting firm and legal counsel on an as needed basis with no time lag. The names of the Fund's administrator, custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, and legal counsel are set forth in this SAI. The Fund's proxy service is Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. Bowne & Co., Inc. provides typesetting services for the Fund, and the Fund selects from a number of financial printers who have agreed to keep such information confidential until at least it has been made public by the Adviser.

Other than these arrangements with the Fund's service providers and proxy voting service, the Fund does not have any ongoing arrangements to make available information about the Fund's portfolio securities prior to such information being disclosed in a publicly available filing with the SEC that is required to include this information.

Disclosures made pursuant to a confidentiality agreement are subject to periodic confirmation by the Chief Compliance Officer of the Fund that the recipient has utilized such information solely in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Neither the Fund, nor the Adviser, nor any of the Adviser's affiliates, will accept on behalf of itself, its affiliates, or the Fund any compensation or other consideration in connection with the disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund. The Board will review such arrangements annually with the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Under Delaware law, the Fund's Board is responsible for establishing the Fund's policies and for overseeing the management of the Fund. The Board also elects the Fund's officers who conduct the daily business of the Fund. Information pertaining to the Trustees and executive officers of the Fund is set forth below.

<u>Name, Position(s) Address¹ and Age</u>	<u>Term of Office and Length of Time Served²</u>	<u>Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee</u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Other Directorships Held by Trustee³</u>
<u>INTERESTED TRUSTEE⁴:</u>				
Mario J. Gabelli Trustee and Chairman of the Board Age: 66	Since 1999	26	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Chief Investment Officer – Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc.; Director/Trustee or Chief Investment Officer of other registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GGCP, Inc.	Director of Morgan Group Holdings, Inc. (holding company); Chairman of the Board of LICT Corp. (multimedia and communication services); Director of CIBL, Inc. (broadcasting and wireless communications)

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES:

Anthony J. Colavita Trustee Age: 73	Since 1999	36	President of the law firm of Anthony J. Colavita P.C.	—
Vincent D. Enright Trustee Age: 65	Since 1999	16	Former Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of KeySpan Corporation (public utility)	Director of Echo Therapeutics, Inc. (therapeutics and diagnostics)
Mary E. Hauck Trustee Age: 66	Since 2000	3	Retired Senior Manager of the Gabelli O'Connor Fixed Income Mutual Funds Management Company	—
Werner J. Roeder, MD Trustee Age: 68	Since 1999	22	Medical Director of Lawrence Hospital and practicing private physician	—

1 Address: One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422, unless otherwise noted.

2 Each Trustee will hold office for an indefinite term until the earliest of (i) the next meeting of shareholders, if any, called for the purpose of considering the election or re-election of such Trustee and until the election and qualification of his or her successor, if any, elected at such meeting, or (ii) the date a Trustee resigns or retires, or a Trustee is removed by the Board or shareholders, in accordance with the Fund's By-Laws and Agreement and Declaration of Trust. Each officer will hold office for an indefinite term or until the date he or she resigns or retires or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

3 This column includes only directorships of companies required to report to the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (i.e. public companies) or other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.

4 "Interested person" of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act. Mr. Gabelli is considered an "interested person" because of his affiliation with Gabelli Funds, LLC which acts as the Fund's investment adviser.

Name, Position(s) Address¹ And Age	Term of Office and Length of Time Served²	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years
<u>OFFICERS:</u>		
Bruce N. Alpert President Age: 57	Since 2003	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 1988 and an officer of all of the registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; President of Teton Advisors, Inc. (formerly Gabelli Advisers, Inc.) , 1998 through 2008; Chairman of Teton Advisors, Inc. since 2008; Senior Vice President of GAMCO Investors Inc., since 2008.
Agnes Mullady Treasurer and Secretary Age: 50	Since 2006	Vice President of Gabelli Funds, LLC since 2007; Officer of all of the registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; Senior Vice President of U.S. Trust Company, N.A. and Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of Excelsior Funds from 2004 through 2005; Chief Financial Officer of AMIC Distribution Partners from 2002 through 2004.
Peter D. Goldstein Chief Compliance Officer Age: 56	Since 2004	Director of Regulatory Affairs at GAMCO Investors, Inc. since 2004; Chief Compliance Officer of all of the registered investment companies in the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds complex; Vice President of Goldman Sachs Asset Management from 2000 through 2004.

¹ Address: One Corporate Center, Rye, NY 10580-1422, unless otherwise noted.

² Each Officer will hold office for an indefinite term or until the date he or she resigns or retires or until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board has established three standing committees in connection with their governance of the Fund - Audit, Nominating, and Proxy Voting. The Proxy Voting Committee meets periodically on an as-needed basis to consider such matters and did not meet during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

The Fund's Audit Committee consists of three members: Messrs. Enright (Chairman), Colavita and Roeder, who are Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a Charter that was most recently reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Fund on February 25, 2009. As set forth in the Charter, the function of the Audit Committee is oversight; it is management's responsibility to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal control and it is the independent accountants' responsibility to plan and carry out a proper audit. The Audit Committee is generally responsible for reviewing and evaluating issues related to the accounting and financial reporting policies and practices of the Fund, its internal controls, and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers, overseeing the quality and objectivity of the Fund's financial statements and the audit thereof and to act as a liaison between the Board and the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Audit Committee met twice.

The Fund's Nominating Committee consists of two members: Messrs. Colavita (Chairman) and Roeder, who are Independent Trustees of the Fund. The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting and recommending qualified candidates to the full Board in the event that a position is vacated or created. The Nominating Committee would consider recommendations by shareholders if a vacancy were to exist. Such recommendations should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Fund. The Nominating Committee did not meet during the year ended December 31, 2008. The Fund does not have a standing compensation committee.

The Proxy Voting Committee consists of three members: Messrs. Enright (Chairman), Colavita, and Roeder, who are Independent Trustees of the Fund. Under certain circumstances and pursuant to specific procedures and guidelines, the Proxy Voting Committee will, in place of the Fund's Adviser, exercise complete control and discretion over the exercise of all rights to vote or consent with respect to certain securities owned by the Fund. The Proxy Voting Committee meets periodically on an as needed basis to consider such matters and did not meet during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

TRUSTEE OWNERSHIP OF FUND SHARES

Set forth in the table below is the dollar range of equity securities in the Fund beneficially owned by each Trustee and the aggregate dollar range of equity securities in the Fund complex beneficially owned by each Trustee.

<u>Name of Trustee</u>	<u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in the Fund*</u>	<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in Fund Complex*</u>
INTERESTED TRUSTEE:		
Mario J. Gabelli	E	E
INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES:		
Anthony J. Colavita**	C	E
Vincent D. Enright	B	E
Mary E. Hauck	B	E
Werner J. Roeder, MD	A	E

* KEY TO DOLLAR RANGES - INFORMATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

-
- A. None
 - B. \$1 - \$10,000
 - C. \$10,001 - \$50,000
 - D. \$50,001 - \$100,000
 - E. Over \$100,000

** Mr. Colavita beneficially owns less than 1% of the common stock of The LGL Group, Inc. having a value of \$2,601 as of December 31, 2008. The LGL Group, Inc. may be deemed to be controlled by Mario J. Gabelli and in that event would be deemed to be under common control with the Fund's Adviser.

