

Gabelli ESG Fund, Inc.

Shareholder Commentary March 31, 2017

(Y)our Portfolio Management Team



Christopher C. Desmarais



Kevin V. Dreyer



Christopher J. Marangi

To Our Shareholders,

For the quarter ended March 31, 2017, the net asset value (“NAV”) per Class AAA Share of the Gabelli ESG Fund increased 5.0% compared with increases of 6.1% and 5.7% for the Standard & Poor’s (“S&P”) 500 Index and the Russell 3000 Index, respectively.

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Investing

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) refers to the three main areas of concern that have developed as central factors in measuring the sustainability and ethical impact of an investment in a business. Incorporating ESG factors into company research can help understand risks and opportunities that may otherwise have been overlooked, and improve the return profile of investment portfolios. ESG analysis differs from a traditional SRI screen in that it does not apply a “negative screen”, excluding companies that engage in specific unwanted activities (such as selling tobacco or weapons). Instead, it takes a holistic approach, evaluating a company’s performance in a variety of areas, including carbon emissions, energy efficiency, water stress, human capital development, chemical safety, board independence, management pay practices, and business ethics.

First Quarter Commentary

The post-election rally of 2016 continued into the first quarter of 2017, with the U.S. equity market setting all-time highs. Rising expectations for lower taxes, regulatory reform, and increased fiscal spending have generated optimism for both businesses and consumers, and translated into higher stock prices. Robust hiring, falling unemployment, and firming wage growth opened the door for the Federal Reserve to raise short-term interest rates for the third time since the financial crisis, increasing the federal funds target range to ¾ to 1 percent in a widely anticipated move.

Comparative Results

Average Annual Returns through March 31, 2017 (a)(b)

	<u>Quarter</u>	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Year</u>	<u>5 Year</u>	<u>Since Inception (6/1/07)</u>
Class AAA (SRIGX)	4.99%	13.14%	6.95%	8.89%	6.21%
S&P 500 Index	6.07	17.17	10.37	13.30	6.76
Russell 3000 Index	5.74	18.07	9.76	13.18	6.81
Class A (SRIAX)	4.93	13.08	6.93	8.88	6.21
With sales charge (c)	(1.11)	6.57	4.84	7.60	5.57
Class C (SRICX)	4.76	12.29	6.15	8.08	5.42
With contingent deferred sales charge (d)	3.76	11.29	6.15	8.08	5.42
Class I (SRIDX)	4.96	13.42	7.20	9.16	6.47

In the current prospectuses dated July 29, 2016, the gross expense ratios for Class AAA, A, C, and I Shares are 1.68%, 1.68%, 2.43%, and 1.43%, respectively. and, the net expense ratios for these share classes after contractual reimbursements by Gabelli Funds, LLC, (the "Adviser") are 1.25%, 1.25%, 2.00%, and 1.00%, respectively. Class AAA and I Shares do not have a sales charge. The maximum sales charge for Class A Shares and Class C Shares is 5.75% and 1.00%, respectively.

- (a) *Returns represent past performance and do not guarantee future results. Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in share price, reinvestment of distributions, and are net of expenses. Investment returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. When shares are redeemed, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data presented. Visit www.gabelli.com for performance information as of the most recent month end. Returns would have been lower had Gabelli Funds, LLC, the Adviser not reimbursed certain expenses of the Fund. The Fund imposes a 2% redemption fee on shares sold or exchanged within seven days of purchase. Performance returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the Fund before investing. The prospectuses contain information about these and other matters and should be read carefully before investing. To obtain a prospectus, please visit our website at www.gabelli.com. The S&P 500 Index is a market capitalization weighted index of 500 large capitalization stocks commonly used to represent the U.S. equity market. The Russell 3000 Index is an unmanaged indicator that measures the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S. traded stocks, in which the underlying companies are incorporated in the U.S. Dividends are considered reinvested. You cannot invest directly in an index.*
- (b) The Fund's fiscal year ends March 31.
- (c) Performance results include the effect of the maximum 5.75% sales charge at the beginning of the period.
- (d) Assuming payment of the 1% maximum contingent deferred sales charge imposed on redemptions made within one year of purchase.

We have separated the portfolio managers' commentary from the financial statements and investment portfolio due to corporate governance regulations stipulated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. We have done this to ensure that the content of the portfolio managers' commentary is unrestricted. The financial statements and investment portfolio are mailed separately from the commentary. Both the commentary and the financial statements, including the portfolio of investments, are available on our website at www.gabelli.com.

