FUNDMARKET INSIGHT REPORT

REFINITIV LIPPER RESEARCH SERIES

OCTOBER 31, 2020

The Month in Closed-End Funds: October 2020

Performance

For the second month in a row, equity CEFs on average witnessed negative performance on both a NAV and market basis. They declined 0.41% and 1.98%, respectively. Meanwhile, for the seventh month in a row their fixed income CEF counterparts posted returns in the black on a NAV basis (+0.03%), while for the second month running they were in the red on a market basis (-0.78%). Both CEF asset types remained in negative territory year to date, declining 9.90% and 1.06%, respectively. For the three-month return period, results were mixed, with the average equity CEF suffering a decline of 0.27%. Meanwhile, fixed income CEFs posted a 0.82% plus-side return on a NAV basis.

Market volatility continued in the beginning of October, yet for the first week the major U.S. indices managed to finish in the plus column as investors pondered the implications of President Donald Trump being diagnosed with COVID-19, the impasse on another round of fiscal stimulus, and a weaker pace of job recovery in the U.S. The September jobs report showed the U.S. economy regained jobs, but at a slower pace than the prior months. The Department of Labor announced the U.S. economy had added 661,000 new jobs for September, its smallest gain since business reopened after the lockdown. Nonetheless, the unemployment rate declined to 7.9% from 8.4% in August. Near-month oil prices declined to $37.05 per barrel amid rising case counts.

The following week, the equity markets got a shot in the arm as investors remained optimistic over the prospects of another round of stimulus, with the U.S. benchmarks posting their strongest week of returns since summer. Investors kept a keen eye on the beginning of the Q3 corporate earnings season.

Better-than-expected September retail sales (+1.9% versus analyst expected +0.7%) and preliminary reading of consumer sentiment kept the broad-based indices in positive territory the following week as investors shrugged off a weaker-than-expected industrial production report and several states reported a record number of new coronavirus cases. However, a few days later, the Dow booked its largest daily decline in four weeks as the realization sank in that lawmakers were unlikely to complete a rescue package before the upcoming elections. The stock market ended down for the week despite reports that showed the IHS Markit PMI service and manufacturing indices rose in October, posting their fastest rate of expansion in 20 months.

At month end, stocks notched their worst weekly and monthly returns since March amid a surge in coronavirus cases in both Europe and the U.S. as investors focused on the proposed lockdowns in Germany and France, the uncertainty of the U.S. elections, and the lack of stimulus.

However, on the U.S. data front, better-than-expected September personal income (+0.9%) and consumer spending (+1.4%), along with upbeat earnings news from Facebook, Apple, Amazon, and Google, kept a lid on losses. That said, the rise in cases pressured oil futures, with the U.S. benchmark closing at a five-month low.

The Month in Closed-End Funds: October 2020

- For the second consecutive month, equity closed-end funds (CEFs) on average posted negative returns, declining 0.41% on a net-asset-value (NAV) basis for October, while for the seventh month in a row, fixed income CEFs witnessed returns in the black (+0.03%).
- Only 11% of all CEFs traded at a premium to their NAV, with 10% of equity CEFs and 11% of fixed income CEFs trading in premium territory. The world income CEFs macro-classification witnessed the largest narrowing of discounts for the month among Lipper's CEF macro-groups—24 basis points (bps) to 7.71%.
- Energy MLP Funds (+3.11%) posted the strongest one-month returns of the equity classifications in the CEF universe for October.
- For the second straight month, the domestic taxable bond CEFs (+0.32%) macro-group posted the strongest plus-side returns in the CEF universe for October.
- Developed Markets CEFs (-3.61%) suffered the largest declines of all CEF classifications for the month.

Authored by:

TOM ROSEEN
Head of Research Services
Refinitiv Lipper

REFINITIV™

Despite negative sentiment, longer-dated U.S. Treasury yields rose in the last week of the month, while shorter maturities were flat as investors' expectations for growth and inflation increased on hopes for a large stimulus package at the beginning of the year. The 20-year Treasury yield witnessed the largest rise for the month, jumping 20 basis points (bps) to close the month at 1.43%, while the three-month Treasury yield witnessed the only decline, one bp, to 0.09%.

