

**HIGHLAND CAPITAL**  
**MANAGEMENT**

# Highland Energy MLP Fund

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**Annual Report**  
**September 30, 2016**

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# Highland Energy MLP Fund

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Economic and market conditions change frequently.  
There is no assurance that the trends described in this report will continue or commence.

**A prospectus must precede or accompany this report. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest.**

**Performance Overview**

For the twelve-month period ending on September 30, 2016, the Highland Energy MLP Fund (the Fund) returned -15.98% for Class A shares, -16.49% for Class C shares, and -16.14% for Class Y shares. The Alerian MLP Index, the Fund's benchmark, returned 12.74%, and the Fund's Morningstar peer group, U.S. Open-End Equity Energy, returned an average of 14.67% during the same period.

**Manager's Discussion**

During this period, the Fund was primarily invested in limited and general partnership interests of master limited partnerships (MLPs) engaged in the energy industry. The Fund's performance lagged that of its peers due to the use of leverage, the Fund's focus on higher growth general partnerships (GPs) as well as certain limited partnerships with higher anticipated growth rates, the overweighting of certain positions that were disproportionately impacted by the increased sector volatility and other factors at the beginning of the year, and the adjustments to its deferred tax asset (DTA).

The market has struggled to assess the appropriate growth rate for the U.S. energy industry as a result of uncertainty over future commodity prices. This has contributed to a re-rating of some higher growth GP and MLP entities. As commodity prices normalize and the call on U.S. production becomes more apparent, we believe this growth potential will be rediscovered and the market will once again ascribe appropriate value to faster growing companies.

The Fund's overweighting of certain positions, such as Kinder Morgan (KMI) and Energy Transfer Equity (ETE), also contributed negatively to performance. Market volatility intensified at the end of 2015 and became especially pronounced in entities with higher relative leverage and/or large unfunded project backlogs. One of the most notable victims of this dynamic was KMI. Although KMI is one of the largest and most diversified midstream companies, it was forced to cut its distribution by 75% in order to internally fund its growth plans while maintaining access to the credit markets. We believe the distribution reduction was not a reflection of deteriorating operating cash flow and KMI represents attractive value over the medium-term as these growth projects are completed and the distribution is adjusted accordingly. Prior to its failed merger with Williams, ETE also experienced a large amount of volatility as the market grappled with the merger's impact on leverage and the stability of distributions from its underlying MLPs. The shares have since rebounded somewhat, but we believe that the market continues to underappreciate the longer-term earnings power of the ETE complex.

At the beginning of the Fund's fiscal year, market volatility led to a substantial increase in the DTA and an adjustment was made in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles to substantially lower the Fund's expected realized value. Since then, further adjustments have been made as estimates of future distribution growth for the Fund's underlying holdings have fluctuated as a result of commodity pricing and third-party analyst forecasts. While no assurance can be given as to future market conditions, we believe that over time the Fund will be able to recover the value of the DTA which was written down via the receipt of distributions and the further normalization of market prices.

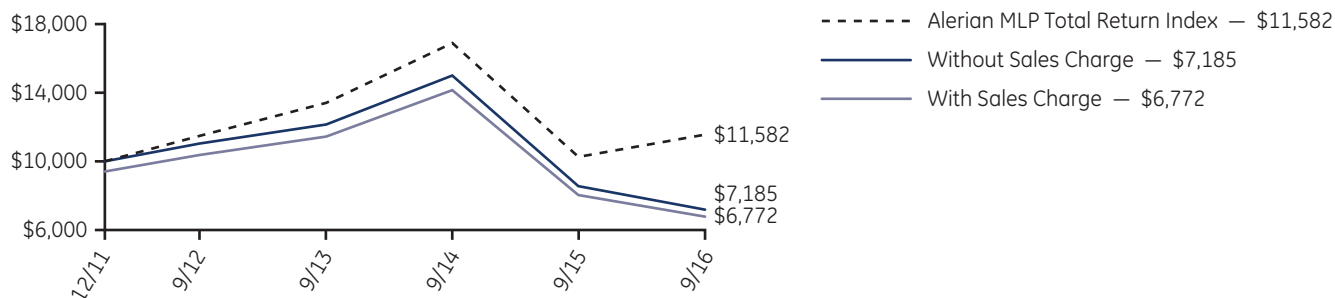
The Fund continues to implement leverage and, as described above, remains positioned around holdings that are expected to benefit disproportionately from further normalization in the commodity price environment as well as those whose fundamental value is believed to be underappreciated by the broader market. Besides the DTA adjustment and the implementation of leverage, there have been no significant changes to the Fund since it was transitioned to an MLP-focused strategy on March 29, 2013.

# PORTFOLIO MANAGER COMMENTARY (unaudited)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

**Highland Energy MLP Fund - Class A**  
**Growth of Hypothetical \$10,000 Investment**



Highland Energy MLP Fund	One Year	Since Inception	Inception Date
Class A Shares, without sales charge	-15.98%	-6.61%	12/01/11
Class A Shares, with sales charge	-20.79%	-7.74%	
Class C Shares, without sales charge	-16.49%	-7.22%	12/01/11
Class C Shares, with sales charge	-17.24%	-7.22%	
Class Y Shares	-16.14%	-6.39%	12/01/11

Returns shown in the chart and table do not reflect taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or on the sale of the Fund shares.

"Without Sales Charge" returns do not include sales charges or contingent deferred sales charges ("CDSC"). "With Sales Charge" returns reflect the maximum sales charge of 5.75% on Class A Shares. The CDSC on Class C Shares is 1.00% within the first year for each purchase; there is no CDSC on Class C Shares thereafter. The performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's share then redeemed may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For performance data current to the most recent month-end, please visit our website at [www.highlandfunds.com](http://www.highlandfunds.com). The gross expense ratios as reported in the Fund's financial highlights are Class A: 10.23%, Class C: 10.98% and Class Y: 9.98%. The Advisor has contractually agreed to limit the total annual operating expenses (exclusive of fees paid by the Fund pursuant to its distribution plan under Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, taxes, such as deferred tax expenses, dividend expenses on short sales, interest payments, brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, acquired fund fees and expenses, and extraordinary expenses) of the Fund to 1.10% of average daily net assets attributable to any class of the Fund. The Expense Cap will continue through at least January 31, 2017.

Effective February 1, 2013, the Fund revised its investment strategy to focus on MLP investments. Returns through September 30, 2012 reflect the Fund's treatment as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Returns after September 30, 2012 reflect the Fund's treatment as a regular corporation, or "C" corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, returns after September 30, 2012 generally will be reduced by the amount of entity-level income taxes paid by the Fund as a regular corporation and thus will not necessarily be comparable to returns reported while the Fund still qualified as a regulated investment company.

The Fund's investments in MLPs involve additional risks as compared to the risks of investing in common stock, including risks related to cash flow, dilution and voting rights. The Fund's investments are concentrated in the energy infrastructure industry with an emphasis on securities issued by MLPs, which may increase price fluctuation. Energy infrastructure companies are subject to risks specific to the industry such as fluctuations in commodity prices, reduced volumes of natural gas or other energy commodities, environmental hazards, changes in the macroeconomic or the regulatory environment or extreme weather. MLPs may trade less frequently than larger companies due to their smaller capitalizations which may result in erratic price movement or difficulty in buying or selling. MLPs are subject to significant regulation and may be adversely affected by changes in the regulatory environment including the risk that a limited partner could lose its tax status as a partnership which could reduce or eliminate distributions paid by MLPs to the Fund. Additional management fees and other expenses are associated with investing in MLP funds. The Fund is subject to certain MLP tax risks and risks associated with accounting for its deferred tax liability which could materially reduce its net asset value. An investment in the Fund is not entitled to the same tax benefits as a direct investment in an MLP. Stock and bond prices may fall or fail to rise over time for several reasons, including general financial market conditions, factors related to a specific issuer or industry and, with respect to bond prices, changing market perceptions of the risk of default and changes in government intervention. These factors may also lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the bond markets. The Fund's investments in derivatives may involve more volatility and less liquidity because of the risk that an investment may not correlate to the performance of the underlying securities. Investments by the Fund involving leverage may have the effect of increasing the volatility of the Fund's portfolio, and the risk of loss in excess of invested capital.

The Fund is organized as a Subchapter "C" Corporation which means that it will pay federal, income taxes at a corporate rate (currently as high as 35%) as well as state and local taxes based on its taxable income. The potential benefit of investing in MLPs generally is their treatment as partnerships for federal income purposes. Because the Fund is a corporation, it will be taxed at the Fund level, which will reduce the amount of cash available for distribution and the Fund's net asset value. A significant portion of the Fund's distributions may be tax deferred return of capital (ROC), which reduces a shareholder's cost basis in its shares and therefore increases any gain or decreases any loss realized when the shares are sold.

Mutual fund investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal.

**Alerian MLP Index** is a composite of the 50 most prominent energy master limited partnerships. The index, which is calculated using a float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted methodology, is disseminated real-time on a price-return basis and on a total-return basis.

## FUND PROFILE (unaudited)

### Highland Energy MLP Fund

#### Objective

Highland Energy MLP Fund (the "Fund") seeks to provide investors with current income and capital appreciation.

#### Net Assets as of September 30, 2016

\$35.5 million

#### Portfolio Data as of September 30, 2016

The information below provides a snapshot of the Fund at the end of the reporting period. The Fund is actively managed and the composition of its portfolio will change over time. Current and future holdings are subject to risk.

Top 10 Holdings as of 09/30/2016 (%) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	
Targa Resources Corp. (Common Stocks)	12.0
SemGroup Corp., Class A (Common Stocks)	10.1
Energy Transfer Equity LP (Master Limited Partnerships)	9.4
Enterprise Products Partners LP (Master Limited Partnerships)	9.3
Energy Transfer Partners LP (Master Limited Partnerships)	8.0
Western Gas Equity Partners LP (Master Limited Partnerships)	7.2
NGL Energy Partners LP (Master Limited Partnerships)	7.0
EnLink Midstream Partners LP (Master Limited Partnerships)	6.9
Williams Partners LP (Master Limited Partnerships)	6.8
Plains GP Holdings LP, Class A (Common Stocks)	6.4

<sup>(1)</sup> Holdings are calculated as a percentage of total net assets.

<sup>(2)</sup> Excludes the Fund's cash equivalent investments.

## A guide to understanding the Fund's financial statements

### Investment Portfolio

The Investment Portfolio details of the Fund's holdings and its market value as of the last day of the reporting period. Portfolio holdings are organized by type of asset and industry to demonstrate areas of concentration and diversification.

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities

This statement details the Fund's assets, liabilities, net assets and share price for each share class as of the last day of the reporting period. Net assets are calculated by subtracting all of the Fund's liabilities (including any unpaid expenses) from the total of the Fund's investment and non-investment assets. The net asset value per share for each class is calculated by dividing net assets allocated to that share class by the number of shares outstanding in that class as of the last day of the reporting period.

