

ATTENTION: IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION!
2001 DISTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN
Common Stock

To All Shareholders:

Set forth below is the allocation of net investment income, short-term capital gains and long-term capital gains for the 2001 distributions of the Common Shares of The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

If there are any questions, please contact Carter Austin at (914) 921-5070.

		\$ PER SHARE				
		1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR	TOTAL
	Record Date	03/16/01	06/15/01	09/14/01	12/14/01	
	Payment Date	03/26/01	06/25/01	09/24/01	12/24/01	
SOURCE						
	Net Investment Income (a)	\$0.016	\$0.017	\$0.017	\$0.017	\$0.067
	Short-Term Capital Gains (a)	\$0.016	\$0.016	\$0.016	\$0.016	\$0.064
	Long-Term Capital Gains (b)	\$0.238	\$0.237	\$0.237	\$0.237	\$0.949
	TOTAL	\$0.270	\$0.270	\$0.270	\$0.270	\$1.080

		PERCENTAGES				
		1ST QTR	2ND QTR	3RD QTR	4TH QTR	TOTAL
	Net Investment Income (a)	5.8999%	6.3088%	6.3088%	6.3088%	6.2067%
	Short-Term Capital Gains (a)	6.0359%	5.8549%	5.8549%	5.8549%	5.9002%
	Long-Term Capital Gains (b)	88.0642%	87.8363%	87.8363%	87.8363%	87.8931%
	TOTAL	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%	100.0000%

100% of the long-term capital gains paid by the Gabelli Equity Trust in 2001 was classified as "20% Rate Gains" subject to a maximum tax rate of 20% (or 10% depending on an individual's tax bracket). Capital gain distributions are reported in box 2a of Form 1099-DIV.

Corporate Dividends Received Deduction and U.S. Government Securities Income:

The percentage of the ordinary income paid by the Gabelli Equity Trust in 2001 that qualifies for the dividends received deduction available to corporations is 68.16%. The percentage of the ordinary income paid by the Gabelli Equity Trust in 2001 that was derived from U.S. Government Securities was 11.64%. The percentage of U.S. Government Securities held as of December 31, 2001 was 7.03%. (c)

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- (a) Distributions from net investment income and short-term capital gains are taxable as ordinary income and will appear on your Form 1099-DIV under Ordinary Dividends.
- (b) Taxable as long-term capital gains reportable in column (f), line 13 on Form 1040, Schedule D. Since there were no retained capital gains in 2001, Form 2439 will not be necessary.
- (c) Certain states require that 50% of the Fund's portfolio be invested in U.S. Government Securities at the end of each calendar quarter to allow "pass-through" treatment of income derived from U.S. Government Securities. The Trust did not meet this strict requirement in 2001.