During the month, the dollar weakened against the pound (-0.26%) and the yen (-0.88%), but strengthened against the euro (+0.61%). Commodity prices declined for the month, with near-month gold prices falling 0.54% to close the month at $1,877.40 per ounce and front-month crude oil prices sliding 11.01% to close at $35.79 per barrel.

For the month, only 43% of all CEFs posted NAV-based returns in the black, with 45% of equity CEFs and 42% of fixed income CEFs chalking up returns in the plus column. For the second consecutive month, Lipper's mixed-assets CEFs macro-group (-0.08%) mitigated losses better than its two equity-based brethren: domestic equity CEFs (-0.35%) and world equity CEFs (-0.88%).

The Energy MLP CEFs classification (+3.11%, September's laggard) for the first month in five outperformed all other equity classifications, followed by Emerging Markets CEFs (+1.58%) and Utility CEFs (+0.83%). Developed Markets CEFs (-3.61%) posted the worst returns in the equity universe and was bettered by Options Arbitrage/Options Strategies CEFs (-1.97%) and Global CEFs (-1.42%). For the remaining equity classifications, returns ranged from negative 1.20% (Diversified Equity CEFs) to positive 0.10% (Income & Preferred Stock CEFs).

Two of the five top performing CEFs for October were warehoused in Lipper's Energy MLP CEF classification. However, at the top of the chart was **John Hancock Financial Opportunities Fund** (**BTO**), rising 13.55% on a NAV basis and traded at a 1.23% premium on October 30. Following BTO were **RENN Fund** (**RCG**, housed in the Global CEFs classification), gaining 4.54% and traded at a 21.26% discount at month end; **ClearBridge Energy Midstream Opportunity Fund Inc.** (**EMO**, housed in the Energy MLP CEFs classification), rising 6.38% and traded at a 27.02% discount on October 30; **ClearBridge MLP and Midstream Fund Inc.** (**CEM**, also housed in Lipper's Energy MLP CEF classification), posting an 6.02% return and traded at a 19.96% discount at month end; and **China Fund Inc.** (**CHN**, housed in the Emerging Markets CEFs classification), gaining 4.93% and traded at an 11.39% discount on October 30.

For the month, the dispersion of performance in individual equity CEFs—ranging from negative 8.48% to positive 13.55%—was narrower than September's

CLOSED-END FUNDS LAB

TABLE 1 CURRENT-MONTH PERFORMANCE, P&D, P&D SHIFTS (% OF UNIVERSE)

	NAV RETURNS POSITIVE	PREMIUM/DISCOUNT		NOW TRADING AT	
		BETTER	WORSE	PREMIUM	DISCOUNT
Equity CEFs	45	28	72	10	89
Bond CEFs	42	36	62	11	89
ALL CEFs	**43**	**33**	**67**	**11**	**89**

TABLE 2 AVERAGE NAV RETURNS, SELECTED PERIODS (%)

	OCTOBER	YTD	3-MONTH	CALENDAR-2019
Equity CEFs	-0.41	-9.90	-0.27	19.20
Bond CEFs	0.03	-1.06	0.82	10.84
ALL CEFs	**-0.15**	**-4.77**	**0.36**	**14.51**

TABLE 3 NUMBER OF IPOs, YTD VERSUS PRIOR YEAR

	OCTOBER 2020	CALENDAR-2019
Conventional CEFs	9	10
Interval CEFs	15	26

TABLE 4 AVERAGE SIZE OF IPOs, SELECTED PERIODS, $MIL

THREE MONTHS THROUGH 9/30/2020	984
COMPARABLE YEAR-EARLIER THREE MONTHS	364
CALENDAR 2019 AVERAGE	523

TABLE 5 NUMBER OF MERGERS & LIQUIDATIONS, YTD VERSUS PRIOR YEAR

	OCTOBER 2020	CALENDAR-2019
ALL CEFs	**24**	**23**

TABLE 6 MEDIAN PREMIUMS AND DISCOUNTS (%)

	31-JUL	31-AUG	30-SEP	31-OCT
Equity CEFs	-11.96	-11.92	-13.36	-13.86
Bond CEFs	-7.31	-7.20	-7.60	-8.27
ALL CEFS	**-8.72**	**-8.56**	**-9.36**	**-10.01**

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

spread and slightly more skewed to the positive side. The 20 top-performing equity CEFs posted returns at or above 3.51%, while the 20-lagging equity CEFs were at or below negative 4.12%.