### Statement of Operations

This statement reports income earned by the Fund and the expenses incurred by the Fund during the reporting period. The Statement of Operations also shows any net gain or loss the Fund realized on the sales of its holdings during the period as well as any unrealized gains or losses recognized over the period. The total of these results represents the Fund's net increase or decrease in net assets from operations.

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

This statement details how the Fund's net assets were affected by its operating results, distributions to shareholders and shareholder transactions (e.g., subscriptions, redemptions and distribution reinvestments) during the reporting period. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets also details changes in the number of shares outstanding.

### Financial Highlights

The Financial Highlights demonstrate how the Fund's net asset value per share was affected by the Fund's operating results. The Financial Highlights also disclose the classes' performance and certain key ratios (e.g., net expenses and net investment income as a percentage of average net assets).

### Notes to Financial Statements

These notes disclose the organizational background of the Fund, certain of its significant accounting policies (including those surrounding security valuation, income recognition and distributions to shareholders), federal tax information, fees and compensation paid to affiliates and significant risks and contingencies.

# INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

As of September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

Shares		Value (\$)
<b>Common Stocks - 46.8%</b>		
<b>ENERGY - 46.8%</b>		
78,481	Dynagas LNG Partners LP .....	1,214,886
77,480	EnLink Midstream LLC.....	1,297,790
90,705	Kinder Morgan, Inc. ....	2,098,007
176,378	Plains GP Holdings LP, Class A.....	2,282,331
101,613	SemGroup Corp., Class A.....	3,593,036
87,201	Targa Resources Corp. ....	4,282,441
60,800	Williams Cos., Inc. (The) .....	1,868,384
		<u>16,636,875</u>
	Total Common Stocks (Cost \$21,610,408) .....	<u>16,636,875</u>

## Master Limited Partnerships - 88.3%

<b>ENERGY - 88.3%</b>		
30,783	Boardwalk Pipeline Partners LP .....	528,236
35,691	Crestwood Equity Partners LP .....	758,434
199,029	Energy Transfer Equity LP .....	3,341,697
76,559	Energy Transfer Partners LP .....	2,832,683
138,515	EnLink Midstream Partners LP .....	2,453,101
120,055	Enterprise Products Partners LP .....	3,317,120
64,995	MPLX LP .....	2,200,731
132,412	NGL Energy Partners LP .....	2,494,642
12,084	Plains All American Pipeline LP .....	379,558
32,339	Shell Midstream Partners LP .....	1,037,435
33,374	Suburban Propane Partners LP .....	1,111,354
62,613	Sunoco Logistics Partners LP .....	1,778,835
68,515	Sunoco LP .....	1,987,620
45,325	Tesoro Logistics LP .....	2,195,543
59,905	Western Gas Equity Partners LP .....	2,545,364
65,094	Williams Partners LP .....	2,420,846
		<u>31,383,199</u>
	Total Master Limited Partnerships (Cost \$37,534,501) .....	<u>31,383,199</u>

Units		Value (\$)
<b>Warrants (a) - 0.1%</b>		
<b>ENERGY - 0.1%</b>		
1,578,481	Kinder Morgan, Inc., expires 05/25/2017 .....	24,466
	Total Warrants (Cost \$3,645,569) .....	<u>24,466</u>
	<b>Total Investments - 135.2%</b> .....	<b><u>48,044,540</u></b>
	(Cost \$62,790,478)	
	<b>Other Assets &amp; Liabilities, Net - (35.2)%</b> .....	<b><u>(12,511,390)</u></b>
	<b>Net Assets - 100.0%</b> .....	<b><u>35,533,150</u></b>

(a) Non-income producing security.

# STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As of September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

	(\$)
<b>Assets</b>	
Investments, at value .....	48,044,540
Total Investments, at value .....	48,044,540
Cash .....	243,063
Restricted Cash (Note 3) .....	181
Receivable for:	
Dividends and interest .....	177
Investment advisory and administration fees (Note 7) .....	3,614
Fund shares sold .....	20,877
Net deferred tax asset (Note 5) .....	2,058,193
Prepaid expenses and other assets .....	25,912
Total assets .....	<u>50,396,557</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Notes payable (Note 6) .....	14,729,822
Payable for:	
Fund shares redeemed .....	6,751
Distribution and shareholder service fees (Note 7) .....	699
Transfer agent fees .....	3,077
Interest expense (Note 6) .....	1,102
Commitment fee payable (Note 6) .....	39,186
Accrued expenses and other liabilities .....	82,770
Total liabilities .....	<u>14,863,407</u>
<b>Commitments and Contingencies (Note 7)</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b> .....	<u><b>35,533,150</b></u>
<b>Net Assets Consist of:</b>	
Par value (Note 1) .....	7,208
Paid-in capital .....	67,208,465
Accumulated net investment income (loss), net of income taxes .....	(1,326,305)
Accumulated net realized loss from investments, net of income taxes .....	(18,255,802)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, net of income taxes .....	<u>(12,100,416)</u>
<b>Net Assets</b> .....	<u><b>35,533,150</b></u>
Investments, at cost .....	62,790,478



# STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (continued)

As of September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

	(\$)
<b>Class A:</b>	
Net assets.....	5,875,151
Shares outstanding (\$0.001 par value; unlimited shares authorized) .....	<u>1,188,570</u>
Net asset value per share <sup>(a)(b)</sup> .....	<u>4.94</u>
Maximum offering price per share <sup>(c)</sup> .....	<u><u>5.24</u></u>
<b>Class C:</b>	
Net assets.....	3,787,564
Shares outstanding (\$0.001 par value; unlimited shares authorized) .....	<u>768,200</u>
Net asset value and offering price per share <sup>(a)</sup> .....	<u><u>4.93</u></u>
<b>Class Y:</b>	
Net assets.....	25,870,435
Shares outstanding (\$0.001 par value; unlimited shares authorized) .....	<u>5,251,612</u>
Net asset value, offering and redemption price per share .....	<u><u>4.93</u></u>

<sup>(a)</sup> Redemption price per share is equal to net asset value per share less any applicable contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC").

<sup>(b)</sup> Purchases of \$1,000,000 or more are subject to a 0.50% CDSC if redeemed within one year of purchase.

<sup>(c)</sup> The sales charge is 5.75%. On sales of \$1,000,000 or more, there is no sales charge and therefore the offering will be lower.

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Year Ended September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

	(\$)
<b>Investment Income</b>	
<b>Income:</b>	
Dividends and distributions .....	3,236,197
Return of capital (Note 2) .....	(2,912,577)
Interest .....	1,482
Other income .....	33,930
<b>Total Income</b> .....	<u>359,032</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Investment advisory (Note 7) .....	414,406
Administration fees (Note 7) .....	82,881
Distribution and shareholder service fees: (Note 7)	
Class A .....	14,424
Class C .....	28,168
Class R* .....	19
Transfer agent fees .....	19,525
Trustees fees (Note 7) .....	5,295
Accounting services fees .....	26,338
Audit and tax preparation fees .....	125,918
Legal fees .....	64,632
Registration fees .....	67,155
Insurance .....	6,406
Reports to shareholders .....	36,894
Interest expense (Note 6) .....	199,114
Commitment fees-credit agreement (Note 6) .....	31,983
Deferred tax expense (Note 5) .....	437,777
Other .....	26,993
<b>Total operating expenses before waiver and reimbursement (Note 7)</b> .....	1,587,928
Less: Expenses waived or borne by the adviser and administrator .....	<u>(537,297)</u>
Net operating expenses .....	<u>1,050,631</u>
<b>Net investment loss</b> .....	<u>(691,599)</u>
<b>Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments</b>	
<b>Realized gain (loss) on:</b>	
Investments .....	(17,488,836)
Deferred tax expense (Note 5) .....	(20,791)
Written options contracts (Note 3) .....	45,063
<b>Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:</b>	
Investments .....	13,268,557
Written options contracts (Note 3) .....	(44,223)
Deferred tax expense (Note 5) .....	<u>(1,371,001)</u>
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments .....	<u>(5,611,231)</u>
<b>Total decrease in net assets resulting from operations</b> .....	<u><u>(6,302,830)</u></u>

\* Class R Shares liquidated on March 15, 2016.

# STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

## Highland Energy MLP Fund

	Year Ended September 30, 2016 (\$)	Year Ended September 30, 2015 (\$)
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>		
<b>Operations:</b>		
Net investment loss .....	(691,599)	(505,325)
Net realized gain (loss) on investments, net of income taxes .....	(17,464,564)	(838,902)
Net increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, net of income taxes .....	<u>11,853,333</u>	<u>(25,744,089)</u>
Net decrease from operations .....	<u>(6,302,830)</u>	<u>(27,088,316)</u>
<b>Distributions to shareholders from:</b>		
Return of Capital		
Class A .....	(645,772)	(457,222)
Class C .....	(287,791)	(87,820)
Class R* .....	(414)	(7,813)
Class Y .....	<u>(2,299,350)</u>	<u>(2,048,106)</u>
<b>Total distributions</b> .....	<u>(3,233,327)</u>	<u>(2,600,961)</u>
Decrease in net assets from operations and distributions .....	<u>(9,536,157)</u>	<u>(29,689,277)</u>
<b>Share transactions:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of shares		
Class A .....	2,355,352	19,780,466
Class C .....	3,733,065	3,958,426
Class R* .....	—	565,234
Class Y .....	7,163,672	39,361,121
Value of distributions reinvested		
Class A .....	533,091	347,722
Class C .....	262,038	71,959
Class R* .....	414	7,813
Class Y .....	2,279,563	2,041,279
Cost of shares redeemed		
Class A .....	(4,289,095)	(6,814,827)
Class C .....	(2,004,236)	(362,298)
Class R* .....	(14,838)	(505,321)
Class Y .....	<u>(5,773,382)</u>	<u>(20,941,875)</u>
Net increase from shares transactions .....	<u>4,245,644</u>	<u>37,509,699</u>
<b>Total increase (decrease) in net assets</b> .....	<u>(5,290,513)</u>	<u>7,820,422</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Beginning of period .....	<u>40,823,663</u>	<u>33,003,241</u>
End of period .....	<u>35,533,150</u>	<u>40,823,663</u>
<b>Accumulated net investment loss</b> .....	<u>(1,326,305)</u>	<u>(634,706)</u>

\* Class R Shares liquidated on March 15, 2016.

# STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS (continued)

## Highland Energy MLP Fund

	Year Ended September 30, 2016	Year Ended September 30, 2015
<b>CAPITAL STOCK ACTIVITY - SHARES</b>		
<b>Class A:</b>		
Shares sold .....	517,928	1,885,039
Issued for distribution reinvested .....	117,798	34,599
Shares redeemed .....	(901,374)	(692,059)
Net increase (decrease) in fund shares .....	<u>(265,648)</u>	<u>1,227,579</u>
<b>Class C:</b>		
Shares sold .....	769,837	370,623
Issued for distribution reinvested .....	61,094	7,465
Shares redeemed .....	(447,104)	(34,116)
Net increase (decrease) in fund shares .....	<u>383,827</u>	<u>343,972</u>
<b>Class R:*</b>		
Shares sold .....	—	49,923
Issued for distribution reinvested .....	93	711
Shares redeemed .....	(2,932)	(48,885)
Net increase (decrease) in fund shares .....	<u>(2,839)</u>	<u>1,749</u>
<b>Class Y:</b>		
Shares sold .....	1,489,388	3,665,318
Issued for distribution reinvested .....	522,223	198,772
Shares redeemed .....	(1,111,285)	(1,948,335)
Net increase in fund shares .....	<u>900,326</u>	<u>1,915,755</u>

\* Class R Shares liquidated on March 15, 2016.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

(\$)

## Cash Flows Used for Operating Activities:

Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations ..... (6,302,830)

## Adjustments to Reconcile Net Investment Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities Operating Activities:

Purchases of investment securities from unaffiliated issuers ..... (22,670,056)  
 Proceeds from disposition investment securities from unaffiliated issues ..... 20,232,550  
 Proceeds from return of capital distributions ..... 2,912,577  
 Proceeds from sales of short-term portfolio investments, net ..... 526,347  
 Increase in restricted cash ..... (181)  
 Net realized loss on investments ..... 17,488,836  
 Net realized gain on written options contracts ..... (45,063)  
 Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments ..... (13,268,557)  
 Net change in unrealized depreciation on written options contracts ..... 44,223  
 Decrease in receivable for net deferred tax asset ..... 1,829,569  
 Decrease in receivable for dividends and interest ..... 204  
 Increase in investment advisory and administration fees receivable ..... (3,614)  
 Decrease in other assets ..... 13,340  
 Decrease in due to broker ..... (219)  
 Decrease in payables to related parties ..... (34,663)  
 Increase in payable for distribution and shareholder service fees ..... 219  
 Decrease in payable to transfer fees ..... (574)  
 Decrease in payable for interest expense ..... (21,842)  
 Increase in payable for commitment fees ..... 38,373  
 Decrease in accrued expenses and other liabilities ..... (5,888)  
 Net cash flow provided by operating activities ..... 732,751

## Cash Flows Used In Financing Activities:

Decrease in notes payable ..... (770,178)  
 Distributions paid in cash ..... (158,221)  
 Payments on shares redeemed ..... (12,796,235)  
 Proceeds from shares sold ..... 13,234,942  
 Net cash flow used in financing activities ..... (489,692)  
 Net increase in Cash ..... 243,059

## Cash:

Beginning of period ..... 4  
 End of period ..... 243,063

## Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:

Reinvestment of distributions ..... 3,075,106  
 Cash paid during the period for interest ..... 199,114  
 Cash paid during the period for commitment fees ..... 31,983  
 Cash paid during the period for taxes ..... 6,598

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Highland Energy MLP Fund, Class A

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period is as follows:

	For the Year Ended September 30,				For the
	2016	2015	2014	2013	Period Ended September 30, 2012 <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b>	\$ 6.58	\$ 12.17	\$10.32	\$10.98	\$10.00
<b>Income from Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment income/(loss) <sup>(b)</sup>	(0.11)	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.08)	0.01
Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss)	<u>(1.03)</u>	<u>(4.94)</u>	<u>2.52</u>	<u>1.06</u>	<u>1.02</u>
Total from investment operations	(1.14)	(5.06)	2.39	0.98	1.03
<b>Less Distributions Declared to Shareholders:</b>					
From net investment income	—	—	(0.09)	(1.32)	(0.05)
From return of capital	<u>(0.50)</u>	<u>(0.53)</u>	<u>(0.45)</u>	<u>(0.32)</u>	<u>—</u>
Total distributions declared to shareholders	(0.50)	(0.53)	(0.54)	(1.64)	(0.05)
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Year<sup>(c)</sup></b>	\$ 4.94	\$ 6.58	\$12.17	\$10.32	\$10.98
Total Return <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	(15.98)%	(43.12)%	23.83%	10.07%	10.31% <sup>(e)</sup>
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets<sup>(f)</sup>/Supplemental Data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 5,875	\$ 9,575	\$2,758	\$ 38	\$ 11
Gross operating expenses/(benefit) <sup>(g)</sup>	10.23%	(7.83)%	10.60%	26.30%	6.90%
Net investment income/(loss), net of income taxes	(7.18)%	8.76%	(8.65)%	(0.74)%	0.07%
Portfolio turnover rate	49%	33%	40%	177%	254% <sup>(e)</sup>

(a) Commenced operations on December 1, 2011.

(b) Net investment income (loss) per share was calculated using average shares outstanding during the period.

(c) The Net Asset Value per share and total return have been calculated based on net assets which include adjustments made in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles required at period end for financial reporting purposes. These figures do not necessarily reflect the Net Asset Value per share or total return experienced by the shareholder at period end.

(d) Total return is at net asset value assuming all distributions are reinvested and no initial sales charge or CDSC. For periods with waivers/reimbursements, had the Fund's investment adviser not waived or reimbursed a portion of expenses, total return would have been reduced.

(e) Not annualized.

(f) All ratios for the period have been annualized, unless otherwise indicated.

(g) Supplemental expense ratios are shown below:

	For the Year Ended September 30,				For the
	2016	2015	2014	2013	Period Ended September 30, 2012
Gross operating expenses excluding income tax expense/(benefit)	4.01%	2.05%	3.02%	20.12%	6.90%
Net operating expenses (net of waiver/reimbursement and excluding income tax expense/(benefit), if applicable)	2.18%	1.65%	1.45%	1.24%	2.27%
Interest expense and commitment fees	0.79%	0.29%	—	—	—
Dividends and fees on securities sold short	—	—	—	—	0.02%

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Highland Energy MLP Fund, Class C

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period is as follows:

	For the Year Ended September 30,				For the Period Ended September 30, 2012 <sup>(a)</sup>
	2016	2015	2014	2013	
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b>	\$ 6.56	\$ 12.16	\$10.34	\$10.96	\$10.00
<b>Income from Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment loss <sup>(b)</sup>	(0.14)	(0.19)	(0.20)	(0.18)	(0.05)
Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss)	<u>(1.02)</u>	<u>(4.94)</u>	<u>2.52</u>	<u>1.10</u>	<u>1.02</u>
Total from investment operations	(1.16)	(5.13)	2.32	0.92	0.97
<b>Less Distributions Declared to Shareholders:</b>					
From net investment income	—	—	(0.08)	(1.22)	(0.01)
From return of capital	<u>(0.47)</u>	<u>(0.47)</u>	<u>(0.42)</u>	<u>(0.32)</u>	<u>—</u>
Total distributions declared to shareholders	(0.47)	(0.47)	(0.50)	(1.54)	(0.01)
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Year<sup>(c)</sup></b>	\$ 4.93	\$ 6.56	\$12.16	\$10.34	\$10.96
Total Return <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	(16.49)%	(43.55)%	23.02%	9.42%	9.69% <sup>(e)</sup>
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets<sup>(f)</sup>/Supplemental Data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 3,788	\$ 2,523	\$ 491	\$ 20	\$ 11
Gross operating expenses/(benefit) <sup>(g)</sup>	10.98%	(7.08)%	11.27%	26.79%	7.55%
Net investment income/(loss), net of income taxes	(7.93)%	8.02%	(9.24)%	(1.68)%	(0.58)%
Portfolio turnover rate	49%	33%	40%	177%	254% <sup>(e)</sup>

(a) Commenced operations on December 1, 2011.

(b) Net investment income (loss) per share was calculated using average shares outstanding during the period.

(c) The Net Asset Value per share and total return have been calculated based on net assets which include adjustments made in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles required at period end for financial reporting purposes. These figures do not necessarily reflect the Net Asset Value per share or total return experienced by the shareholder at period end.

(d) Total return is at net asset value assuming all distributions are reinvested and no initial sales charge or CDSC. For periods with waivers/reimbursements, had the Fund's investment adviser not waived or reimbursed a portion of expenses, total return would have been reduced.

(e) Not annualized.

(f) All ratios for the period have been annualized, unless otherwise indicated.

(g) Supplemental expense ratios are shown below:

	For the Year Ended September 30,				For the Period Ended September 30,
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Gross operating expenses excluding income tax expense/(benefit)	4.76%	2.80%	3.69%	20.61%	7.55%
Net operating expenses (net of waiver/reimbursement and excluding income tax expense/(benefit), if applicable)	2.93%	2.40%	2.10%	2.17%	2.92%
Interest expense and commitment fees	0.79%	0.29%	—	—	—
Dividends and fees on securities sold short	—	—	—	—	0.02%

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Highland Energy MLP Fund, Class Y

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period is as follows:

	For the Year Ended September 30,				For the Period Ended September 30, 2012 <sup>(a)</sup>
	2016	2015	2014	2013	
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b>	\$ 6.60	\$ 12.21	\$ 10.34	\$10.99	\$10.00
<b>Income from Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment income/(loss) <sup>(b)</sup>	(0.10)	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.07)	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss)	<u>(1.06)</u>	<u>(4.97)</u>	<u>2.52</u>	<u>1.11</u>	<u>1.02</u>
Total from investment operations	(1.16)	(5.06)	2.44	1.04	1.06
<b>Less Distributions Declared to Shareholders:</b>					
From net investment income	—	—	(0.09)	(1.37)	(0.07)
From return of capital	<u>(0.51)</u>	<u>(0.55)</u>	<u>(0.48)</u>	<u>(0.32)</u>	<u>—</u>
Total distributions declared to shareholders	(0.51)	(0.55)	(0.57)	(1.69)	(0.07)
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Year<sup>(c)</sup></b>	\$ 4.93	\$ 6.60	\$ 12.21	\$10.34	\$10.99
Total Return <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	(16.14)%	(43.01)%	24.25%	10.62%	10.63% <sup>(e)</sup>
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets<sup>(f)</sup>/Supplemental Data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$25,870	\$28,707	\$29,741	\$3,392	\$4,193
Gross operating expenses/(benefit) <sup>(g)</sup>	9.98%	(8.08)%	10.26%	17.43%	6.55%
Net investment income/(loss), net of income taxes	(6.93)%	9.01%	(8.68)%	(0.71)%	0.42%
Portfolio turnover rate	49%	33%	40%	177%	254% <sup>(e)</sup>

(a) Commenced operations on December 1, 2011.

(b) Net investment income (loss) per share was calculated using average shares outstanding during the period.

(c) The Net Asset Value per share and total return have been calculated based on net assets which include adjustments made in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles required at period end for financial reporting purposes. These figures do not necessarily reflect the Net Asset Value per share or total return experienced by the shareholder at period end.

(d) Total return is at net asset value assuming all distributions are reinvested and no initial sales charge or CDSC. For periods with waivers/reimbursements, had the Fund's investment adviser not waived or reimbursed a portion of expenses, total return would have been reduced.

(e) Not annualized.

(f) All ratios for the period have been annualized, unless otherwise indicated.