Warning bells rang, however, following the failure of the Republican-controlled Congress to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, a key promise of the Trump administration. After a long and extended run, markets finally took a pause to evaluate the new administration's ability to delivery on policy and to question the unity of a Republican party and consider the possibility of more Washington "gridlock". Failing to dismantle Obamacare caused markets to reassess the probability of a business friendly agenda, especially tax reform and a large infrastructure bill, over the next four years. At the same time, the rate increase serves as a reminder that rising rates often have a negative implication for stock price multiples. Earnings may or always rise fast enough in order to compensate for this effect, but rising earnings are predicated on President Trump enacting at least some of his agenda – which is why political news continues to take center stage.

Outside the U.S., markets continue to digest the populist upheavals that have occurred not only in America, but around the globe. Theresa May invoked Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, formally starting the process of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom. Presidential elections will be soon held in France, and while Marine Le Pen is still considered a long shot, political dynamics in 2016 have taught us not to rule her out. A Le Pen win could ultimately change the relationship EU members have with one another, or even lead to the dissolution of the group (and the euro) entirely. All this, combined with continued saber-rattling by North Korea and conflict in Syria, show that the world continues to be a tumultuous place. External, unanticipated events can and will impact the stock market.

With this backdrop, we believe this is a great time to research and pick individual stocks using our Private Market Value (PMV) with Catalyst™ selection process. The wide variety of policy initiatives of the new administration is generating catalysts and opportunities for corporate America and will likely stimulate global deal activity. At the same time, uncertainty may lead to attractive entry points for certain companies.

Investment Scorecard

The top contributors to performance in the first quarter included Energizer Holdings (2.2% of net assets as of March 31, 2017) (+26%), which gained share in the global battery category, which continues to grow; Liberty Global (2.4%) (+18%), which reported strong fourth quarter operating cash flow, increased its share repurchase program and closed its Netherlands JV with Vodafone; Sony Corp. (1.6%) (+20%), which is increasingly being recognized by for its dominance of the \$100 billion video game industry and its importance as a preferred supplier of image sensors to Apple, and also benefited from the strength of the Japanese yen; Unilever (1.4) (+12%), which rose following a \$143 billion takeover offer from Kraft Heinz, which was rebuffed, but led to a strategic review by the company to surface value; and Waste Connections (2.0%) (+12%), which rose as it delivered very strong price and volume leading to revenue growth and adjusted EBITDA margin expansion above expectations along with strong 2017 guidance amid its rapid integration of Progressive Waste Solutions.

Detractors from performance included United Natural Foods (1.5%) (-9%), which reported strong financial results despite a challenging operating environment due to food deflation; Watts Water Technologies (2.4%) (-4%), which reported year over year declines in fourth quarter sales and operating profit driven by a decline in sales in Europe, Middle East and Africa and fewer shipping days; Mondelez International (4.0%) (-2%), which declined due to category growth deceleration, lower fourth quarter revenue growth and the realization that Kraft Heinz has other potential strategic options due to the Unilever (1.4%) overture; Mueller Water Products (0.7%) (-11%), which has underperformed following a second consecutive quarter of lower-than-expected growth in its Mueller Co. business., and is in a management transition, which has increased uncertainty as to the company’s strategic direction; and Whole Foods Market (2.5%) (-3%) which again reported a decline in comparable store sales due to food deflation and increased competition.

Conclusion

While optimism is on the rise, we anticipate continued volatility in markets due to politics, monetary policy, or other external factors. We believe our bottom-up process of seeking high-quality companies trading at a discount to Private Market Value – the price an informed industrialist would pay to own an entire business – is as timely as ever. With M&A activity increasing, we expect industry consolidation to be an important catalyst for stock performance in coming quarters.

April 20, 2017

Top Ten Holdings (Percent of Net Assets)
March 31, 2017

Xylem Inc.	4.4%	Danone SA	2.9%
Conagra Brands Inc.	4.2%	Whole Foods Market Inc.	2.5%
Mondelez International Inc.	4.0%	Liberty Global Plc	2.4%
Edgewell Personal Care Co.	3.9%	Kellogg Co.	2.4%
Johnson Controls International Plc	3.4%	Comcast Corp.	2.4%

Note: The views expressed in this Shareholder Commentary reflect those of the Portfolio Managers only through the end of the period stated in this Shareholder Commentary. The Portfolio Managers’ views are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions. The information in this Shareholder Commentary represents the opinions of the Portfolio Managers and is not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results, or investment advice. Views expressed are those of the Portfolio Managers and may differ from those of other portfolio managers or of the Firm as a whole. This Shareholder Commentary does not constitute an offer of any transaction in any securities. Any recommendation contained herein may not be suitable for all investors. Information contained in this Shareholder Commentary has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, but cannot be guaranteed.