For the month, 118 CEFs in the equity universe posted plus-side returns. Three of the five worst performing funds were housed in the world equity CEFs macro-group. At the bottom of the heap was **Central and Eastern Europe Fund, Inc.** (**CEE**, housed in the Emerging Markets CEF classification), shedding 8.48% of its September-closing NAV and traded at a 16.80% discount at month end. The second worst performing equity CEF was **A3 Alternative Credit Fund** (**AAACX**, an interval hybrid CEF housed in Lipper's Income & Preferred Stock CEFs classification), declining 8.39% for the month.

In anticipation of growth and inflation from future stimulus, the Treasury yield curve steepened at the long end of the curve for the month while remaining flat at the short end. The 10- and 30-year Treasury yields rose by 19 bps for the month to 0.88% (its highest closing value since June 8, 2020) and 1.65%, respectively. The two- and 10-year Treasury yield spread (74 bps) was the largest since February 14, 2018. For the third month in a row, domestic taxable fixed income CEFs remained at the top of the charts, posting a 0.32% return on average, followed by world income CEFs (+0.04%) and municipal bond CEFs (-0.34%).

While fixed income investors were generally more risk averse toward the end of the month, they still pushed General Bond CEFs (+0.45%) to the top of the domestic taxable fixed income leaderboard for the first month since December 31, 2017, followed by High Yield CEFs (+0.36%) and High Yield CEFs (Leveraged) (+0.35%). Corporate Debt BBB-Rated CEFs (Leveraged) (-0.22%) posted the largest losses of the group and was bettered by Corporate Debt BBB-Rated CEFs (-0.08%). On the world income side, poor performance from Emerging Markets Hard Currency Debt CEFs (-0.72%) weighed on the sub-group, while better performance from Global Income CEFs (+0.34%) helped keep declines in check for October.

For the third consecutive month, the municipal debt CEFs macro-group posted a negative return (-0.34%) on average, with all nine of the classifications in the group experiencing returns in the red for the October. The High Yield Municipal Debt CEFs (-0.14%), General & Insured Municipal Debt CEFs (Unleveraged) (-0.22%), and Intermediate Municipal Debt CEFs (-0.25%) classifications mitigated losses better than the other classifications in the group, while Pennsylvania Municipal Debt CEFs (-0.65%) was the group laggard. National municipal debt CEFs (-0.30%) mitigated losses better than their single-state municipal debt CEF counterparts (-0.40%) by 10 bps for the month.

Once again, the two top-performing individual fixed income CEFs were housed in Lipper's Loan Participation CEFs classification. At the top of the fixed income universe chart was **XAI Octagon Floating Rate & Alternative Income Term Trust** (**XFLT**), returning 7.43% and traded at a 3.16% premium on October 30. Following XFLT were **Pioneer Securitized Income Fund** (**XSILX**, an interval hybrid CEF), returning 2.52%; **Franklin Universal Trust** (**FT**, housed in the High Yield CEFs [Leveraged] classification), returning 2.39% and traded at a 17.32% discount at month end; **Guggenheim Credit Allocation Fund** (**GGM**, housed in the General Bond CEFs classification), posting a 1.93% return and traded at a 1.80% premium on October 30; and **KKR Income Opportunities Fund** (**KIO**, also housed in the General Bond CEFs classification), adding 1.74% to its September month-end value and traded at a 10.53% discount on at month end.

For the remaining funds in the fixed income CEF universe, monthly NAV-based performance ranged from negative 2.49% for **Nuveen Taxable Municipal Income Fund** (**NBB**, housed in Lipper's General Bond CEFs classification and traded at a 0.37% discount at month end) to positive 1.63% for **Barings Corporate Investors** (**MCI**, also housed in Lipper's General Bond CEFs classification and traded at a 20.84% discount on October 30). The 20 top-performing fixed income CEFs posted returns at or above 1.04%, while the 20 lagging CEFs posted returns at or below negative 0.69% for the month. There were 207 fixed income CEFs that witnessed negative NAV-based performance for October.

Premium and Discount Behavior

For October, the median discount of all CEFs widened 65 bps to 10.01%—wider than the 12-month moving average median discount (8.27%). Equity CEFs' median discount widened 50 bps to 13.86%, while fixed income CEFs' median discount widened 67 bps to 8.27%. World income CEFs' median discount witnessed the largest narrowing among the CEF macro-groups—24 bps to 7.71%—while the high yield bond CEFs macro-group witnessed the largest widening of discounts—274 bps to 11.14%.