(g) Supplemental expense ratios are shown below:

	For the Year Ended September 30,				For the Period Ended September 30,
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Gross operating expenses excluding income tax expense/(benefit)	3.76%	1.80%	2.68%	11.25%	6.55%
Net operating expenses (net of waiver/reimbursement and excluding income tax expense/(benefit), if applicable)	1.93%	1.40%	1.10%	1.20%	1.92%
Interest expense and commitment fees	0.79%	0.29%	—	—	—
Dividends and fees on securities sold short	—	—	—	—	0.02%



## Note 1. Organization

Highland Funds II (the "Trust") is a Massachusetts business trust organized on August 10, 1992. The Trust is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), as an open-end management investment company. It comprises seven portfolios that are currently being offered including the Highland Energy MLP Fund ("the Fund"). The other portfolios are reported separately from the Fund.

### Fund Shares

The Fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest with a par value of \$0.001 per share (each a "Share" and collectively, the "Shares"). The Fund currently offers the following three share classes to investors, Class A, Class C and Class Y Shares. The Fund previously offered Class R shares to investors, but this share class was liquidated March 15, 2016.

Class A Shares are sold with a front-end sales charge. Maximum sales load imposed on purchases of Class A Shares (as a percentage of offering price) is 5.75%.

There is no front-end sales charge imposed on individual purchases of Class A Shares of \$1 million or more. The front-end sales charge is also waived in other instances as described in the Fund's prospectus. Purchases of \$1 million or more of Class A Shares at net asset value ("NAV") pursuant to a sales charge waiver are subject to a 0.50% contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC") if redeemed within one year of purchase.

Class C Shares may be subject to a CDSC. The maximum CDSC imposed on redemptions of Class C Shares is 1.00% within the first year of purchase and 0.00% thereafter.

No front-end or CDSCs are assessed by the Trust with respect to Class Y Shares of the Fund.

## Note 2. Significant Accounting Policies

The following summarizes the significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements.

### Use of Estimates

The Fund is an investment company that applies the accounting and reporting guidance of Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946 applicable to investment companies. The Fund's financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), which require Highland Capital Management Fund Advisors, L.P. (the "Investment Adviser") to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and

liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Changes in the economic environment, financial markets and any other parameters used in determining these estimates could cause actual results to differ materially.

### Determination of Class Net Asset Values

The Fund's income, expenses (other than distribution fees and shareholder service fees) and realized and unrealized gains and losses are allocated proportionally each day among the Fund's respective share classes based upon the relative net assets of each share class. Expenses of the Trust, other than those incurred by a specific Fund, are allocated pro rata among the Funds and their share classes. Certain class specific expenses (such as distribution and shareholder service fees) are allocated to the class that incurs such expense.

### Valuation of Investments

In computing the Fund's net assets attributable to shares, securities with readily available market quotations on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation (NASDAQ) or other nationally recognized exchange, use the closing quotations on the respective exchange for valuation of those securities. Securities for which there are no readily available market quotations will be valued pursuant to policies adopted by the Fund's Board of Trustees (the "Board"). Typically, such securities will be valued at the mean between the most recently quoted bid and ask prices provided by the principal market makers. If there is more than one such principal market maker, the value shall be the average of such means. Securities without a sale price or quotations from principal market makers on the valuation day may be priced by an independent pricing service. Generally, the Fund's loan and bond positions are not traded on exchanges and consequently are valued based on a mean of the bid and ask price from the third-party pricing services or broker-dealer sources that the Investment Adviser has determined to have the capability to provide appropriate pricing services and have been approved by the Board.

Securities for which market quotations are not readily available, or for which the Fund has determined that the price received from a pricing service or broker-dealer is "stale" or otherwise does not represent fair value (such as when events materially affecting the value of securities occur between the time when market price is determined and calculation of the Fund's NAV), will be valued by the Fund at fair value, as determined by the Board or its designee in good faith in accordance with procedures

approved by the Board, taking into account factors reasonably determined to be relevant, including, among other things: (i) the fundamental analytical data relating to the investment; (ii) the nature and duration of restrictions on disposition of the securities; and (iii) an evaluation of the forces that influence the market in which these securities are purchased and sold. In these cases, the Fund's NAV will reflect the affected portfolio securities' fair value as determined in the judgment of the Board or its designee instead of being determined by the market. Using a fair value pricing methodology to value securities may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent sale price and from the prices used by other investment companies to calculate their NAVs. Determination of fair value is uncertain because it involves subjective judgments and estimates.

There can be no assurance that the Fund's valuation of a security will not differ from the amount that it realizes upon the sale of such security. Those differences could have a material impact to the Fund. The NAV shown in the Fund's financial statements may vary from the NAV published by the Fund as of its period end because portfolio securities transactions are accounted for on the trade date (rather than the day following the trade date) for financial statement purposes.

## Fair Value Measurements

The Fund has performed an analysis of all existing investments and derivative instruments to determine the significance and character of inputs to their fair value determination. The levels of fair value inputs used to measure the Fund's investments are characterized into a fair value hierarchy. Where inputs for an asset or liability fall into more than one level in the fair value hierarchy, the investment is classified in its entirety based on the lowest level input that is significant to that investment's valuation. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

*Level 1* — Quoted unadjusted prices for identical instruments in active markets to which the Fund has access at the date of measurement;

*Level 2* — Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, but are valued based on executed trades; broker quotations that constitute an executable price; and alternative pricing sources supported by observable inputs are classified within Level 2. Level 2 inputs are either directly or indirectly observable for the asset in connection with market data at the measurement date; and

*Level 3* — Model derived valuations in which one or more significant inputs or significant value drivers are unobservable. In certain cases, investments classified within Level 3 may include securities for which the Fund has obtained indicative quotes from broker-dealers that do not necessarily represent prices the broker may be willing to trade on, as such quotes can be subject to material management judgment. Unobservable inputs are those inputs that reflect the Fund's own assumptions that market participants would use to price the asset or liability based on the best available information.

The Investment Adviser has established policies and procedures, as described above and approved by the Board, to ensure that valuation methodologies for investments and financial instruments that are categorized within all levels of the fair value hierarchy are fair and consistent. A Pricing Committee has been established to provide oversight of the valuation policies, processes and procedures, and is comprised of personnel from the Investment Adviser and its affiliates. The Pricing Committee meets monthly to review the proposed valuations for investments and financial instruments and is responsible for evaluating the overall fairness and consistent application of established policies.

As of September 30, 2016, the Fund's investments consisted of common stocks, master limited partnerships and warrants. If applicable, the fair values of the Fund's common stocks, master limited partnerships and warrants that are not actively traded on national exchanges are generally priced using quotes derived from implied values, indicative bids, or a limited amount of actual trades and are classified as Level 3 assets because the inputs used by the brokers and pricing services to derive the values are not readily observable. Exchange-traded options are valued based on the last trade price on the primary exchange on which they trade. If an option does not trade, the mid-price, which is the mean of the bid and ask price, is utilized to value the option.

At the end of each calendar quarter, management evaluates the Level 2 and 3 assets and liabilities for changes in liquidity, including but not limited to: whether a broker is willing to execute at the quoted price, the depth and consistency of prices from third party services, and the existence of contemporaneous, observable trades in the market. Additionally, management evaluates the Level 1 and 2 assets and liabilities on a quarterly basis for changes in listings or delistings on national exchanges.

Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

value, the fair value of the Fund's investments may fluctuate from period to period. Additionally, the fair value of investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market existed for such

investments and may differ materially from the values the Fund may ultimately realize. Further, such investments may be subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or otherwise less liquid than publicly traded securities.

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. Transfers in and out of the levels are recognized at the value at the end of the period. A summary of the inputs used to value the Fund's assets as of September 30, 2016 is as follows:

	Total value at September 30, 2016	Level 1 Quoted Price	Level 2 Significant Observable Inputs	Level 3 Significant Unobservable Inputs
<b>Energy MLP Fund</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Common Stocks <sup>(1)</sup>	\$16,636,875	\$16,636,875	\$ —	\$ —
Master Limited Partnerships <sup>(1)</sup>	31,383,199	31,383,199	—	—
Warrants <sup>(1)</sup>	24,466	24,466	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48,044,540</b>	<b>\$48,044,540</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> See Investment Portfolio detail for industry breakout.

## Security Transactions

Security transactions are accounted for on the trade date. Realized gains/(losses) on investments sold are recorded on the basis of identified cost for both financial statement and U.S. federal income tax purposes taking into account any foreign taxes withheld.

## Income Recognition

Corporate actions (including cash dividends) are recorded on the ex-dividend date, net of applicable withholding taxes, except for certain foreign corporate actions, which are recorded as soon after the ex-dividend date as such information becomes available. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis.

## Partnership Accounting Policy

The Fund records its pro rata share of the income (loss) and capital gains (losses) allocated from the underlying partnerships, determines the amount of distributions received from underlying partnerships and accordingly adjusts the cost basis of the underlying partnerships for return of capital. These amounts are included in the Fund's Statement of Operations as "Dividends and distributions" and "Return of capital."

## U.S. Federal Income Tax Status

The Fund will be taxable as a regular corporation, or a "C" corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and thus will pay entity-level taxes as described below. Prior to the Fund's taxable year ending September 30, 2013, the Fund elected to be treated and qualified annually as a regulated

investment company ("RIC") accorded special tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

## Income Taxes

Since implementing the Fund's revised strategy to concentrate in MLP investments, the Fund is no longer eligible for treatment as a regulated investment company under the Code. Accordingly, the Fund is treated as a regular corporation, or "C" corporation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, the Fund is subject to U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income at the graduated rates applicable to corporations (currently at a maximum rate of 35%) as well as state and local income taxes. The Fund's MLP investments operate in various state and local jurisdictions.

The Fund invests its assets primarily in MLPs, which generally are treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. As a limited partner in the MLPs, the Fund includes its allocable share of the MLP's taxable income in computing its own taxable income. Deferred income taxes reflect (i) taxes on unrealized gains (losses), which are attributable to the temporary difference between fair market value and tax basis, (ii) the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes and (iii) the net tax benefit of accumulated net operating and capital losses.

In calculating the Fund's daily NAV, the Fund will account for its deferred tax liability and/or asset balances. The Fund will accrue, in accordance with GAAP, a deferred income

tax liability balance, at the currently effective statutory U.S. federal income tax rate plus an estimated state and local income tax rate, for its future tax liability associated with the capital appreciation of its investments and the distributions received by the Fund on equity securities of MLPs considered to be return of capital and for any net operating gains. Any deferred tax liability balance will reduce the Fund's NAV. Upon the Fund's sale of a portfolio security, the Fund may be liable for previously deferred taxes. If the Fund is required to sell portfolio securities to meet redemption requests, the Fund may recognize income and gains for U.S. federal, state and local income tax purposes, which will result in corporate income taxes imposed on the Fund.