TRUSTEE AND OFFICER COMPENSATION

No director, officer, or employee of the Adviser or an affiliated company receives any compensation from the Fund for serving as an officer or Trustee of the Fund. The Fund pays each of its Trustees who is not a director, officer, or employee of the Adviser or any of their affiliates, \$3,000 per annum plus \$1,000 per meeting attended in person and \$500 per meeting by telephone and reimburses each Trustee for related travel and other out-of-pocket expenses. The Fund also pays each Trustee serving as a member of the Audit, Proxy, or Nominating Committees a fee of \$500 per committee meeting. The Lead Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee each receive \$1,000 per annum. A Trustee may receive a single meeting fee, allocated among the participating funds, for participation in certain special meetings or committee meetings, on behalf of multiple funds.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the compensation of the Fund's Trustees. No executive officer or person affiliated with the Fund received compensation in excess of \$60,000 from the Fund for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

COMPENSATION TABLE Aggregate Compensation from Registrant (Fiscal Year)

<u>Name of Person and Position</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund</u>	<u>Total Compensation from the Fund and Fund Complex*</u>
<u>Interested Trustee:</u>		
Mario J. Gabelli Chairman of the Board	\$0	\$0 (26)
<u>Independent Trustees:</u>		
Anthony J. Colavita Trustee	\$8,500	\$251,034 (36)
Vincent D. Enright Trustee	\$10,083	\$123,423 (16)
Mary E. Hauck Trustee	\$8,000	\$15,000 (3)
Werner J. Roeder, MD Trustee	\$8,500	\$109,500 (23)

* Represents the total compensation paid to such persons for the calendar year ended December 31, 2008. The parenthetical number represents the number of investment companies (including the Fund) or portfolios thereof from which such person receives compensation and which are considered part of the same "fund complex" as the Fund because they have common or affiliated investment advisers.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Fund, its Adviser, and Gabelli & Company, Inc. (the "Distributor") have adopted a code of ethics (the "Code of Ethics") under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. The Code of Ethics permits personnel, subject to the Code of Ethics and its restrictive provisions, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund.

PROXY VOTING POLICIES

The Fund has delegated the voting of portfolio securities to the Adviser in its capacity as the Fund's investment adviser. The Adviser has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures (the "Proxy Voting Policy") for the voting of proxies on behalf of client accounts for which the Adviser has voting discretion, including the Fund. Under the Proxy Voting Policy, portfolio securities held by the Fund are to be voted in the best interests of the Fund.

Normally, the Adviser exercises proxy voting discretion on particular types of proposals in accordance with guidelines (the "Proxy Guidelines") set forth in the Proxy Voting Policy. The Proxy Guidelines address, for example, proposals to elect the Board, to classify the Board, to select the independent registered public accounting firm, to issue blank check preferred stock, to use confidential ballots, to eliminate cumulative voting, to require shareholder ratification of poison pills, to support fair price provisions, to require a supermajority shareholder vote for charter or bylaw amendments, to provide for director and officer indemnification and liability protection, to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock, to allow greenmail, to limit shareholders' rights to call special meetings, to consider the non-financial effects of a merger, to limit shareholders' right to act by written consent, to approve executive and director compensation plans (including golden parachutes), to limit executive and director pay, to approve stock option plans, to opt in or out of state takeover statutes, and to approve mergers, acquisitions, corporate restructuring, spin-offs, buyouts, asset sales, or liquidations.

A Proxy Voting Committee comprised of senior representatives of the Adviser and its affiliated investment advisers has the responsibility for the content, interpretation, and application of the Proxy Guidelines. In general, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, using the Proxy Guidelines, recommendations of Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. ("ISS") and its Corporate Governance Service, other third-party services, and the analysts of the Distributor, will determine how to vote on each issue. For non-controversial matters, the Director of Proxy Voting Services may vote the proxy if the vote is (1) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer's board of directors and not contrary to the Proxy Guidelines; (2) consistent with the recommendations of the issuer's board of directors and is a non-controversial issue not covered by the Proxy Guidelines; or (3) contrary to the recommendations of the issuer's board of directors but is consistent with the Proxy Guidelines.

All matters identified by the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, or the Adviser's Legal Department as controversial, taking into account the recommendations of ISS or other third party services and the analysts of the Distributor, will be presented to the Proxy Voting Committee. If the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Director of Proxy Voting Services, or the Adviser's Legal Department has identified the matter as one that: (1) is controversial; (2) would benefit from deliberation by the Proxy Voting Committee; or (3) may give rise to a conflict of interest between the Adviser and its clients, the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee will initially determine what vote to recommend that the Adviser should cast and the matter will go before the Proxy Voting Committee.

For matters submitted to the Proxy Voting Committee, each member of the Proxy Voting Committee will receive, prior to the meeting, a copy of the proxy statement, any relevant third party research, a summary of any views provided by the Chief Investment Officer, and any recommendations by the Distributor's analysts. The Chief Investment Officer or the Distributor's analysts may be invited to present their viewpoints. If the Adviser's Legal Department believes that the matter before the Proxy Voting Committee is one with respect to which a conflict of interest may exist between the Adviser and its clients, legal counsel will provide an opinion to the Proxy Voting Committee concerning the conflict. If legal counsel advises that the matter is one in which the interests of the clients of the Adviser may diverge, the Proxy Voting Committee may make different recommendations as to different clients. For any matters where the recommendation may trigger appraisal rights, counsel will advise concerning the likely risks and merits of such an appraisal action.

Where a proxy proposal raises a material conflict between the interests of the Fund's shareholders on the one hand, and those of the Fund's Adviser, or principal underwriters, or other principal underwriter, on the other

hand, the conflict will be brought to the Board's Proxy Voting Committee of the Fund to determine a resolution. The Proxy Voting Committee may determine to resolve such conflicts itself, may ask the Independent Trustees of the Fund to vote the proxies, which would potentially include the Board's Proxy Voting Committee, or may delegate the voting of such proxies to an independent person.

Each matter submitted to the Proxy Voting Committee will be determined by the vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting. Should the vote concerning one or more recommendations be tied in a vote of the Proxy Voting Committee, the Chairman of the Proxy Voting Committee will break the tie. The Proxy Voting Committee will notify the proxy department of its decisions and the proxies will be voted accordingly.

The Fund filed Form N-PX with the Fund's complete proxy voting record for the 12 months ended June 30, 2008. This filing for the Fund is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free (800) 422-3554 and on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

As of April 8, 2009, the following persons were known to own of record or beneficially 5% or more of the Fund's outstanding shares:

NAME AND ADDRESS	% OF CLASS	NATURE OF OWNERSHIP
CLASS AAA		
Prudential Investment Mgmt. Service FBO Mutual Fund Clients Newark, NJ 07102-4000	5.01%	Beneficial
Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For the Sole Benefit of its Customers Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	5.40%	Beneficial
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Special Custody Acct. FBO Exclusive Benefit of Customers San Francisco, CA 94101-4151	29.12%*	Beneficial
National Financial Serv. Corp. For the Exclusive Benefit of Its Customers New York, NY 10281-5503	15.72%	Beneficial
Ameritrade Inc. For the Exclusive Benefit of its Customers Omaha, NE 68103-2226	5.46%	Beneficial

NAME AND ADDRESS	% OF CLASS	NATURE OF OWNERSHIP
CLASS A		
Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Owings Mills, MD 21117-3256	8.44%	Beneficial
CLASS B		
Paul Rittenberg & Ann Rittenberg JT Ten Brooklyn, NY 11215-2303	8.01%	Record
Dorothy Rabsey & Kenneth Rabsey JT Ten Stamford, Ct 06902-3513	6.11%	Record
Wedbush Morgan Securities Los Angeles, CA 90017-2457	30.72%*	Beneficial
Wedbush Morgan Securities Los Angeles, CA 90017-2457	30.64%*	Beneficial
CLASS C		
Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Owings Mills, MD 21117-3256	27.68%*	Beneficial
CLASS I		
BISYS Retirement Services FBO Denver, CO 80202-3531	5.94%	Beneficial
Citigroup Global Markets Inc. New York, NY 10001-2402	87.71%*	Beneficial

* Beneficial ownership is disclaimed. Beneficial ownership of shares representing 25% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund may be deemed to represent control, as that term is defined in the 1940 Act.