Gabelli Utility Trust (**GUT**, housed in the Utility CEFs classification) traded at the largest premium (+96.90%) in the CEF universe on October 30, while **NexPoint Strategic Opportunities Fund** (**NHF**, housed in the High Yield CEFs [Leveraged] classification) traded at the largest discount (-46.04%) at month end.

For the month, 33% of all funds' discounts or premiums improved, while 67% worsened. In particular, 28% of equity CEFs and 36% of fixed income CEFs saw their individual discounts narrow, premiums widen, or premiums replace discounts. The number of funds traded at premiums on October 30 (52) was seven less than the number on September 30 (59).

CEF Events and Corporate Actions

IPOs

Cohen & Steers, Inc., announced the initial public offering of the **Cohen & Steers Tax-Advantaged Preferred Securities and Income Fund, Inc.** (**PTA**). The fund raised approximately $1,250,000,000 in proceeds (excluding any exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional securities) in the initial public offering of 50,000,000 common shares at $25 per share. The fund has granted the underwriters an option to purchase an additional 7,500,000 common shares at the public offering price within 45 days of the date of prospectus, which is October 27, 2020. Assuming full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional securities, which may or may not occur, overall sales totaled approximately $1,437,500,000. The fund's common shares began trading on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the offering was expected to close on Friday, October 30, 2020, subject to customary closing conditions.

The fund's primary investment objective is high current income. The fund's secondary investment objective is capital appreciation. The fund seeks to achieve its investment objectives by investing at least 80% of its managed assets (i.e., net assets plus assets obtained through leverage) in a portfolio of preferred and other income securities issued by U.S. and non-U.S. companies, which may be either exchange-traded or available over the counter. In pursuing its investment objectives, the fund seeks to achieve favorable after-tax returns for its shareholders by seeking to minimize the U.S. federal income tax consequences on income generated by the fund. The fund intends that, under normal market conditions, it will utilize leverage in an amount up to 33.3% of managed assets through borrowings and/or the issuance of debt securities.

Rights, Repurchases, Tender Offers

Royce Global Value Trust, Inc. (**RGT**) announced that its board of directors authorized a conditional cash tender offer for up to 40% of the fund's outstanding shares of common stock at a price per share equal to 100% of the fund's NAV per share as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE on the date the tender offer expires, provided the fund's stockholders approve a new investment advisory agreement with Royce Investment Partners, the fund's investment manager, in accordance with the requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Such new agreement was to be voted upon at the special meeting of stockholders that was scheduled to be held on Friday, October 30, 2020, at 1 p.m. Eastern Time in a virtual meeting format. If the number of shares tendered in the tender offer exceeds the maximum number of shares that is subject to the tender offer, the fund will purchase shares from tendering stockholders on a pro rata basis (disregarding fractional shares). RGT announced on October 28, 2020, the commencement of the conditional cash tender offer and that the tender offer will expire at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 16, 2020, unless extended.

Neuberger Berman High Yield Strategies Fund Inc. (**NHS**) announced that (subject to certain conditions) it will conduct a tender offer for up to 25% of its outstanding shares of common stock at a price per share equal to 96% of its NAV per share as of the expiration date of the tender offer. The fund will announce the commencement of the tender offer at a later date. The fund currently expects to purchase shares tendered and accepted in the tender offer prior to December 31, 2020. In the event the tender offer is oversubscribed, shares will be repurchased on a pro rata basis. Neuberger Berman Investment Advisers LLC, the fund's investment manager, recommended the tender offer after entering into an agreement with Saba Capital Management, L.P. Pursuant to the agreement, Saba has agreed to terminate its pending proxy solicitation for the fund's 2020 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, including withdrawing its director nominations and stockholder proposals. During the effective period of the agreement, Saba has agreed to comply with certain standstill covenants and vote its shares in accordance with the recommendations of the fund's board of directors.