The Fund also will accrue, in accordance with GAAP, a deferred tax asset balance, which reflects an estimate of the Fund's future tax benefit associated with net operating losses, capital loss carryforwards and unrealized losses. To the extent the Fund has a net deferred tax asset balance, the Fund may record a valuation allowance, which would offset the value of some or all of the Fund's deferred tax asset balance. The Fund intends to assess whether a valuation allowance is required to offset some or all of any deferred tax asset balance in connection with the calculation of the Fund's daily NAV; however, to the extent the final valuation allowance differs from the estimates of the Fund used in calculating the Fund's daily NAV, the application of such final valuation allowance could have a material impact on the Fund's NAV. In the assessment for a valuation allowance, consideration is given to all positive and negative evidence related to the realization of the deferred tax asset. This assessment considers, among other matters, the nature, frequency and severity of current and cumulative losses, forecasts of future profitability (which are highly dependent on future cash distributions from the Fund's MLP holdings), the duration of statutory carryforward periods and the associated risk that operating and capital loss carryforwards may expire unused. From time to time, the Fund may modify its estimates or assumptions regarding its deferred tax liability and/or asset balance as new information becomes available. Such modifications, changes in generally accepted accounting principles or related guidance or interpretations thereof, limitations imposed on net operating and capital losses (if any) and changes in applicable tax law could result in increases or decreases in the Fund's NAV per share, which could be material. As of September 30, 2016, valuation allowance amounted to \$9,840,201.

For all open tax years and for all major jurisdictions, management of the Fund has concluded that there are no significant uncertain tax positions that would require recognition in the financial statements. Furthermore,

management of the Fund is also not aware of any tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that the total amounts of unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change in the next twelve months.

The Fund may rely to some extent on information provided by the MLPs, which may not necessarily be timely, to estimate taxable income allocable to the MLP units held in the portfolio and to estimate the associated deferred tax assets or liabilities. Such estimates are made in good faith. From time to time, as new information becomes available, the Fund modifies its estimates or assumptions regarding the deferred tax assets or liabilities.

The Fund's policy is to classify interest and penalties associated with underpayment of federal and state income taxes, if any, as income tax expense on its Statement of Operations. The Fund's federal and state tax returns for the years for which the applicable statutes of limitations have not expired are subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and state departments of revenue.

### Return of Capital Estimates

Distributions received from the Fund's investments in MLPs generally are comprised of income and return of capital. The Fund records investment income and return of capital based on estimates made at the time such distributions are received. Such estimates are based on historical information available from each MLP and other industry sources. These estimates may subsequently be revised based on information received from MLPs after their tax reporting periods are concluded. For the period ended September 30, 2016 the Fund estimated that approximately 90% of the MLP distributions received would be treated as a return of capital. The Fund recorded as return of capital the amount of \$2,912,577 of dividends and distributions received from its investments.

### Distributions to Shareholders

The Fund intends to make quarterly cash distributions of all or substantially all cash distributions the Fund receives from MLP investments, after allowance for any fund-level taxes to its shareholders. Due to the tax treatment of the Fund's allocations and distributions from MLPs, the Investment Adviser expects that a significant portion of the Fund's distributions to shareholders will typically be treated as a return of capital in the hands of shareholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes (i.e., as distributions in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits as described below). However, no assurance can be given in this regard; just as the Fund's corporate income tax liability can fluctuate materially from year to year, the extent to which the Fund is able to make return-of-capital distributions also can vary materially from year

to year depending on a number of different factors, including the composition of the Fund's portfolio (i.e., as between MLP equity securities and other investments, the level of allocations of net income and other tax items to the Fund from its underlying MLP investments during a particular taxable year, the length of time the Fund has owned the MLP equity securities in its portfolio, and the extent to which the Fund disposes of MLP equity securities during a particular year, including, if necessary, to meet Fund shareholder redemption requests.

In general, a distribution will constitute a return of capital to a shareholder, rather than a dividend, to the extent such distribution exceeds the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits. The portion of any distribution treated as a return of capital will constitute a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the shareholder's basis in the Fund shares and thereafter generally will be taxable to the shareholder as capital gain. Any such distribution, in turn, will result in a reduction in a shareholder's basis in the Fund's shares (but not below zero) to the extent of the return of capital and in the shareholder's recognizing more gain or less loss (that is, will result in an increase of a shareholder's tax liability) when the shareholder later sells shares of the Fund. To permit the Fund to maintain a more stable distribution rate, the Fund may distribute less or more than the entire amount of cash it receives from its investments in a particular period. Any undistributed cash would be available to supplement future distributions, and until distributed would add to the Fund's NAV. Correspondingly, such amounts, once distributed, reduce the Fund's NAV. In addition, in the discretion of the Fund, the Fund may determine not to make distributions at one or more times during the year, including by reason of potential adverse tax consequences to shareholders.

### Cash & Cash Equivalents

The Fund considers liquid assets deposited with a bank and certain short-term debt instruments of sufficient credit quality with original maturities of 3 months or less to be cash equivalents. These investments represent amounts held with financial institutions that are readily accessible to pay Fund expenses or purchase investments. Cash and cash equivalents are valued at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates market value. The value of cash equivalents denominated in foreign currencies is determined by converting to U.S. dollars on the date of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

### Master Limited Partnerships

Master Limited Partnerships, commonly referred to as "MLPs," are generally organized under state law as limited partnerships or limited liability companies. The Fund

intends to primarily invest in MLPs treated as partnerships under the Code, and whose interests or "units" are traded on securities exchanges like shares of corporate stock. To be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, an MLP whose units are traded on a securities exchange must receive at least 90% of its income from qualifying sources such as interest, dividends, real estate rents, gain from the sale or disposition of real property, income and gain from mineral or natural resources activities, income and gain from the transportation or storage of certain fuels, and, in certain circumstances, income and gain from commodities or futures, forwards and options with respect to commodities. Mineral or natural resources activities include exploration, development, production, processing, mining, refining, marketing and transportation (including pipelines), of oil and gas, minerals, geothermal energy, fertilizer, timber or industrial source carbon dioxide. An MLP consists of a general partner and limited partners (or in the case of MLPs organized as limited liability companies, a managing member and members). The general partner or managing member typically controls the operations and management of the MLP and has an ownership stake in the partnership. The limited partners or members, through their ownership of limited partner or member interests, provide capital to the entity, are intended to have no role in the operation and management of the entity and receive cash distributions. The MLPs themselves generally do not pay U.S. federal income taxes. Thus, unlike investors in corporate securities, direct MLP investors are generally not subject to double taxation (i.e., corporate level tax and tax on corporate dividends). Currently, most MLPs operate in the energy and/or natural resources sector.

### Other Fee Income

Fee income may consist of origination/closing fees, amendment fees, administrative agent fees, transaction break-up fees and other miscellaneous fees. Origination fees, amendment fees, and other similar fees are non-recurring fee sources. Such fees are received on a transaction by transaction basis and do not constitute a regular stream of income and are recognized when incurred.

### Note 3. Derivative Transactions

The Fund is subject to equity securities risk, interest rate risk and currency risk in the normal course of pursuing its investment objectives. The Fund enters into derivative transactions for the purpose of hedging against the effects of changes in the value of portfolio securities due to anticipated changes in market conditions, to gain market exposure for residual and accumulating cash positions and for managing the duration of fixed income investments.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

## Options

The Fund may utilize options on securities or indices to varying degrees as part of its principal investment strategy. An option on a security is a contract that gives the holder of the option, in return for a premium, the right to buy from (in the case of a call) or sell to (in the case of a put) the writer of the option the security underlying the option at a specified exercise or "strike" price. The writer of an option on a security has the obligation upon exercise of the option to deliver the underlying security upon payment of the exercise price or to pay the exercise price upon delivery of the underlying security. The Fund may hold options, write option contracts, or both.

If an option written by the Fund expires unexercised, the Fund realizes on the expiration date a capital gain equal to the premium received by the Fund at the time the option was written. If an option purchased by the Fund expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a capital loss equal to the premium paid. Prior to the earlier of exercise or expiration, an exchange-traded option may be closed out by an off-setting purchase or sale of an option of the same series (type, underlying security, exercise price and expiration). There can be no assurance, however, that a closing purchase or sale transaction can be effected when the Fund desires. The Fund will realize a capital gain from a closing purchase transaction if the cost of the closing option is less than the premium received from writing the option, or a capital loss if the cost of the closing option is more than the premium received from writing the option. A Fund will realize a capital gain from a closing sale transaction if the premium received from the sale is more than the original premium paid when the option position was opened or a capital loss if the premium received from a sale is less than the original premium paid.

Cash held as collateral is classified as restricted cash on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Restricted cash in the amount of \$181 was held with the broker.

Transactions in written options for the year ended September 30, 2016 were as follows:

	Number of Contracts	Notional Value	Premium
Outstanding, September 30, 2015	210	\$ 1,365,000	\$ 45,063
Call Options Expired	(210)	(1,365,000)	(45,063)
Outstanding, September 30, 2016	—	\$ —	\$ —

## Additional Derivative Information

The Fund adopted amendments to authoritative guidance on disclosures about derivative instruments and hedging activities which require that the Fund disclose: a) how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, b) how

derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for, c) how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows and d) how the netting of derivatives subject to master netting arrangements (if applicable) affects the net exposure of the Fund related to the derivatives.

The effect of derivative instruments on the Statement of Operations for the year ended September 30, 2016, is as follows:

Risk Exposure	Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Derivatives	Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation/(Depreciation) on Derivatives
Equity Price Risk	\$45,063 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$(44,223) <sup>(2)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Statement of Operations location: Realized gain (loss) on written options contracts.

<sup>(2)</sup> Statement of Operations location: Net change in unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) on written options contracts.

For the year ended September 30, 2016, the Fund did not have any transactions in derivatives.

## Note 4. Securities Lending

The Fund may make secured loans of its portfolio securities amounting to not more than 30% of the value of its total assets, thereby realizing additional income. The risks in lending portfolio securities, as with other extensions of credit, consist of possible delays in recovery of the securities or possible loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower fail financially and possible investment losses in the investment of collateral. Pursuant to the Fund's securities lending policy, securities loans are made to borrowers pursuant to agreements requiring that loans be continuously secured by collateral in cash (U.S. and foreign currency), securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, sovereign debt, convertible bonds, irrevocable bank letters of credit or such other collateral as may be agreed on by the parties to a securities lending arrangement, initially with a value of 102% or 105% of the market value of the loaned securities and thereafter maintained at a value of 100% of the market value of the loaned securities. Collateral must be valued daily by the Custodian and the borrower will be required to provide additional collateral should the market value of the loaned securities increase. If the collateral consists of non-cash collateral, the borrower will pay the Fund a loan premium fee. If the collateral consists of cash, State Street will reinvest the cash. Although voting rights, or rights to consent, with respect to the loaned securities pass to the borrower, the Fund will recall the loaned securities upon reasonable notice in order that the securities

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

may be voted by the Fund if the holders of such securities are asked to vote upon or consent to matters materially affecting the investment. The Fund also may call such loans in order to sell the securities involved.