As of April 8, 2009, as a group, the Trustees and Officers of the Fund owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares (aggregating all classes) of the Fund.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

Investment Adviser

The Adviser is a New York limited liability company with principal offices located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422. The Adviser was organized in 1999 and is the successor to Gabelli Funds, Inc., which was organized in 1980. The Adviser is a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Mr. Mario J. Gabelli may be deemed a “controlling person” of the Adviser based on his controlling interest in GAMCO Investors, Inc. (“GBL”), the parent company of the Adviser. The Adviser and several of its affiliates provide investment advisory services. As of December 31, 2008, the Adviser acted as registered investment adviser to 26 management investment companies with aggregate net assets of \$11.4 billion. The Adviser, together with the other affiliated investment advisers noted below had assets under management totaling approximately \$20.7 billion as of December 31, 2008. GAMCO Asset Management Inc., an affiliate of the Adviser, acts as investment adviser for individuals, pension trusts, profit

sharing trusts and endowments, and as a sub adviser to management investment companies having aggregate assets of \$8.5 billion under management as of December 31, 2008. Gabelli Securities, Inc., an affiliate of the Adviser, acts as investment adviser for investment partnerships and entities having aggregate assets of approximately \$295 million as of December 31, 2008. Gabelli Fixed Income LLC, an affiliate of the Adviser, acts as investment adviser for separate accounts having aggregate assets of approximately \$22 million under management as of December 31, 2008. Teton Advisors, Inc., an affiliate of the Adviser, acts as investment manager to the GAMCO Westwood Funds having aggregate assets of approximately \$450 million under management as of December 31, 2008. Each of the foregoing companies is a subsidiary of GBL.

Affiliates of the Adviser may, in the ordinary course of their business, acquire for their own account or for the accounts of their advisory clients, significant (and possibly controlling) positions in the securities of companies that may also be suitable for investment by the Fund. The securities in which the Fund might invest may thereby be limited to some extent. For instance, many companies in the past several years have adopted so-called "poison pill" or other defensive measures designed to discourage or prevent the completion of non-negotiated offers for control of the company. Such defensive measures may have the effect of limiting the shares of the company which might otherwise be acquired by the Fund if the affiliates of the Adviser or their advisory accounts have or acquire a significant position in the same securities. However, the Adviser does not believe that the investment activities of its affiliates will have a material adverse effect upon the Fund in seeking to achieve its investment objectives. Securities purchased or sold pursuant to contemporaneous orders entered on behalf of the investment company accounts of the Adviser or the advisory accounts managed by its affiliates for their unaffiliated clients are allocated pursuant to principles believed to be fair and not disadvantageous to any such accounts. In addition, all such orders are accorded priority of execution over orders entered on behalf of accounts in which the Adviser or its affiliates have a substantial pecuniary interest. The Adviser may on occasion give advice or take action with respect to other clients that differs from the actions taken with respect to the Fund. The Fund may invest in the securities of companies which are investment management clients of GAMCO. In addition, portfolio companies or their officers or directors may be minority shareholders of the Adviser or its affiliates.

The Adviser currently serves as an investment adviser to the Fund pursuant to an Investment Advisory Contract (the "Contract"), which was approved by the Fund's sole shareholder on May 19, 1999. Pursuant to the Contract, the Adviser furnishes a continuous investment program for the Fund's portfolio, makes the day-to-day investment decisions for the Fund, arranges the portfolio transactions of the Fund, and generally manages the Fund's investments in accordance with the stated policies of the Fund, subject to the general supervision of the Board of the Fund.

Under the Contract, the Adviser also (i) provides the Fund with the services of persons competent to perform such supervisory, administrative, and clerical functions as are necessary to provide effective administration of the Fund, including maintaining certain books and records and overseeing the activities of the Fund's Custodian and Transfer Agent; (ii) oversees the performance of administrative and professional services to the Fund by others, including the Fund's Sub-Administrator, the Fund's Custodian, Transfer Agent, and Dividend Disbursing Agent, as well as accounting, auditing, and other services performed for the Fund; (iii) provides the Fund with adequate office space and facilities; (iv) supervises the preparation of, but does not pay for, the periodic updating of the Fund's registration statement, Prospectuses and Statement of Additional Information, including the printing of such documents for the purpose of filings with the SEC and state securities administrators, the Fund's tax returns, and reports to the Fund's shareholders and the SEC; (v) supervises, but does not pay for, the calculation of the NAV per share of each Class of the Fund; (vi) supervises the preparation of, but does not pay for, all filings under the securities or "Blue Sky" laws of such states or countries as are designated by the Distributor, which may be required to register or qualify, or continue the registration or qualification, of the Fund and/or its shares under such laws; and (vii) prepares notices and agendas for meetings of the Fund's Board and minutes of such meetings in all matters required by applicable law to be acted upon by the Board.

The cost of calculating the Fund's NAV is an expense payable by the Fund pursuant to its Contract. To the extent that a portion of the sub-administration fee is used to pay for its personnel and equipment related to

calculating the NAV, the Fund will reimburse the Adviser for such expense up to \$45,000. During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Fund reimbursed the Adviser \$45,000 in connection with the cost of computing the Fund's NAV.

The Contract provides that absent willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of its duty, the Adviser and its employees, officers, trustees, and controlling persons are not liable to the Fund or any of its investors for any act or omission by the Adviser or for any error of judgment or for losses sustained by the Fund. However, the Contract provides that the Fund is not waiving any rights it may have with respect to any violation of law which cannot be waived. The Contract also provides indemnification for the Adviser and each of these persons for any conduct for which they are not liable to the Fund. The Contract in no way restricts the Adviser from acting as adviser to others. The Fund has agreed by the terms of the Contract that the word "Gabelli" in its name is derived from the name of the Adviser which in turn is derived from the name of Mario J. Gabelli; that such name is the property of the Adviser for copyright and/or other purposes; and that, therefore, such name may freely be used by the Adviser for other investment companies, entities, or products. The Fund has further agreed that in the event that for any reason, the Adviser ceases to be its investment adviser, the Fund will, unless the Adviser otherwise consents in writing, promptly take all steps necessary to change its name to one which does not include "Gabelli."

By its terms, the Contract will remain in effect from year to year, provided each such annual continuance is specifically approved by the Fund's Board or by a "majority" (as defined in the 1940 Act) vote of its shareholders and, in either case, by a majority vote of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called specifically for the purpose of voting on the Contract. The Contract is terminable without penalty by the Fund on sixty days' written notice when authorized either by majority vote of its outstanding voting shares or by a vote of a majority of its Board of Trustees, or by the Adviser on sixty days' written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" as defined by the 1940 Act.

As compensation for its services and the related expenses borne by the Adviser, the Fund pays the Adviser a fee, computed daily and paid monthly, at the annual rate of 1.00% of the Fund's average daily net assets, payable out of the Fund's net assets and allocable to each class on the basis of the assets attributable to such class.

Advisory Fees Paid to the Adviser by the Fund (Fiscal Years ended December 31)	
2008	\$6,714,038
2007	\$6,783,610
2006	\$3,981,477

Portfolio Manager Information

Other Accounts Managed

The information below provides summary information regarding accounts for which the portfolio managers was primarily responsible for the day-to-day management during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

<u>Name of Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>Type of Accounts</u>	<u>Total # of Accounts Managed</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>	<u># of Accounts Managed with Advisory Fee Based on Performance</u>	<u>Total Assets with Advisory Fee Based on Performance</u>
Mario J. Gabelli	Registered Investment Companies:	21	\$9.8B	6	\$3.4B
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	14	\$331.4M	13	\$294.4M
	Other Accounts:	1,913	\$8.2B	6	\$994.1M

Potential Conflicts of Interest

Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when the portfolio manager also has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to one or more other accounts. These potential conflicts include:

Allocation of Limited Time and Attention. Because the portfolio manager manages more than one account, he may not be able to formulate as complete a strategy or identify equally attractive investment opportunities for each of those accounts as if he were to devote substantially more attention to the management of only one fund.