Clarion Partners Real Estate Income Fund Inc. Class S Shares (**CPRSX**), **Class T Shares** (**CPRTX**), **Class D Shares** (**CPRDX**) and **Class I Shares** (**CPREX**) announced the results of its tender offer. Clarion Partners Real Estate Income Fund Inc. announced the results of its issuer tender offer for up to 5.0% of the fund's aggregate NAV, or $2.50 million, at a price per share equal to the NAV per share of each class of common stock as of October 15, 2020, the date on which the tender offer expired. A total of 2,196.628 shares were duly tendered and not withdrawn, representing 0.04% of the fund's NAV. The purchase price of properly tendered shares was $9.89, 9.88, $9.90, and $ 9.89 per share for Class S Shares, Class T Shares, Class D Shares, and Class I Shares, respectively, the respective NAV per share as of the close of the trading session on the NYSE on the expiration date. The fund expected to transmit payment to purchase the duly tendered and accepted shares on or about October 19, 2020.

Mergers and Reorganizations

BlackRock Advisors, LLC, announced the declaration of a special distribution for **BlackRock New York Municipal Bond Trust** (**BQH**) in relation to the previously announced merger with **BlackRock New York Municipal Opportunities Fund** (**MENKX**), an open-

Authored by:
TOM ROSEEN
Head of Research Services
Refinitiv Lipper

end mutual fund and a series of BlackRock Multi-State Municipal Series Trust, with MENKX being the surviving Fund.

The special distribution declared ($0.122/share) represents BQH's regular monthly distribution plus any undistributed net investment income earned through the effective date of the merger. In order to maintain status as a regulated investment company and to avoid the imposition of a corporate level income tax, BQH is required to declare a distribution of all net investment income prior to the consummation of the merger. Other than the special distribution announced, BQH will declare no further distributions prior to or following the merger. As this special distribution includes all net investment income earned by BQH in earlier periods and not previously distributed, it is not indicative of the amount of MENKX's future monthly distributions.

BQH declared a special distribution that was payable on October 19, 2020. The ex-dividend date for the distribution was October 9, 2020, and the record date was October 13, 2020. Accordingly, persons who were holders of record of BQH common shares on October 13, 2020, should expect to receive the distribution. The distribution payable to shareholders of BQH will be paid in cash and will not be eligible for dividend reinvestment. Common shares of BQH acquired after October 8, 2020, will not be entitled to the distribution.

BlackRock Advisors, LLC, announced on October 26, 2020, that the merger of **BlackRock New York Municipal Bond Trust** (**BQH**) into **BlackRock New York Municipal Opportunities Fund** (**MENKX**), an open-end mutual fund and a series of BlackRock Multi-State Municipal Series Trust, with MENKX being the surviving Fund (the "Merger"), was effective as of the opening for business of the NYSE on Monday, October 26, 2020. In the merger, common shareholders of BQH received an amount of MENKX Investor A shares equal to the aggregate NAV of their holdings of BQH common shares as determined at the close of business on October 23, 2020: MENKX: $10.8627/share and BQH: $15.6771/share. The conversion ratio for BQH was 1.44320473.

Other

Invesco Dynamic Credit Opportunities Fund (**VTA**) and **Invesco Senior Income Trust** (**VVR**) announced adoption of managed distribution plans. Effective October 1, 2020, the board of Invesco Dynamic Credit Opportunities Fund approved a managed distribution plan for the fund, whereby the fund will pay its monthly dividend to common shareholders at a stated fixed monthly distribution amount of $0.075 per share. Also, effective October 1, 2020, the board of Invesco Senior Income Trust approved a managed distribution plan for the fund, whereby the fund will pay its monthly dividend to common shareholders at a stated fixed monthly distribution amount of $0.021 per share.

The plans are intended to provide shareholders with a consistent, but not guaranteed, periodic cash payment from each fund, regardless of when or whether income is earned or capital gains are realized. The plans may have the effect of narrowing the discount between each fund's market price and the NAV of each fund's common shares, but there is no assurance that the plans will be effective in this regard.

If a fund's investment income is not sufficient to cover the fund's intended monthly distribution, the fund will distribute long-term capital gains and/or return of capital in order to maintain its managed distribution level under its plan. A fund may at times distribute more than its income and net realized gains—therefore, a portion of the distribution may result in a return of capital. A return of capital may occur, for example, when some or all of the money that shareholders invested in a fund is paid back to them.