Securities lending transactions are entered into pursuant to Securities Lending Agreements ("SLA"), which provides the right, in the event of default (including bankruptcy or insolvency) for the non-defaulting party to liquidate the collateral and calculate a net exposure to the defaulting party or request additional collateral. In the event that a borrower defaults, the Fund, as lender, would offset the market value of the collateral received against the market value of the securities loaned. The value of the collateral is typically greater than that of the market value of the securities loaned, leaving the lender with a net amount payable to the defaulting party. However, bankruptcy or insolvency laws of a particular jurisdiction may impose restrictions on or prohibitions against such a right of offset in the event of a SLA counterparty's bankruptcy or insolvency. Under the SLA, the Fund can reinvest cash collateral, or, upon an event of default, resell or repledge the collateral, and the borrower can resell or repledge the loaned securities. The risks of securities lending also include the risk that the borrower may not provide additional collateral when required or may not return the securities when due. To mitigate this risk, the Fund benefits from a borrower default indemnity provided by State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street"). State Street's indemnity generally provides for replacement of securities lent or the approximate value thereof. During the year ended September 30, 2016, the Fund did not participate in securities lending.

## Note 5. U.S. Federal Income Tax Information

The character of income and gains to be distributed is determined in accordance with U.S. federal income tax regulations which may differ from U.S. GAAP. These differences include (but are not limited to) differences with respect to the treatment of investments organized as partnerships for tax purposes, foreign taxes, investments in futures, losses deferred to off-setting positions, tax treatment of organizational start-up costs, losses deferred due to wash sale transactions, dividends deemed paid upon shareholder redemption of Fund shares and tax attributes from Fund reorganizations. The calculation of net investment income per share in the Financial Highlights table excludes these adjustments.

The Fund's income tax provision consists of the following:

	Current	Deferred	Total
Federal Tax Expense/(Benefit)	\$—	\$1,726,503	\$1,726,503
State Tax Expense/(Benefit)	—	103,066	103,066
State Tax Expense/(Benefit)	\$—	\$1,829,569	\$1,829,569

Deferred income taxes reflect (i) taxes on unrealized gains/(losses), which are attributable to the difference between fair market value and tax basis; (ii) the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liability for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes; and (iii) the net tax benefit of net operating losses.

Total income taxes were different from the amount computed by applying the federal statutory income tax rate of 34% to the net investment loss and realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments before taxes for the year ended September 30, 2016 as follows:

	2016
Tax at U.S. federal statutory income tax rate	34.00%
State income taxes, net of federal benefit	2.03
Dividends received deduction	5.10
Return to provision	1.87
Change in valuation allowance	(84.30)
Other	0.40
Effective Income Tax Rate	(40.90)%

For the year ended September 30, 2016, the Fund's effective tax rate of (40.90)% was less than the combined federal and state tax rate of 36.03% due in large part to the change in valuation allowance.

As of September 30, 2016, significant components of the Fund's net deferred tax assets were as follows:

	Total
<b>Deferred Tax Assets:</b>	
Net unrealized losses (gains) on investments	\$ 4,635,327 <sup>(1)</sup>
Net operating loss carryforward	1,200,429
Capital loss carryforward	6,715,838
Total deferred tax assets	12,551,594
Valuation allowance	(9,840,201)
Total DTA, net of valuation allowance	\$ 2,711,393
Deferred Tax Liability: Unrealized Ordinary Income	(653,200)
Total DTA, net of Deferred Tax Liability	\$ 2,058,193

<sup>(1)</sup> \$3,395,496 pertains to unrealized losses (gains) on corporate investments.

As of September 30, 2016, the Fund has tax attributes that carry forward for varying periods. The Fund's federal net

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

operating loss carryforward of \$3,331,778 predominantly originated during 2014 — 2016. The net operating loss carryforward generally can be carried back two years or forward twenty years to reduce the Fund's net income realized during those other years. The Fund's capital loss carryforwards of \$18,639,742 originated in 2014 — 2016. The net capital loss generally can be carried back three years and forward five years to offset any capital gains realized during those other years. The Fund has recorded a partial valuation allowance in connection with federal and state net operating loss carryforwards (as discussed below) and a full valuation in connection with the capital loss carryforwards. The Fund Management believes it is more likely than not that the tax benefits will not be recognized for the valuation allowance established. In the event a capital loss carryover or net operating loss carryover cannot be utilized in the carryover periods, the Fund's U.S. federal income tax liability may be higher than expected, which will result in less cash available to distribute to shareholders.

The Fund periodically reviews the recoverability of its deferred tax assets based on the weight of available evidence and the criteria for whether it is more likely than not that the asset would be utilized under ASC 740. In analyzing the potential need for a valuation allowance, the Fund considered the fact that it has incurred a cumulative loss over the three-year period ended September 30, 2016. A significant portion of the Fund's net pre-tax losses related to unrealized depreciation of investments arose during the 2015 fiscal year as a result of the decline in the overall financial, commodity and MLP markets.

The balance of the deferred tax asset, net of valuation allowance, is made up of two components. The first is the tax effected unrealized losses on the Fund's investments in C-corporations. When assessing the recoverability of its deferred tax asset, significant weight was given to the Fund's forecast of future taxable income, which is based principally on the expected continuation of MLP cash distributions at or near current levels. Due to the tax treatment of the Fund's partnership investments, Management has been able to forecast future taxable income of the appropriate character from those investments. This expected taxable income is more likely than not sufficient to realize the benefit of a portion of the unrealized losses of the investments in C-corporations. Recovery of this portion of the deferred tax asset is dependent on continued payment of the MLP cash distributions at or near current levels in the future and the resultant generation of taxable income. The second component represents net operating losses which are offset by the unrealized ordinary income under Section 751 of the Code that is measurable for the Fund's open partnership investments. This amount is reflected as a deferred tax liability in the above table.

The Fund will review its financial forecasts in relation to actual results and expected trends on an ongoing basis. Unexpected significant decreases in MLP cash distributions or significant further declines in the fair value of its portfolio of investments may change the Fund's assessment regarding the recoverability of the balance of the deferred tax asset and would likely result in additional valuation allowance. If additional valuation allowance is required to reduce the balance of the deferred tax asset in the future, it could have a material impact on the Fund's net asset value and results of operations in the period it is recorded.

The tax character of distributions paid during the years ended September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2015 was as follows:

Year	Return of Capital	Earnings & Profit
2016	\$3,233,327	\$—
2015	2,600,961	—

Unrealized appreciation and depreciation as of September 30, 2016, based on cost of investments for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

Gross Appreciation	Gross Depreciation	Net Appreciation/ (Depreciation) Before Tax	Net Appreciation/ (Depreciation) After Tax	Cost
\$1,547,161	\$(14,412,464)	\$(12,865,303)	\$(8,229,976)	\$60,909,054

## Note 6. Credit Agreement

Effective May 24, 2013, the Fund entered into an unsecured credit agreement with State Street Bank and Trust Company (the "Unsecured Credit Agreement") to be used for temporary purposes to facilitate portfolio liquidity. On March 2, 2016 the Fund terminated the Unsecured Credit Agreement and entered into a Master Margin Loan Agreement (the "Agreement") with The Bank of New York Mellon that expires in March 2017. Interest is charged to the Fund based on its borrowings at a rate equal to LIBOR plus 1.10%. In addition, the Fund pays a commitment fee of 0.40% on the undrawn amount. Included in the Statement of Operations is \$199,114 of interest expense related to the Unsecured Credit Agreement and the Agreement and \$31,983 of commitment fees. As of September 30, 2016, the Fund had an outstanding balance of \$14,729,822 under the Agreement. The fair value of the outstanding debt under the Agreement was estimated to be \$14,800,783, and would be categorized as Level 3 within the fair value hierarchy. The fair value was estimated based on discounting the cash flows owed using a discount rate of 0.50% over the 3 month risk free rate. For the period ended September 30, 2016, the Fund's average



September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

daily note balance was \$12,796,860, at a weighted average interest rate of 1.53% for the days outstanding.

## Note 7. Transactions with Affiliates & Expenses Incurred by the Fund

### Investment Advisory and Administration Fees

For its investment advisory and administrative services, the Fund pays the Investment Adviser a monthly fee, computed and accrued daily, based on an annual rate of the Fund's Average Daily Managed Assets. Average Daily Managed Assets of the Fund means the average daily value of the total assets of the Fund less all accrued liabilities of the Fund (other than the aggregate amount of any outstanding borrowings constituting financial leverage). The Fund's contractual advisory fee with the Investment Adviser for the period ended September 30, 2016 was 1.00%.

### Expense Limits and Fee Reimbursements

The Investment Adviser has contractually agreed to limit the total annual operating expenses of the Fund (exclusive of fees paid by the Fund pursuant to its distribution plan under Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, taxes, such as deferred tax expenses, dividend expenses on short sales, interest payments, brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, acquired fund fees and expenses, and extraordinary expenses) of the Fund to 1.10% of average daily net assets attributable to any class of the Fund (the "Expense Cap"). The Expense Cap will continue through at least January 31, 2017, and may not be terminated prior to this date without the action or consent of the Board.

Under the Expense Cap, the Investment Adviser may recoup waived and/or reimbursed amounts with respect to a Fund within thirty-six months of the date such amounts were waived or reimbursed, provided the Fund's total annual operating expenses, including such recoupment, do not exceed the Expense Cap in effect at the time of such waiver/reimbursement. On September 30, 2016, the amount subject to possible future recoupment under the Fund's expense limitation agreement is \$156,187 expiring in 2017, \$101,941 expiring in 2018, and \$458,560 expiring in 2019.

The Investment Adviser provides administrative services for a monthly administration fee, computed and accrued daily, at an annual rate of 0.20% of the Fund's Average Daily Managed Assets. During the year ended September 30, 2016, the Investment Adviser waived \$78,737 in administrative fees for the Fund. This administration fee waiver is voluntary and is subject to termination at any time by the Investment Adviser without notice.

### Fees Paid to Officers and Trustees

Each Trustee who is not an "interested person" of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act (the "Independent Trustees") receives an annual retainer of \$150,000 payable in quarterly installments and allocated among each portfolio in the Highland Fund Complex overseen by such Trustee based on relative net assets. The "Highland Fund Complex" consists of all of the registered investment companies advised by the Investment Adviser or its affiliated advisers. Although the Fund believes that Mr. Powell is technically no longer an "interested person" of the Fund, in light of his previous employment and his ongoing provision of consulting services to the Investment Adviser and affiliates of the Investment Adviser, it is possible that the SEC might in the future determine Mr. Powell to be an "interested person" of the Fund. Therefore, the Fund intends to treat Mr. Powell as an "interested person" of the Fund for all purposes other than compensation (Mr. Powell will be compensated at the same rate as the Independent Trustees) from December 16, 2015 until December 4, 2017 (the second anniversary of his resignation).

The Fund pays no compensation to its officers, all of whom are employees of the Investment Adviser or one of its affiliates.

### Distribution and Shareholder Service Fees

The Fund has a distribution and shareholder service plan (the "Plan") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. The Plan requires the payment of a monthly service fee to Highland Capital Funds Distributor, Inc. (the "Underwriter") at an annual rate of 0.25% of the average daily net assets attributable to Class A and Class C shares of the Fund. In addition, the Plan also requires the payment of a monthly distribution fee to the Underwriter at an annual rate of 0.10% of the average daily net assets attributable to Class A shares. The Fund is not currently authorized by the Board to charge such fees but may at any time without shareholder approval. The Plan also requires the payment of a monthly distribution fee to the Underwriter at an annual rate of 0.75% of the average daily net assets attributable to Class C shares. Currently Class Y shares are not subject to a 12b-1 fee.