Allocation of Limited Investment Opportunities. If the portfolio manager identifies an investment opportunity that may be suitable for multiple accounts, the Fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity because the opportunity may need to be allocated among these accounts or other accounts managed primarily by the other portfolio managers of the Adviser and its affiliates.

Pursuit of Differing Strategies. At times, the portfolio manager may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some of the accounts for which the manager exercises investment responsibility, or may decide that certain of these Funds or accounts should take differing positions with respect to a particular security. In these cases, the portfolio manager may execute differing or opposite transactions for one or more accounts which may affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of one or more other accounts.

Selection of Broker/Dealers. The portfolio manager may be able to select or influence the selection of the brokers and dealers that are used to execute securities transactions for the funds or accounts that they supervise. In addition to providing execution of trades, some brokers and dealers provide the portfolio manager with brokerage and research services which may result in the payment of higher brokerage fees than might otherwise be available. These services may be more beneficial to certain funds or accounts of the Adviser and its affiliates than to others. Although the payment of brokerage commissions is subject to the requirement that the Adviser determines in good faith that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided to the fund, the portfolio manager's decision as to the selection of brokers and dealers could yield disproportionate costs and benefits among the funds or other accounts that the Adviser and its affiliates manage. In addition, with respect to certain types of accounts (such as pooled investment vehicles and other accounts managed for organizations and individuals) the Adviser may be limited by the client concerning the selection of brokers or may be instructed to direct trades to particular brokers. In these cases, the Adviser or its affiliates may place separate, non-simultaneous transactions in the same security for the Fund and another account that may temporarily affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of the Fund or the other accounts.

Variation in Compensation. A conflict of interest may arise where the financial or other benefits available to the portfolio manager differ among the accounts that they manage. If the structure of the Adviser's management fee or the portfolio manager's compensation differs among accounts (such as where certain funds or accounts pay higher management fees or performance-based management fees), the portfolio manager may be motivated to favor certain funds or accounts over others. The portfolio manager also may be motivated to favor accounts in which they have investment interests, or in which the Adviser or its affiliates have investment interests. In Mr. Gabelli's case, the Adviser's compensation (and expenses) for the Fund are marginally greater as a percentage of assets than for certain other accounts and are less than for certain other accounts managed by Mr. Gabelli, while his personal compensation structure varies with near-term performance to a greater degree in certain performance fee based accounts than with non-performance based accounts. In addition, he has investment interests in several of the funds managed by the Adviser and its affiliates.

The Adviser and the Fund have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to address the various conflicts of interest that may arise for the Adviser and its staff members. However, there is no guarantee that such policies and procedures will be able to detect and address every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may arise.

Compensation Structure

Mr. Gabelli receives incentive-based variable compensation based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the Fund. Net revenues are determined by deducting from gross investment management fees the firm's expenses (other than Mr. Gabelli's compensation) allocable to the Fund. Additionally, he receives similar incentive-based variable compensation for managing other accounts within the firm. This method of compensation is based on the premise that superior long-term performance in managing a portfolio should be rewarded with higher compensation as a result of growth of assets through appreciation and net investment activity. One of the other registered investment companies managed by Mr. Gabelli has a performance (fulcrum) fee arrangement for which his compensation is adjusted up or down based on the performance of the investment company relative to an index. Five closed-end registered investment companies managed by Mr. Gabelli have arrangements whereby the Adviser will only receive its investment advisory fee attributable to the liquidation value of outstanding preferred stock (and Mr. Gabelli would only receive his percentage of such advisory fee) if certain performance levels are met. Mr. Gabelli manages other accounts with performance fees. Compensation for managing these accounts has two components. One component of his compensation is based on a percentage of net revenues received by the Adviser for managing the account. The second component is based on absolute performance of the account, with respect to which a percentage of such performance fee is paid to Mr. Gabelli. As an executive officer of the Adviser's parent company, GAMCO Investors, Inc., Mr. Gabelli also receives ten percent of the net operating profits of the parent company. Mr. Gabelli receives no base salary, no annual bonus, and no stock options.

Ownership of Shares in the Fund

Set forth in the table below is the dollar range of equity securities in the Fund beneficially owned by Mr. Gabelli:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held in the Fund*</u>
Mario J. Gabelli	E

* Key to Dollar Ranges - Information as of December 31, 2008

- A. None
- B. \$1 – \$10,000
- C. \$10,001 – \$50,000
- D. \$50,001 – \$100,000
- E. \$100,001 - \$500,000
- F. \$500,001 – \$1,000,000
- G. over \$1,000,000

Sub-Administrator

The Adviser has entered into an agreement (the "Sub-Administration Agreement") with PNC Global Investment Servicing (U.S.) Inc., ("PNC" or the "Sub-Administrator"), which is located at 760 Moore Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406. Under the Sub-Administration Agreement, the Sub-Administrator (a) assists in supervising all aspects of the Fund's operations except those performed by the Adviser under its advisory agreement with the Fund; (b) supplies the Fund with office facilities (which may be in the Sub-Administrator's own offices), statistical and research data, data processing services, clerical, accounting and bookkeeping services, including, but not limited to, the calculation of the NAV of each class of the Fund, internal auditing and regulatory administration services, internal executive and administrative services, and stationery and office supplies; (c) prepares and distributes materials for all of the Fund Board meetings including the mailing of all Board materials and collates the same materials into the Board books and assists in the drafting of minutes of the Board meetings; (d) prepares reports to Fund shareholders, tax returns, and reports to and filings with the SEC and state "Blue Sky" authorities; (e) provides any equipment or services necessary for the purpose of pricing shares or valuing the Fund's investment portfolio; (f) provides compliance testing of all Fund activities against applicable requirements of the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and the Fund's investment restrictions; (g) furnishes to the Adviser such statistical and other factual information and information regarding economic factors and trends as the Adviser from time to time may require; and (h) generally provides all administrative services that may be required for the ongoing operation of the Fund in a manner consistent with the requirements of the 1940 Act.

For the services it provides, the Adviser pays the Sub-Administrator an annual fee based on the value of the aggregate average daily net assets of all funds under its administration managed by the Adviser as follows: up to \$10 billion - .0275%; \$10 billion to \$15 billion - .0125%; over \$15 billion - .0100%. The Sub-Administrator's fee is paid by the Adviser and will result in no additional expenses to the Fund.

Counsel

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Four Times Square, New York, New York 10036, serves as the Fund's legal counsel.

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Ernst & Young LLP (“E&Y”), 2001 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund, has been selected to audit the Fund's annual financial statements.

Custodian, Transfer Agent, and Dividend Disbursing Agent

State Street Bank and Trust Company (“State Street”), 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 is the Custodian for the Fund's cash and securities. Boston Financial Data Services, Inc. (“BFDS”), an affiliate of State Street located at The BFDS Building, 30 Dan Road, Canton, Massachusetts 02021-2809, performs the shareholder services on behalf of State Street and acts as the Fund's transfer agent and dividend disbursing agent for the Fund. Neither BFDS nor State Street assists in or is responsible for investment decisions involving assets of the Fund.

Distributor

To implement the Fund's Rule 12b-1 Plans, the Fund has entered into a Distribution Agreement with the Distributor, a New York corporation which is an indirect majority owned subsidiary of GBL having principal offices located at One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580-1422. The Distributor continuously solicits offers for the purchase of shares of the Fund on a best efforts basis.

Set forth in the table below are the amounts of sales commissions and underwriting fees on Class A Shares and contingent deferred sales charges (“CDSC”) for Class A, Class B, and Class C Shares received and retained by the Distributor during 2008.