Minimum Initial Investment – \$1,000

The Fund's minimum initial investment for regular accounts is \$1,000. There are no subsequent investment minimums. No initial minimum is required for those establishing an Automatic Investment Plan. Additionally, the Fund and other Gabelli/GAMCO Funds are available through the no-transaction fee programs at many major brokerage firms. The Fund imposes a 2% redemption fee on shares sold or exchanged within seven days after the date of purchase. See the prospectuses for more details.

www.gabelli.com

Please visit us on the Internet. Our homepage at www.gabelli.com contains information about GAMCO Investors, Inc., the Gabelli/GAMCO Mutual Funds, IRAs, 401(k)s, current and historical quarterly reports, closing prices, and other current news. We welcome your comments and questions via e-mail at info@gabelli.com.

The Fund's daily NAVs are available in the financial press and each evening after 7:00 PM (Eastern Time) by calling 800-GABELLI (800-422-3554). Please call us during the business day, between 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Eastern Time), for further information.

You may sign up for our e-mail alerts at www.gabelli.com and receive early notice of quarterly report availability, news events, media sightings, and mutual fund prices and performance.

e-delivery

We are pleased to offer electronic delivery of Gabelli fund documents. Direct shareholders of our mutual funds can elect to receive their Annual and Semiannual Reports, Manager Commentaries, and Prospectuses via e-delivery. For more information or to sign up for e-delivery, please visit our website at www.gabelli.com.

Multi-Class Shares

Class AAA Shares are no-load shares offered directly through selected broker/dealers. Class A and Class C Shares are targeted to the needs of investors who seek advice through financial consultants. Class I Shares are available directly through the Fund's distributor or brokers that have entered into selling agreements specifically with respect to Class I Shares. The Board of Directors determined that expanding the types of Fund shares available through various distribution options would enhance the ability of the Fund to attract additional investors.

Gabelli/GAMCO Funds and Your Personal Privacy

Who are we?

The Gabelli/GAMCO Funds are investment companies registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940. We are managed by Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc., which are affiliated with GAMCO Investors, Inc. GAMCO Investors, Inc. is a publicly held company that has subsidiaries that provide investment advisory services for a variety of clients.

What kind of non-public information do we collect about you if you become a fund shareholder?

If you apply to open an account directly with us, you will be giving us some non-public information about yourself. The non-public information we collect about you is:

- *Information you give us on your application form.* This could include your name, address, telephone number, social security number, bank account number, and other information.
- *Information about your transactions with us, any transactions with our affiliates, and transactions with the entities we hire to provide services to you.* This would include information about the shares that you buy or redeem. If we hire someone else to provide services—like a transfer agent—we will also have information about the transactions that you conduct through them.

What information do we disclose and to whom do we disclose it?

We do not disclose any non-public personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone other than our affiliates, our service providers who need to know such information, and as otherwise permitted by law. If you want to find out what the law permits, you can read the privacy rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. They are in volume 17 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 248. The Commission often posts information about its regulations on its website, www.sec.gov.

What do we do to protect your personal information?

We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to the people who need to know that information in order to provide services to you or the fund and to ensure that we are complying with the laws governing the securities business. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to keep your personal information confidential.

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Portfolio Management Team Biographies

Christopher C. Desmarais joined GAMCO Investors, Inc. in 1993. Currently he is a Managing Director of GAMCO Asset Management Company, a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC, as well as the Director of Socially Responsive Investments. His responsibilities also include marketing and client service of GAMCO's Value, Growth, and International capabilities for institutional, endowment, and family office clients as well as direct oversight of all of the Firm's SRI equity products. He is a graduate of Fairfield University with a B.A. in Economics.

Kevin V. Dreyer joined Gabelli in 2005 as a research analyst covering companies within the consumer sector. Currently he is a Managing Director and Co-Chief Investment Officer for GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team. In addition, he serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex. Mr. Dreyer received a B.S.E. from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Christopher J. Marangi joined Gabelli in 2003 as a research analyst. Currently he is a Managing Director and Co-Chief Investment Officer for GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team. In addition, he serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex. Mr. Marangi graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in Political Economy from Williams College and holds an MBA with honors from Columbia Business School.

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