The Underwriter received \$3,219 of front end sales charges from the sale of Class A shares and \$1,997 in contingent deferred sales charges from the redemption of Class C shares of the Fund during the year ended September 30, 2016.

## Note 8. Disclosure of Significant Risks and Contingencies

The primary risks of investing in the Fund are described below in alphabetical order:

### Counterparty Risk

Counterparty risk is the potential loss the Fund may incur as a result of the failure of a counterparty or an issuer to make payments according to the terms of a contract. Counterparty risk is measured as the loss the Fund would record if its counterparties failed to perform pursuant to the terms of their obligations to the Fund. Because the Fund may enter into over-the-counter forwards, options, swaps and other derivative financial instruments, the Fund may be exposed to the credit risk of its counterparties. To limit the counterparty risk associated with such transactions, the Fund conducts business only with financial institutions judged by the Investment Adviser to present acceptable credit risk.

### Industry Concentration Risk

The Fund may be particularly susceptible to economic, political or regulatory events affecting those industries in which the Fund focuses its investments. Because the Fund normally invests at least 80% of the value of its assets in MLP investments, the Fund's performance largely depends on the overall condition of these industries and the Fund is susceptible to economic, political and regulatory risks or other occurrences associated with these industries.

### Leverage Risk

The Fund may use leverage for investment purposes to create opportunities for greater total returns. Any investment income or gains earned with respect to the amounts borrowed that are in excess of the interest that is due on the borrowing will augment the Fund's income. Conversely, if the investment performance with respect to the amounts borrowed fails to cover the interest on such borrowings, the value of the Fund's shares may decrease more quickly than would otherwise be the case. Interest payments and fees incurred in connection with such borrowings will reduce the amount of net income available for payment to Fund shareholders.

### MLP Risk

The Fund intends to invest substantially in MLP units. Holders of MLP units have limited control and voting rights on matters affecting the partnership. Holders of units issued by a MLP are exposed to a remote possibility of liability for all of the obligations of that MLP in the event that a court determines that the rights of the holders of MLP units to vote to remove or replace the general partner of that MLP, to approve amendments to that MLP's partnership

agreement, or to take other action under the partnership agreement of that MLP would constitute "control" of the business of that MLP, or a court or governmental agency determines that the MLP is conducting business in a state without complying with the partnership statute of that state. Holders of MLP units are also exposed to the risk that they will be required to repay amounts to the MLP that are wrongfully distributed to them. Investments in MLP units also present special tax risks.

## Note 9. Investment Transactions

### Purchase and Sales of Securities

The cost of purchases and the proceeds from sales of investments, other than short-term securities and short-term options, for the year ended September 30, 2016, were as follows:

Other Securities	
Purchases	Sales
\$22,670,057	\$19,812,114

## Note 10. Significant Shareholders

The number of shareholders each owning 5% or more of the Fund is listed below. The total percentage of the Fund held by such shareholders as well as percentage of the Fund held by certain directly and indirectly wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Investment Adviser and their affiliates ("Highland Affiliates") at September 30, 2016 were:

Number	% of Fund Held
4	74.60%

Investment activities of these shareholders, including redemptions, could have a material impact on the Fund and remaining shareholders.

## Note 11. New Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2015-02, Consolidation (Topic 810): Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis. This update focuses on the consolidation evaluation for reporting organizations that are required to evaluate whether they should consolidate certain legal entities. For public entities this update will be effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015. ASU 2015-02 will modify the evaluation of limited partnerships and similar legal entities as variable interest entities (VIEs). This update will eliminate the presumption that a general partner should consolidate a limited partnership and affects the consolidation analysis of reporting entities that are involved with VIEs. The update also provides a scope exception from consolidation guidance for reporting entities with interests in legal entities that are

required to comply with or operate in accordance with requirements similar to Rule 2a-7 of the investment Company Act of 1940 for registered money market funds. The Investment Adviser is currently evaluating the impact of provisions of this guidance on the Fund's financial position.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03, Interest — Imputation of interest (Subtopic 835-30) Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs, which requires that debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of that debt liability, consistent with debt discounts. In August 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-15, Interest — Imputation of Interest to update the guidance to include SEC staff views regarding the presentation and subsequent measurement of debt issuance costs related to line-of-credit arrangements. Given the absence of authoritative guidance within ASU 2015-03 for debt issuance costs related to line-of-credit arrangements, the SEC has indicated that it would not object to an entity deferring and presenting debt issuance costs as an asset and subsequently amortizing the deferred debt issuance costs ratably over the term of the line-of-credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any outstanding borrowings on the line-of-credit arrangement. For public entities, these updates are effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015. The Investment Adviser is currently evaluating the impact of this guidance on the Fund's financial statements.

In May 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-07, Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or its Equivalent). The guidance removes the requirement to categorize within the fair value hierarchy all investments for which fair value is measured using the NAV per share practical expedient. Sufficient information must be provided to permit reconciliation of the fair value of assets categorized within the fair value hierarchy to the amounts presented in the Statements of Assets and Liabilities. For public entities this guidance is required to be presented for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015. The Investment Adviser is currently evaluating the implication, if any, of the additional disclosure requirements and the impact of this guidance on the Fund's financial statements.

In January 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-01, Financial Instruments (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and measurement of Financial Assets and Liabilities. The amendments in this update makes improvements to the requirements for accounting for equity investments and simplifying the impairment assessment of equity investments. For public entities this

update will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. The Investment Adviser is currently evaluating the impact of this new guidance on the Fund's financial position.

In March 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-06, Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815): Contingent Put and Call Options in Debt Instruments. The amendments in this update clarify the requirements for assessing whether contingent call (put) options that can accelerate the payment of principal on debt instruments are clearly and closely related to their debt hosts. For public entities this update will be effective for interim periods and fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016. The Investment Adviser is currently evaluating the impact of this new guidance on the Fund's financial position.

In August 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-15, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Classification of Certain Receipts and Cash Payments. The amendments in this update address eight specific issues, where there has been diversity in practice in how certain cash receipts and cash payments are presented and classified in the statement of cash flows under Topic 230. For public entities this update will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and for interim periods within those fiscal years. The Investment Adviser is currently evaluating the impact of this new guidance on the Fund's financial position.

## Note 12. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated the impact of all subsequent events on the Fund through the date the financial statements were issued, and has determined that there were no subsequent events to report which have not already been recorded or disclosed in these financial statements and accompanying notes.

### The Board of Trustees and Shareholders Highland Funds II:

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the investment portfolio, of Highland Energy MLP Fund, a series of Highland Funds II trust, as of September 30, 2016, and the related statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the years or periods in the five-year period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of September 30, 2016, by correspondence with custodians and brokers, or by other appropriate auditing procedures when replies from brokers were not received. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Highland Energy MLP Fund as of September 30, 2016, the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the years or periods in the five-year period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

**KPMG LLP**

Boston, Massachusetts  
November 22, 2016

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

### Additional Portfolio Information

The Investment Adviser and its affiliates manage other accounts, including registered and private funds and individual accounts. Although investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of such other accounts, the Investment Adviser may, consistent with applicable law, make investment recommendations to other clients or accounts that may be the same or different from those made to the Fund, including investments in different levels of the capital structure of a company, such as equity versus senior loans, or that take contrary provisions in multiple levels of the capital structure. The Investment Adviser has adopted policies and procedures that address the allocation of investment opportunities, execution of portfolio transactions, personal trading by employees and other potential conflicts of interest that are designed to ensure that all client accounts are treated equitably over time. Nevertheless, this may create situations where a client could be disadvantaged because of the investment activities conducted by the Investment Adviser for other client accounts. When the Fund and one or more of such other accounts is prepared to invest in, or desires to dispose of, the same security, available investments or opportunities for each will be allocated in a manner believed by the Investment Adviser to be equitable to the Fund and such other accounts. The Investment Adviser also may aggregate orders to purchase and sell securities for the Fund and such other accounts. Although the Investment Adviser believes that, over time, the potential benefits of participating in volume transactions and negotiating lower transaction costs should benefit all accounts including the Fund, in some cases these activities may adversely affect the price paid or received by the Fund or the size of the position obtained or disposed of by the Fund.

### Disclosure of Fund Expenses

As a shareholder of the Fund you incur transaction and ongoing expenses. Transaction expenses including sales charges on purchase payments, reinvested dividends (or other distributions), and redemption fees directly reduce the investment return of the Fund. Ongoing costs include portfolio management fees, distribution and service fees, professional fees, administrative fees and other Fund expenses. The following example is intended to help you understand your ongoing costs (in U.S. dollars) of investing in the Fund and to compare these costs with the ongoing costs of investing in other mutual funds.

To illustrate these ongoing costs, we have provided an example and calculated the expenses paid by investors in each share class of the Fund during the period. The information in the following table is based on an investment of \$1,000, which is invested at the beginning of

the period and held for the period ended September 30, 2016.

**Actual Expenses:** The first section of the table provides information about actual account values and actual expenses. You may use the information in this section, together with the amount you invested, to estimate the expenses that you paid over the period. To do so, simply divide your account value by \$1,000 (for example, an \$8,600 account value divided by \$1,000 = 8.6), then multiply the result by the number given for your class under the heading "Expenses Paid During the Period."

**Hypothetical Example for Comparison Purposes:** The second section of the table provides information about hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on the Fund's actual expense ratio and an assumed rate of return of 5% per year before expenses, which is not the Fund's actual return. You may use this information to compare the ongoing costs of investing in the Fund and other funds. To do so, compare this 5% hypothetical example with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in the shareholders reports of other funds.

Please note that the expenses shown in the table do not reflect any transaction costs, such as sales charges or redemption fees.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

	Beginning Account Value 04/01/16	Ending Account Value 09/30/16	Annualized Expense Ratio	Expenses Paid During the Period
<b>Highland Energy MLP Fund</b>				
<i>Actual Fund Return</i>				
Class A	\$1,000.00	\$1,509.60	1.46%	\$ 9.16
Class C	1,000.00	1,502.30	2.36%	14.76
Class Y	1,000.00	1,512.80	1.23%	7.73
<i>Hypothetical 5% Return (before expenses)</i>				
Class A	\$1,000.00	\$1,017.70	1.46%	\$ 7.36
Class C	1,000.00	1,013.20	2.36%	11.88
Class Y	1,000.00	1,018.85	1.23%	6.21

(1) Expenses are equal to the Fund's annualized expense ratio, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by the number of days in the most recent fiscal half-year, divided by the number of days in the full fiscal year (183/366).

### Approval of Highland Funds II Advisory Agreement (MLP Fund)

The Trust has retained the Investment Adviser to manage the assets of the Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement between the Investment Adviser and the Fund (the "Advisory Agreement"). The Advisory Agreement has been approved by the Fund's Board of Trustees, including a majority of the Independent Trustees.

Following an initial two-year term, the Advisory Agreement continues in effect from year-to-year, provided that such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the vote of holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund or by the Board of Trustees and, in either event, by a majority of the Independent Trustees of the Fund casting votes in person at a meeting called for such purpose.