Sales Commissions for the Years Ended December 31:

<u>Share Class</u>	<u>2006</u>		<u>2007</u>		<u>2008</u>	
	<u>Commissions</u>	<u>Retained by Distributor</u>	<u>Commissions</u>	<u>Retained by Distributor</u>	<u>Commissions</u>	<u>Retained by Distributor</u>
<u>Class A Sales Commissions</u>	\$ 3,979,729	\$ 715,989	\$ 4,772,004	\$ 718,099	\$ 2,819,408	\$ 416,522
<u>Class A CDSCs</u>	Not Applicable	\$ --	Not Applicable	\$ 2,074	Not Applicable	\$ 6,437
<u>Class B CDSCs</u>	Not Applicable	\$ 344	Not Applicable	\$ 6,187	Not Applicable	\$ 73
<u>Class C CDSCs</u>	Not Applicable	\$ 35,858	Not Applicable	\$ 45,978	Not Applicable	\$ 71,017

Set forth in the table below are the amounts of brokerage commissions and other compensation received by the Distributor during 2008.

<u>Net Underwriting Discounts and Commissions</u>	<u>Compensation on Redemptions and Repurchases</u>	<u>Brokerage Commissions</u>	<u>Other Compensation</u>
\$416,522	\$77,527	\$263,285	N/A

DISTRIBUTION PLANS

The Fund has adopted separate distribution and service plans (each a "Plan" and collectively the "Plans") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act on behalf of each of the Class AAA, Class A, Class B, and Class C Shares. Payments may be made by the Fund under each Plan for the purpose of financing any activity primarily intended to result in the sales of shares of the class to which such Plan relates as determined by the Board. Such activities typically include advertising, compensation for sales and marketing activities of the Distributor and other banks, broker-dealers, and service providers; shareholder account servicing; production and dissemination of prospectuses and sales and marketing materials; and capital or other expenses of associated equipment, rent, salaries, bonuses, interest, and other overhead. To the extent any activity is one which the Fund may finance without a distribution plan, the Fund may also make payments to finance such activity outside of the Plans and not be subject to its limitations. Payments under the Plans are not dependent on distribution expenses actually incurred by the Distributor. The Plans compensate the Distributor regardless of expense, and accordingly, a portion of the payments by the Fund may be used indirectly to finance distribution activities on behalf of other Gabelli/GAMCO funds and a portion of the payments by such other funds may be used to finance distribution activities on behalf of the Fund. The Plans are intended to benefit the Fund, among other things, by increasing its assets and thereby reducing the Fund's expense ratio.

Under its terms, each Plan remains in effect so long as its continuance is specifically approved at least annually by vote of the Fund's Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees. No Plan may be amended to increase materially the amount to be spent for services provided by the Distributor thereunder without shareholder approval, and all material amendments of any Plan must also be approved by the Board in the manner described above. Each Plan may be terminated at any time, without penalty, by vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act). Under each Plan, the Distributor will provide the Trustees with periodic reports of amounts expended under such Plan and the purpose for which expenditures were made.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Distributor identified expenditures for the Fund of approximately \$10,800 for advertising and promotion, \$24,700 for printing, postage, and stationary, \$8,800 for overhead support expenses, \$211,100 for salaries of personnel of the Distributor, \$994,600 for advanced commissions, and \$2,772,100 for third party servicing fees. Due to the possible continuing nature of Rule 12b-1 payments, long-term investors may pay more than the economic equivalent of the maximum front-end sale charge permitted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA").

Pursuant to the Plans, the Fund pays the Distributor 0.25% of its average daily net assets of Class AAA Shares and Class A Shares and 1.00% of its average daily net assets of Class B Shares and Class C Shares. Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Fund appoints the Distributor as its general distributor and exclusive agent for the sale of the Fund's shares. The Fund has agreed to indemnify the Distributor to the extent permitted by applicable law against certain liabilities under federal securities laws. The Distribution Agreement shall remain in effect from year to year provided that continuance of such agreement shall be approved at least annually (a) by the Fund's Board, including a vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval or (b) by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding securities of the Fund and by a vote of the majority of

Independent Trustees cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of such approval. The Distribution Agreement may be terminated by either party thereto upon 60 days' written notice.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Fund incurred distribution costs for Class AAA, Class A, Class B, and Class C Shares of \$3,896,383 payable to the Distributor. The plan compensates the Distributor regardless of its expense.

The amounts included in the previous paragraph as third party servicing fees include amounts paid to the providers of various programs that make shares available to their customers. Subject to tax limitations and approvals by the Board, the Fund also makes payments to the providers of these programs, out of its assets other than Rule 12b-1 payments, in amounts not greater than savings of expenses the Fund would incur in maintaining shareholder accounts for those who invest in the Fund directly rather than through these programs. The Adviser and its affiliates may also pay for all or a portion of these program's charges out of their financial resources other than Rule 12b-1 fees.

Class A Shares, Class B Shares, and Class C Shares were first offered to the public on December 31, 2002. Class I Shares were first offered to the public on January 11, 2008.

No Independent Trustee of the Fund had a direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of any Plan or related agreements. Those interested persons who beneficially own stock in affiliates of the Adviser or the Distributor or are employed by one of the Gabelli Companies may be deemed to have an indirect financial interest.

PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE

Under the Contract, the Adviser is authorized on behalf of the Fund to employ brokers to effect the purchase or sale of portfolio securities with the objective of obtaining prompt, efficient, and reliable execution and clearance of such transactions at the most favorable price obtainable ("best execution") at a reasonable expense. The Adviser is permitted to (1) direct Fund portfolio brokerage to the Distributor, a broker-dealer member of FINRA and an affiliate of the Adviser; and (2) pay commissions to brokers other than Gabelli & Company which are higher than might be charged by another qualified broker to obtain brokerage and/or research services considered by the Adviser to be useful or desirable for its investment management of the Fund and/or other advisory accounts under the management of the Adviser and any investment adviser affiliated with it. The Adviser does not consider sales of shares of the Fund or other investment funds managed by the Adviser and its affiliates by brokers, including the Distributor, as a factor in its selection of brokers or dealers for the Fund's portfolio transactions and has adopted compliance policies and procedures for itself and its affiliates to prevent any such transactions on that basis.

Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges involve the payment of negotiated brokerage commissions, which may vary among different brokers. Transactions in securities other than those for which a securities exchange is the principal market are generally executed through a principal market maker. However, such transactions may be effected through a brokerage firm and a commission is paid whenever it appears that the broker can obtain a price that is at least as favorable taking into account its commissions. In general, there may be no stated commission on principal transactions in over-the-counter securities, but the prices of such securities may usually include undisclosed commissions or markups. Option transactions will usually be effected through a broker and a commission will be charged. The Fund also expects that securities will be purchased at times in underwritten offerings where the price includes a fixed amount of compensation generally referred to as a concession or discount.

The policy of the Fund regarding purchases and sales of securities and options for its portfolio is that primary consideration will be given to obtaining the most favorable prices and efficient execution of transactions. In seeking to implement the Fund's policies, the Adviser effects transactions with those brokers and dealers who the Adviser believes can obtain the most favorable prices and are capable of providing efficient executions. If the Adviser believes such price and execution are obtainable from more than one broker or

dealer, it may give consideration to placing portfolio transactions with those brokers or dealers who also furnish research and other services to the Fund or the Adviser of the type described in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. In doing so, the Fund may also pay higher commission rates than the lowest available when the Adviser believes it is reasonable to do so in light of the value of the brokerage and research services provided by the broker effecting the transaction. Such services may include, but are not limited to, any one or more of the following: information as to the availability of securities for purchase or sale; statistical or factual information or opinions pertaining to investments; wire services; and appraisals or evaluations of potential and existing investments.