Several **Nuveen** closed-end funds announced the board's approval of amended and restated by-laws of the funds (the fund list and tickers are too lengthy to present here; please see press release). Among the changes, the bylaws include new deadlines for advance notice of shareholder proposals or nominations to be brought before a meeting of shareholders (see the press release for details). The bylaws also include provisions (Control Share Bylaw) pursuant to which, in summary, a shareholder who obtains beneficial ownership of common shares of a fund in a "Control Share Acquisition" may exercise voting rights with respect to such shares only to the extent the authorization of such voting rights is approved by other shareholders of the fund. The Control Share Bylaw is primarily intended to protect the interests of the fund and its long-term shareholders by limiting the risk that the fund will become subject to undue influence by opportunistic traders pursuing short-term agendas adverse to the best interests of the fund and its long term shareholders. The Control Share Bylaw does not eliminate voting rights for common shares acquired in Control Share Acquisitions, but rather, entrusts the fund's other "non-interested" shareholders with determining whether to approve the authorization of the voting rights of the person acquiring such shares.

On October 7, 2020, the **Securities and Exchange Commission** voted to adopt a new rule and related amendments designed to put in place a comprehensive regulatory framework for fund of funds arrangements. The rule also reflects the Commission's decades of experience with fund of funds arrangements and will create a consistent and efficient rules-based regime for the formation and oversight of funds of funds. "The framework adopted today will provide flexibility to fund managers to allocate and structure investments efficiently, without the costs and delays of seeking individualized exemptive orders, as long as the arrangements satisfy a number of conditions designed to enhance investor protection," said Chairman Jay Clayton.

According to staff estimates, approximately 40% of all registered funds hold an investment in at least one other fund. Total net assets in mutual funds that invest primarily in other mutual funds have grown to $2.54 trillion in 2019. Rule 12d1-4 will permit a registered investment company or business development company or "BDC" (referred to as "acquiring funds") to acquire the securities of any other registered investment company or BDC in excess of the limits in section 12(d)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940. The rule will create a consistent framework for fund of funds arrangements to replace the existing approach, which depends on the Commission's exemptive orders and varies based on an acquiring fund's type. Open-end funds, unit investment trusts, closed-end funds (including BDCs), exchange-traded funds and exchange-traded managed funds will all be able to rely on rule 12d1-4 as both acquiring and acquired funds.

The boards of directors of several **BlackRock** closed-end funds (the fund list and tickers are too lengthy to present here; please see press release) announced that each fund has elected to be subject to the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act (the "MCSAA"), effective immediately. The board believes that electing to be subject to the MCSAA protects the interests of the funds. Maryland lawmakers instituted the MCSAA to limit the ability of any single stockholder to exert undue influence in pursuit of short-term gains at the expense of long-term value for fund stockholders and the fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

The election to become subject to the MCSAA limits the ability of holders of "control shares" to vote those shares above various threshold levels that start at 10% unless the other stockholders of a fund reinstate those voting rights at a meeting of stockholders as provided in the MCSAA. The bylaws for each fund provide that the provisions of the MCSAA do not apply to the voting rights of the holders of any shares of preferred stock of the fund (but only with respect to such preferred stock). The above description of the MCSAA is only a high-level summary and does not purport to be complete.

First Trust Closed-End Funds announce the board's approval of amended and restated bylaws of the funds (the fund list and tickers are too lengthy to present here). Among other changes, the bylaws contain new timelines for advance notice of shareholder proposals or nominations to be brought before a meeting of shareholders. Accordingly, the advance notice deadlines for certain of the fund's 2021 annual meetings of shareholders will differ from the deadlines previously described in such funds' proxy statements for the 2020 annual meetings of shareholders. For such funds, notice of any proposal made outside of Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") or shareholder nominee for trustee must be received by the fund at such fund's principal executive offices not earlier than, nor later than, the corresponding dates set forth in the most recent press release. If a shareholder proposal made outside of Rule 14a-8 or shareholder nominee for trustee is submitted after the period listed for the particular fund, it would not be considered "timely" within the meaning of Rule 14a-4(c) under the Exchange Act, and the persons named as proxies in the proxies solicited by the Board of Trustees for the 2021 annual meeting of shareholders may exercise their discretionary voting power with respect to any such proposal.