Research services furnished by brokers or dealers through which the Fund effect securities transactions are used by the Adviser and its advisory affiliates in carrying out their responsibilities with respect to all of their accounts over which they exercise investment discretion. Such investment information may be useful only to one or more of such other accounts. The purpose of this sharing of research information is to avoid duplicative charges for research provided by brokers and dealers. Neither the Fund nor the Adviser has any agreement or legally binding understanding with any broker regarding any specific amount of brokerage commissions which will be paid in recognition of such services. However, in determining the amount of portfolio commissions directed to such brokers or dealers, the Adviser does consider the level of services provided, and based on such determinations, the Adviser has allocated brokerage commissions of \$20,777 on portfolio transactions in the principal amount of \$4,394,315 during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 to broker dealers who provided research services to the Adviser.

Investment research obtained by allocations of Fund brokerage is used to augment the scope and supplement the internal research and investment strategy capabilities of the Adviser but does not reduce the overall expenses of the Adviser to any material extent. Such investment research may be in written form or through direct contact with individuals and includes information on particular companies and industries as well as market, economic, or institutional activity areas. Research services furnished by brokers through which the Fund effects securities transactions are used by the Adviser and its advisory affiliates in carrying out their responsibilities with respect to all of their accounts over which they exercise investment discretion. Such investment information may be useful only to one or more of the other accounts of the Adviser and its advisory affiliates, and research information received for the commissions of those particular accounts may be useful both to the Fund and one or more of such other accounts.

The Adviser may also place orders for purchases or sale of portfolio securities with the Distributor when it appears that, as an introducing broker or otherwise, the Distributor can obtain a price, execution, and commission, which is at least as favorable as that obtainable by other qualified brokers and at a commission rate at least as favorable as it provides to its best customers for similar transactions. As required by Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act, the Fund's Board has adopted procedures which provide that commissions paid to the Distributor on brokerage transactions must not exceed those which would have been charged by another qualified broker or member firm able to effect the same or a comparable transaction at an equally favorable price or those the Distributor charges its most favored customers on similar transactions. Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act and the Fund's procedures contain requirements that the Board, including its Independent Trustees, review such commissions and transactions quarterly and such procedures at least annually to determine their continuing appropriateness. The Adviser is also required to furnish reports and maintain records in connection with the reviews.

To obtain the best execution of portfolio trades on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), the Distributor controls and monitors the execution of such transactions on the floor of the NYSE through independent "floor brokers" or the Designated Order Turnaround System of the NYSE. Such transactions are then cleared, confirmed to the Fund for the account of the Distributor, and settled directly with the custodian of the Fund by a clearing house member firm which remits the commission less its clearing charges to the Distributor. The Distributor may also effect Fund portfolio transactions in the same manner and pursuant to the same arrangements on other national securities exchanges that adopt direct access rules similar to those of the NYSE. In addition, the Distributor may directly execute transactions for the Fund on the floor of any exchange, provided: (i) the Fund's Board has expressly authorized the Distributor to effect such transactions;

and (ii) the Distributor annually advises the Fund of the aggregate compensation it earned on such transactions.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the Fund's payment of brokerage commissions for the year ended December 31 as indicated:

	Fiscal Year Ended <u>December 31,</u>	<u>Commissions Paid</u>
Total Brokerage Commissions	2006	\$337,068
	2007	\$528,434
	2008	\$304,606
Commission paid to Gabelli & Company	2006	\$273,898
	2007	\$422,636
	2008	\$263,285
% of Total Brokerage Commissions paid to Gabelli & Company	2008	86.43%
% of Total Transactions involving Commissions paid to Gabelli & Company	2008	78.86%

As of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, the Fund did not hold securities of its regular broker-dealers or their parents.

REDEMPTION OF SHARES

Payment of the redemption price for shares redeemed may be made either in cash or in portfolio securities (selected at the discretion of the Board of the Fund and taken at their value used in determining the Fund's NAV per share as described under "Determination of Net Asset Value"), or partly in cash and partly in portfolio securities. However, payments will be made wholly in cash unless the shareholder has redeemed more than \$250,000 over the preceding three months and the Adviser believes that economic conditions exist which would make payments in cash detrimental to the best interests of the Fund. If payment for shares redeemed is made wholly or partly in portfolio securities, brokerage costs may be incurred by the investor in converting the securities to cash. The Fund will not distribute in-kind portfolio securities that are not readily marketable.

The Fund imposes a redemption fee of 2.00% of the total redemption amount if you sell or exchange any of your shares within 7 days or less after the date of a purchase. The fee, its manner of calculation and exceptions to its applicability are discussed in the Fund's Prospectuses. The fee is not a sales charge (load) and is paid directly to the fund and not to the Adviser or Distributor.

Cancellation of purchase orders for Fund shares (as, for example, when checks submitted to purchase shares are returned unpaid) causes a loss to be incurred when the NAV of the Fund shares on the date of cancellation is less than on the original date of purchase. The investor is responsible for such loss, and the Fund may reimburse itself or the Distributor for such loss by automatically redeeming shares from any account registered at any time in that shareholder's name, or by seeking other redress. If the Fund is unable to recover any loss to itself, it is the position of the SEC that the Distributor will be immediately obligated to make the Fund whole.

DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

NAV is calculated separately for each class of the Fund. The NAV of Class B and Class C Shares of the Fund, as applicable, will generally be lower than the NAV of Class A, Class I, or Class AAA Shares, as applicable, as a result of the higher service and distribution-related fees to which Class B and Class C Shares

are subject. It is expected, however, that the NAV per share of each class will tend to converge immediately after the recording of dividends, if any, which will differ by approximately the amount of the distribution and/or service fee expense accrual differential among the classes.

For purposes of determining the Fund's NAV per share, portfolio securities listed or traded on a nationally recognized securities exchange or traded in the over-the-counter market for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last quoted sale price or a market's official closing price as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. If there were no sales that day, the security is valued at the average of the closing bid and asked prices, or, if there were no asked prices quoted on such day, then the security is valued at the most recently available bid price on that day. If no bid or asked prices are quoted on such day, the security is valued at the most recently available price, or, if the Board so determines, by such other method as the Board shall determine in good faith, to reflect its fair market value. Portfolio securities traded on more than one national securities exchange or market are valued according to the broadest and most representative market, as determined by the Adviser.

Portfolio securities primarily traded on a foreign market are generally valued at the preceding closing values of such securities on the relevant market, but may be fair valued pursuant to procedures established by the Board if market conditions change significantly after the close of the foreign market but prior to the close of business on the day the securities are being valued. Debt instruments with remaining maturities of 60 days or less that are not credit impaired are valued at amortized cost, unless the Board determines such does not reflect fair value, in which case these securities will be valued at their fair value as determined by the Board. Debt instruments having a maturity greater than 60 days for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the average of the latest bid and asked prices. If there were no asked prices quoted on such day, the security is valued using the closing bid price. Futures contracts are valued at the official closing settlement price of the exchange or board of trade on which the applicable contract is traded.

Securities and assets for which market quotations are not readily available are valued at their fair value as determined in good faith under procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Board. Fair valuation methodologies and procedures may include, but are not limited to: analysis and review of available financial and non-financial information about the company; comparisons to the valuation and changes in valuation of similar securities, including a comparison of foreign securities to the equivalent U.S. dollar value of American Depositary Receipts, securities at the close of the U.S. exchanges; and evaluation of any other information that could be indicative of the value of the security.

The Fund may obtain valuations on the basis of prices provided by a pricing service approved by the Board. All other investment assets, including restricted and not readily marketable securities, are valued in good faith at fair value under procedures established by and under the general supervision and responsibility of the Fund's Board. Further information on fair valuation is provided in the Fund's Prospectuses under "Pricing of Fund Shares."

In addition, whenever developments occur in one or more securities markets after the close of the principal markets for one or more portfolio securities and before the time as of which the Fund determines its NAV would, if such developments had been reflected in such principal markets, likely have more than a minimal effect on a Fund's NAV, the Fund may fair value such portfolio securities based on available market information as of the time the Fund determines its NAV.

NYSE Closings. The holidays (as observed) on which the NYSE is closed, and therefore days upon which shareholders cannot redeem shares, currently are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day and on the preceding Friday or subsequent Monday when a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, respectively.

DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS, AND TAXES

Each dividend and capital gains distribution, if any, declared by the Fund on its outstanding shares will, unless you have elected otherwise, be paid on the payment date fixed by the Board in additional shares of the Fund having an aggregate NAV as of the ex-dividend date of such dividend or distribution equal to the cash amount of such distribution. An election to receive dividends and distributions in cash or in additional shares may be changed by notifying the Fund in writing at any time prior to the record date for a particular dividend or distribution. No sales charges or other fees are imposed on shareholders in connection with the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions. There is no fixed dividend rate, and there can be no assurance that the Fund will pay any dividends or realize any capital gains.

GENERAL

Set forth below is a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax issues concerning the Fund and the purchase, ownership, and disposition of Fund shares by U.S. persons. This discussion is based upon present provisions of Code, the regulations promulgated thereunder, and judicial and administrative ruling authorities, all of which are subject to change, which change may be retroactive. This discussion does not purport to be complete or to deal with all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to investors in light of their particular circumstances. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisers with regard to the federal tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, or disposition of Fund shares, as well as the tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, foreign country, or other taxing jurisdiction.

TAX STATUS OF THE FUND

The Fund has qualified and intends to remain qualified to be taxed as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. Accordingly, the Fund must, among other things, (a) derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities, or foreign currencies, or other income (including but not limited to gains from options, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities, or currencies; and (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each fiscal quarter (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies and other securities, with such other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its total assets is invested in the securities of (I) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities and the securities of other regulated investment companies), (II) any two or more issuers that it controls and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses or (III) any one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships.

As a regulated investment company, the Fund generally is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on income and gains that it distributes to shareholders, if at least 90% of the Fund's investment company taxable income (which includes, among other items, dividends, interest, and the excess of any net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) for the taxable year is distributed. The Fund intends to distribute substantially all of such income.

Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax at the Fund level. To avoid the tax, the Fund must distribute during each calendar year an amount equal to the sum of (1) at least 98% of its ordinary income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year, (2) at least 98% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for the one-year period generally ending on October 31 of the calendar year (unless an election is made by the Fund with a November or December year-end to use the Fund's fiscal year), and (3) all ordinary income and capital gains for previous years that were not distributed during such years and upon which no tax was imposed. To avoid application of the excise tax, the Fund intends to make distributions in accordance with the calendar year distribution requirement.

A distribution will be treated as paid on December 31 of a calendar year if it is declared by the Fund in October, November, or December of that year with a record date in such a month and paid by the Fund during January of the following year. Such a distribution will be taxable to shareholders in the calendar year in which the distribution is declared, rather than the calendar year in which it is received.

DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions of investment company taxable income (which includes taxable interest and dividend income other than qualified dividends and the excess of net short-term capital gains over long-term capital losses) are taxable to U.S. shareholders as ordinary income. Qualified dividends from certain U.S. and non-U.S. corporations are taxable to U.S. shareholders who are individuals at a reduced rate of 15% (5% for shareholders in lower tax brackets). This reduced rate is currently scheduled to apply to qualified dividends received prior to January 1, 2011 and thereafter revert to ordinary income rates. Dividends paid by the Fund to a corporate shareholder, to the extent such dividends are attributable to dividends received by the Fund from U.S. corporations and to the extent the aggregate amount of such dividends do not exceed the aggregate dividends received by the Fund for the taxable year, may, subject to limitations, be eligible for the dividends received deduction. The alternative minimum tax applicable to corporations, however, may reduce the value of the dividends received deduction.

Capital gains may be taxed at different rates depending on how long the Fund held the asset giving rise to such gains. Distributions of the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses realized, if any, properly designated by the Fund, whether paid in cash or reinvested in Fund shares, will generally be taxable to shareholders at the rates applicable to long-term capital gains, regardless of how long a shareholder has held Fund shares. Distributions of net capital gains from assets held for one year or less will be taxable to shareholders at rates applicable to ordinary income. The maximum U.S. Federal income tax rate on net long-term capital gain of individuals is generally 15% (5% for individuals in lower tax brackets) for such gain realized before January 1, 2011.

To the extent that the Fund retains any net long-term capital gains, it may designate them as "deemed distributions" and pay a tax thereon for the benefit of its shareholders. In that event, the shareholders report their share of the Fund's retained realized capital gains on their individual tax returns as if it had been received, and report a credit for the tax paid thereon by the Fund. The amount of the deemed distribution net of such tax is then added to the shareholder's cost basis for his shares. Shareholders who are not subject to U.S. federal income tax or tax on capital gains should be able to file a return on the appropriate form or a claim for refund that allows them to recover the tax paid on their behalf. Shareholders will be notified annually as to the U.S. federal tax status of distributions, and shareholders receiving distributions in the form of newly issued shares will receive a report as to the NAV of the shares received.

Investors should be careful to consider the tax implications of buying shares of the Fund just prior to the record date of a distribution (including a capital gain distribution). The price of shares purchased at such a time will reflect the amount of the forthcoming distribution, but the distribution will generally be taxable to the shareholder.

FOREIGN TAXES

The Fund may be subject to certain taxes imposed by the countries in which it invests or operates. The Fund will not have more than 50% of its total assets invested in securities of foreign governments or corporations and consequently will not qualify to elect to treat any foreign taxes paid by the Fund as having been paid by the Fund's shareholders.

DISPOSITIONS

Upon a redemption, sale, or exchange of shares of the Fund, a shareholder will realize a taxable gain or loss depending upon his basis in the shares. A gain or loss will be treated as capital gain or loss if the shares are capital assets in the shareholder's hands, and for non-corporate shareholders the rate of tax will depend upon the shareholder's holding period for the shares and the shareholder's level of taxable income. Any loss realized on a redemption, sale, or exchange will be disallowed to the extent the shares disposed of are replaced (including through reinvestment of dividends) within a period of 61 days, beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the shares are disposed of. In such a case, the basis of the shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. If a shareholder holds Fund shares for six months or less and during that period receives a distribution taxable to the shareholder as long-term capital gains, any loss realized on the sale of such shares during such six month period would be a long-term capital loss to the extent of such distribution.

An exchange from one share class within the Fund to another share class within the Fund is not a taxable transaction, provided that such classes have identical rights with respect to the Fund assets.

BACKUP WITHHOLDING

The Fund generally will be required to withhold U.S. federal income tax ("backup withholding") from dividends paid, capital gain distributions, and redemption proceeds to shareholders if (1) the shareholder fails to furnish the Fund with the shareholder's correct taxpayer identification number or social security number, (2) the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") notifies the shareholder or the Fund that the shareholder has failed to report properly certain interest and dividend income to the IRS and to respond to notices to that effect, or (3) when required to do so, the shareholder fails to certify that he or she is not subject to backup withholding. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability.

OTHER TAXATION

Distributions may be subject to additional state, local, and foreign taxes, depending on each shareholder's particular situation. Non-U.S. shareholders may be subject to U.S. tax rules that differ significantly from those summarized above, including the likelihood that ordinary income dividends distributed to them will be subject to withholding of U.S. tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower treaty rate, if applicable). Non-U.S. investors should consult their own tax advisers regarding U.S. federal, state, local, and foreign tax considerations.