In addition to trustee qualifications and other requirements, the bylaws also contain provisions (the "Control Share Provisions") which, in summary, provide that a shareholder who obtains beneficial ownership of a fund's shares in a "Control Share Acquisition" may exercise voting rights with respect to such shares only to the extent the authorization of such voting rights is approved by other shareholders of the fund. The Control Share Provisions are primarily intended to seek to protect the interests of a fund and its long-term shareholders by limiting the risk that the fund will become subject to undue influence by activist investors who pursue short-term agendas adverse to the best interests of the fund and its long-term shareholders.

The Control Share Provisions do not eliminate voting rights for shares acquired in Control Share Acquisitions, but rather entrust a fund's non-interested shareholders with determining whether to approve the authorization of voting rights of such shares. Subject to various conditions and exceptions, the bylaws define a "Control Share Acquisition" to include an acquisition of fund shares that, but for the Control Share Provisions, would give the beneficial owner upon the acquisition of such shares the ability to exercise voting power in the election of fund trustees in any of the following ranges: (i) One-tenth or more, but less than one-fifth of all voting power; (ii) One-fifth or more, but less than one-third of all voting power; (iii) One-third or more, but less than a majority of all voting power; or (iv) A majority or more of all voting power.

The **RENN Fund, Inc.** (**RCG**) announced that it recently received proceeds of $181,735.77 from the bankruptcy case involving Petrohunter Energy Corporation, a position in the fund that has been valued at zero ($nil) since the beginning of Petrohunter's bankruptcy proceedings. While it is possible that the fund may receive additional proceeds from the bankruptcy, Petrohunter will continue to be valued at zero ($nil) throughout the completion of bankruptcy or until additional information is known.

Brookfield Real Assets Income Fund Inc. (**RA**) announced board approval to opt-in to the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act (MCSAA). The MCSAA protects the interests of all stockholders of a Maryland corporation by denying voting rights to "control shares" acquired in a "control share acquisition" unless the other stockholders of the corporation reinstate those voting rights by a vote of two-thirds of the shares held by stockholders other than the acquiring person (i.e., the holder or group of holders acting in concert that acquires, or proposes to acquire, "control shares"). Generally, "control shares" are shares that, when aggregated with shares already owned by an acquiring person, would entitle the acquiring person to exercise 10% or more, 33.3% or more, or a majority of the total voting power of shares entitled to vote in the election of directors.

Application of the MCSAA seeks to limit the ability of an acquiring person to achieve a short-term gain at the expense of the fund's ability to pursue its investment objective and strategy and seek long-term value for the rest of the fund's stockholders. The MCSAA applies automatically to most types of Maryland corporations, but in the case of closed-end investment companies, it applies only if the board of directors elects to "opt in." Since the fund's board of directors "opted in" to the MCSAA on October 22, 2020, the MCSAA will only apply to "control shares" acquired after that date. The above description of the MCSAA is only a high-level summary and does not purport to be complete. Investors should refer to the actual provisions of the MCSAA and the fund's bylaws for more information.

Several **Tortoise** closed-end funds announced the board's approval of amended and restated bylaws. The amendments to the bylaws were adopted in an effort to protect each fund's ability to pursue its investment objective and long-term value for stockholders. Included in the amendments is the election to be subject to the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act (MCSAA), which seeks to limit the ability of an acquiring person to achieve a short-term gain at the expense of a fund's ability to pursue its investment objective and policies and seek long-term value for the rest of the fund's stockholders. The MCSAA protects the interests of all stockholders of a Maryland corporation by providing that any holder of "control shares" acquired in a "control share acquisition" will not be entitled to vote its shares unless the other stockholders of the corporation reinstate those voting rights at a meeting of stockholders by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, excluding the "acquiring person" (i.e. the holder or group of holders acting in concert that acquires, or proposes to acquire, "control shares" and any other holders of "interested shares" as defined in the MCSAA). Generally, "control shares" are shares that, when aggregated with shares already owned by an acquiring person, would entitle the acquiring person to exercise 10% or more, 33% or more, or a majority of the total voting power of shares entitled to vote in the election of directors. In addition, each fund's bylaws include modifying the advance notice requirements and exclusive forum provisions.

For immediate assistance, feel free to contact Lipper Client Services toll-free at 877.955.4773 or via email at LipperUSClientServices@refinitiv.com. For more information about Lipper, please visit our website at refinitiv.com/en or lipperalphainsight.com

REFINITIV™