FUND INVESTMENTS

Options, Futures, and Forward Contracts. Any regulated futures contracts and certain options in which the Fund may invest may be "section 1256 contracts." Gains (or losses) on these contracts generally are considered to be 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses. Also, section 1256 contracts held by the Fund at the end of each taxable year (and on certain other dates prescribed in the Code) are "marked to market" with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized. Code section 1092, which applies to certain straddles, may affect the taxation of the Fund's sales of securities and transactions in financial futures contracts and related options. Under section 1092, the Fund may be required to postpone recognition of losses incurred in certain sales of securities and certain closing transactions in financial futures contracts or related options.

Special Code provisions applicable to Fund investments, discussed above, may affect the characterization of gains and losses realized by the Fund, and may accelerate recognition of income or defer recognition of losses. The Fund will monitor these investments and when possible will make appropriate elections in order to mitigate unfavorable tax treatment.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

From time to time, the Fund may quote its performance in advertisements or in reports and other communications to shareholders, computed according to formulas prescribed by the SEC.

The Fund's performance will vary from time to time depending upon market conditions, the composition of its portfolio, and its operating expenses. Consequently, any given performance quotation should not be considered representative of the Fund's performance for any specified period in the future. In addition, when considering "average" total return figures for periods longer than one year, it is important to note that the Fund's annual total returns for any one year in the period might have been greater or less than the average for the entire period. In addition, because the performance will fluctuate, it may not provide a basis for comparing an investment in the Fund with certain bank deposits or other investments that pay a fixed yield for a stated period of time. Investors comparing the Fund's performance with that of other mutual funds should give consideration to the quality and maturity of the respective investment companies' portfolio securities.

In reports or other communications to shareholders or in advertising material, the Fund may compare its performance with that of other mutual funds as listed in the rankings prepared by Lipper (a Reuters Company), Inc., Morningstar, Inc., or similar independent services that monitor the performance of mutual funds or other industry or financial publications. It is important to note that the total return figures are based on historical results and are not intended to indicate future performance. Shareholders may make inquiries regarding the Fund's total return figures to the Distributor.

In its reports, investor communications or advertisements, the Fund may also include: (i) descriptions and updates concerning its strategies and portfolio investments; (ii) its goals, risk factors, and expenses compared with other mutual funds; (iii) analysis of its investments by industry, country, credit quality, and other characteristics; (iv) a discussion of the risk/return continuum relating to different investments; (v) the potential impact of adding foreign stocks to a domestic portfolio; (vi) the general biography or work experience of the portfolio manager of the Fund; (vii) portfolio manager commentary or market updates; (viii) discussion of macroeconomic factors affecting the Fund and its investments; and (ix) other information of interest to investors.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND'S SHARES

The Fund may issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest (par value \$.001 per share). The Fund's shares have no preemptive or conversion rights.

VOTING RIGHTS

Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share held (and fractional votes for fractional shares) and may vote on the election of Trustees and on other matters submitted to meetings of shareholders. As a Delaware statutory trust, the Fund is not required, and does not intend, to hold regular annual shareholder meetings but may hold special meetings for the consideration of proposals requiring shareholder approval such as changing fundamental policies. In addition, if the Trustees have not called an annual meeting of shareholders for any year by May 31 of that year, the Trustees will call a meeting of shareholders upon the written request of shareholders holding in excess of 50% of the affected shares for the purpose of removing one or more Trustees or the termination of any investment advisory agreement. The Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the Fund's shareholders have the right, upon the vote of more than 66 2/3% of its outstanding

shares, to remove a Trustee. Except as may be required by the 1940 Act or any other applicable law, the Trustees may amend the Agreement and Declaration of Trust in any respect without any vote of shareholders to make any change that does not (i) impair the exemption from personal liability as provided therein or (ii) permit assessments on shareholders. Shareholders have no preemptive or conversion rights except with respect to shares that may be denominated as being convertible or as otherwise provided by the Trustees or applicable law. The Fund may be (i) terminated upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the Trustees or (ii) merged or consolidated with, or sell all or substantially all of its assets to another issuer, if such transaction is approved by the vote of two-thirds of the Trustees without any vote of the shareholders, in each case except as may be required by the 1940 Act or any other applicable law. If not so terminated, the Fund intends to continue indefinitely.

LIABILITIES

The Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the Trustees will not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law, but nothing in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust protects a Trustee against any liability to which he would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his office.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Fund's Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, including the Report of Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, are incorporated herein by reference to the Fund's Annual Report. The Fund's Annual Report is available upon request and without charge by calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554) or through the Internet at www.gabelli.com. Ernst & Young LLP provides audit services, tax return preparation and assistance, and consultation in connection with certain SEC filings.

APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTION OF CORPORATE DEBT RATINGS

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC. ("Moody's")

- Aaa: Bonds which are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edge." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.
- Aa: Bonds which are rated Aa are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the Aaa group they comprise what are generally known as high grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risks appear somewhat larger than in Aaa securities.
- A: Bonds which are rated A possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper medium grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.
- Baa: Bonds which are rated Baa are considered as medium grade obligations, *i.e.*, they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.
- Ba: Bonds which are rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.
- B: Bonds which are rated B generally lack characteristics of a desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.
- Caa: Bonds which are rated Caa are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.
- Ca: Bonds which are rated Ca represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.
- C: Bonds which are rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.
- Unrated: Where no rating has been assigned or where a rating has been suspended or withdrawn, it may be for reasons unrelated to the quality of the issue.

Should no rating be assigned, the reason may be one of the following:

1. An application for rating was not received or accepted.
2. The issue or issuer belongs to a group of securities that are not rated as a matter of policy.
3. There is a lack of essential data pertaining to the issue or issuer.
4. The issue was privately placed, in which case the rating is not published in Moody's publications.

Suspension or withdrawal may occur if new and material circumstances arise, the effects of which preclude satisfactory analysis; if there is no longer available reasonable up-to-date data to permit a judgment to be formed; if a bond is called for redemption; or for other reasons.

Note: Moody's may apply numerical modifiers, 1, 2 and 3 in each generic rating classification from Aa through B in its corporate bond rating system. The modifier 1 indicates that the security ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates that the issue ranks in the lower end of its generic rating category.

STANDARD & POOR'S RATINGS SERVICE ("S&P")

- AAA: Bonds rated AAA have the highest rating assigned by Standard & Poor's Ratings Service, a division of McGraw Hill Companies, Inc. Capacity to pay interest and repay principal is extremely strong.
- AA: Bonds rated AA have a very strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal and differs from the higher rated issues only in small degree.
- A: Bonds rated A have a strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal although they are somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than bonds in the higher rated categories.
- BBB: Bonds rated BBB are regarded as having an adequate capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Whereas they normally exhibit adequate protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay interest and repay principal for bonds in this category than in higher rated categories.
- BB, B, CCC, CC, C: Bonds rated BB, B, CCC, CC and C are regarded, on balance, as predominantly speculative with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. BB indicates the lowest degree of speculation and C the highest degree of speculation. While such bonds will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, they are outweighed by large uncertainties of major risk exposures to adverse conditions.
- C1: The rating C1 is reserved for income bonds on which no interest is being paid.
- D: Bonds rated D are in default, and payment of interest and/or repayment of principal is in arrears.
- Plus (+)
or
Minus (-)
- The ratings from AA to CCC may be modified by the addition of a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.
- NR: Indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular type of obligation as a matter of policy.

Description of S&P and Moody's commercial paper ratings:

The designation A-1 by S&P indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is either overwhelming or very strong. Those issues determined to possess overwhelming safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign designation. Capacity for timely payment on issues with an A-2 designation is strong. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated A-1.

The rating Prime-1 (P-1) is the highest commercial paper rating assigned by Moody's. Issuers of P-1 paper must have a superior capacity for repayment of short-term promissory obligations, and ordinarily will be evidenced by leading market positions in well established industries, high rates of return of funds employed, conservative capitalization structures with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection, broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation, and well established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.