At meetings held on August 25, 2016 and separately with independent legal counsel on August 31, 2016, the Board of Trustees gave preliminary consideration to information bearing on the continuation of the Advisory Agreement for a one-year period commencing November 1, 2016 with respect to the Fund. The primary purpose of the meetings was to ensure that the Trustees had the opportunity to consider matters they deemed relevant in evaluating the continuation of the Advisory Agreement, and to request any additional information they considered reasonably necessary for their deliberations.

At a meeting held on September 8-9, 2016, the Board of Trustees, including the Independent Trustees, approved the continuance of the Advisory Agreement for a one-year period commencing on November 1, 2016. As part of its review process, the Board of Trustees requested, through Fund counsel and its independent legal counsel, and received from the Investment Adviser, various information and written materials in connection with meetings of the Board of Trustees held on August 25 and 31, 2016 and

September 8-9, 2016, including: (1) information regarding the financial soundness of the Investment Adviser and the profitability of the Advisory Agreement to the Investment Adviser; (2) information on the advisory and compliance personnel of the Investment Adviser, including compensation arrangements; (3) information on the internal compliance procedures of the Investment Adviser; (4) comparative information showing how the Fund's fees and operating expenses compare to those of other accounts of the Investment Adviser and comparable funds that follow investment strategies similar to those of the Fund; (5) information on the investment performance of the Fund, including comparisons of the Fund's performance against that of other registered investment companies and comparable funds that follow investment strategies similar to those of the Fund; (6) information regarding brokerage and portfolio transactions; and (7) information on any legal proceedings or regulatory audits or investigations affecting the Investment Adviser. After the August 25 and 31, 2016 meetings, the Trustees requested that the Investment Adviser provide additional information regarding various matters. In addition, the Trustees received an independent report from Morningstar Associates, LLC ("Morningstar"), an independent source of investment company data, relating to the Fund's performance, volatility and expenses compared to the performance, volatility and expenses of a peer group determined by Morningstar to be comparable. The Trustees also relied on information provided at periodic meetings of the Board of Trustees over the course of the year. The Trustees reviewed various factors discussed in independent counsel's legal memoranda, the detailed information provided by the Investment Adviser and other relevant information and factors. The Trustees' conclusions as to the approval of the Advisory Agreement were based on a comprehensive consideration of all information provided to the Trustees without any single factor being dispositive in and of itself. Some of the factors that figured

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

particularly in the Trustees' deliberations are described below, although individual Trustees may have evaluated the information presented differently from one another, giving different weights to various factors.

### **The nature, extent, and quality of the services to be provided by the Investment Adviser.**

The Board of Trustees considered the portfolio management services to be provided by the Investment Adviser under the Advisory Agreement and the activities related to portfolio management, including use of technology, research capabilities, and investment management staff. The Board of Trustees discussed the relevant experience and qualifications of the personnel providing advisory services, including the background and experience of the members of the Fund's portfolio management team. The Trustees reviewed the management structure, assets under management and investment philosophy and process of the Investment Adviser. The Trustees also reviewed and discussed information regarding the Investment Adviser's compliance policies, procedures and personnel, including compensation arrangements. The Trustees concluded that the Investment Adviser had the quality and depth of personnel and investment methods essential to performing its duties under the Advisory Agreement, and that the nature and the quality of such advisory services were satisfactory.

### **The Investment Adviser's historical performance in managing the Fund.**

The Board of Trustees reviewed the historical performance of the Investment Adviser and the Fund's portfolio management team in managing the Fund over various time periods and reflected on previous discussions regarding matters bearing on the Investment Adviser's performance at their meetings throughout the year. The Trustees discussed the historical performance of the Fund and contrasted the relative performance of the Fund and its portfolio management team to that of the Fund's peers, as represented by certain other registered investment companies and comparable funds that follow investment strategies similar to the Fund, as well as comparable indices and the Fund's applicable Morningstar category. With respect to the Fund, the Trustees concluded that the Fund's performance or other relevant factors supported the continuation of the Advisory Agreement relating to the Fund for an additional one-year period.

Although the Fund's performance lagged that of its Morningstar peer group median, category median and benchmark for certain periods, the Trustees considered information provided by the Investment Adviser relating to the attribution of performance results for the Fund, including information that demonstrated that such

underperformance was attributable, to a significant extent, to investment decisions (such as security selection or sector allocation) by the Investment Adviser that were reasonable under the circumstances prevailing at the time and consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies.

The Trustees concluded that the Fund's performance and other relevant factors supported the continuation of the Advisory Agreement.

### **The costs of the services to be provided by the Investment Adviser and the profits to be realized by the Investment Adviser and its affiliates from its relationship with the Fund.**

The Board of Trustees also gave substantial consideration to the fees payable under the Advisory Agreement, the expenses the Investment Adviser incurs in providing advisory services and the profitability to the Investment Adviser from managing the Fund, including: (1) information regarding the financial condition of the Investment Adviser; (2) information regarding the total fees and payments received by the Investment Adviser for its services and whether such fees are appropriate given economies of scale and other considerations; (3) comparative information showing (a) the fees payable under the Advisory Agreement versus the investment advisory fees of certain registered investment companies and comparable funds that follow investment strategies similar to that of the Fund and (b) the expense ratio of the Fund versus the expense ratios of certain registered investment companies and comparable funds that follow investment strategies similar to that of the Fund; and (4) information regarding the total fees and payments received and the related amounts waived and/or reimbursed by the Investment Adviser for providing administrative services with respect to the Fund under a separate agreement and whether such fees are appropriate. The Trustees also considered the so-called "fall-out benefits" to the Investment Adviser with respect to the Fund, such as the reputational value of serving as Investment Adviser to the Fund, potential fees paid to the Investment Adviser's affiliates by the Fund or portfolio companies for services provided, including administrative services provided to the Fund by the Investment Adviser pursuant to a separate agreement, the benefits of scale from investment by the Fund in affiliated funds, and the benefits of research made available to the Investment Adviser by reason of brokerage commissions (if any) generated by the Fund's securities transactions, and, with respect to investments in one or more other funds in the Highland fund complex, the fees paid to the Investment Adviser of the underlying Fund and its affiliates with respect to such investments. After such review, the

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

Trustees determined that the anticipated profitability rate to the Investment Adviser with respect to the Advisory Agreement was fair and reasonable. The Trustees also took into consideration that the Investment Adviser agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to cap the total annual fund operating expenses.

### **The extent to which economies of scale would be realized as the Fund grows and whether fee levels reflect these economies of scale for the benefit of shareholders.**

The Board of Trustees considered the asset levels of the Fund over time and historical net expenses relative to asset levels, the information provided by the Investment Adviser relating to its costs and information comparing the fee rate charged by the Investment Adviser with fee rates charged by other unaffiliated investment advisers to their clients. The Trustees concluded that the fee structure is reasonable, and appropriately, with respect to the Investment Adviser, should result in a sharing of economies of scale in view of the information provided. The Board determined to continue to review ways, and the extent to which, economies of scale might be shared between the

Investment Adviser on the one hand and shareholders of the Fund on the other. The Board also requested that the Investment Adviser consider ways in which economies of scale can be shared with Fund shareholders.

### **Conclusion**

Throughout the process, the Board of Trustees was advised by Fund counsel and independent legal counsel, and was empowered to engage such other third parties or request additional information as it deemed appropriate. Following a further discussion of the factors above and the merits of the Advisory Agreement and its various provisions, it was noted that in considering the approval of the Advisory Agreement, no single factor was determinative to the decision of the Board of Trustees. Rather, after weighing all of the factors and reasons discussed above, the Trustees, including the Independent Trustees, unanimously agreed that the Advisory Agreement, including the advisory fee to be paid to the Investment Adviser is fair and reasonable to the Fund in light of the services that the Investment Adviser provides, the expenses that it incurs and the reasonably foreseeable asset levels of the Fund.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

The Board is responsible for the overall management of the Funds, including supervision of the duties performed by the Investment Adviser. The names and birth dates of the Trustees and officers of the Fund, the year each was first elected or appointed to office, their principal business occupations during the last five years, the number of funds overseen by each Trustee and other directorships they hold are shown below. The business address for each Trustee and officer of the Fund is c/o Highland Capital Management Fund Advisors, L.P., 200 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75201.

<u>Name and Date of Birth</u>	<u>Position(s) with the Trust</u>	<u>Term of Office<sup>1</sup> and Length of Time Served</u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Highland Fund Complex Overseen by the Trustees<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Other Directorships/Trusteeships Held During the Past Five Years</u>	<u>Experience, Qualifications, Attributes, Skills for Board Membership</u>
<b>Independent Trustees</b>						
Timothy K. Hui (6/13/1948)	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Trustee since inception in 2006.	Dean of Educational Resources since July 2012 and from July 2006 to January 2008, Vice President from February 2008 to June 2012, and Assistant Provost for Graduate Education from July 2004 to June 2006 at Cairn University.	22	None	Significant experience on this board of directors/trustees; administrative and managerial experience; legal training and practice.
Bryan A. Ward (2/4/1955)	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Trustee since inception in 2006.	Private Investor, BW Consulting, LLC; Senior Manager, Accenture, LLP (a consulting firm) from 2002 until retirement in 2014.	22	Director of Equity Metrix, LLC.	Significant experience on this and/or other boards of directors/trustees; significant managerial and executive experience; significant experience as a management consultant.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

Name and Date of Birth	Position(s) with the Trust	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Highland Fund Complex Overseen by the Trustees <sup>2</sup>	Other Directorships/ Trusteeships Held During the Past Five Years	Experience, Qualifications, Attributes, Skills for Board Membership
<b>Independent Trustees</b>						
Dr. Bob Froehlich (4/28/1953)	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Trustee since December 2013.	Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Strategist, The Hartford Mutual Funds from 2009 until retirement in 2012; Vice Chairman of Deutsche Asset Management from 2002 to 2009.	22	Trustee of ARC Realty Finance Trust, Inc. (from January 2013 to May 2016); Director of KC Concessions, Inc.; Trustee of Realty Capital Income Funds Trust; Director of American Realty Capital Healthcare Trust II (from January 2013 to June 2016); Director, American Realty Capital Daily Net Asset Value Trust, Inc. (from November 2012 to July 2016); Director of American Sports Enterprise, Inc.; Director of Davidson Investment Advisors (July 2009 to July 2016); Chairman and owner, Kane County Cougars Baseball Club; Advisory Board of Directors, Internet Connectivity Group, Inc. (January 2014 to April 2016); Director of AR Capital Acquisition Corp.; Director of The Midwest League of Professional Baseball Clubs, Inc.; Director of Ozzie's Outreach Foundation, Inc.; Director of Kane County Cougars Foundation, Inc.; Director of Galen Robotics, Inc.	Significant experience in the financial industry; significant managerial and executive experience; significant experience on other boards of directors, including as a member of several audit committees.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

<u>Name and Date of Birth</u>	<u>Position(s) with the Trust</u>	<u>Term of Office<sup>1</sup> and Length of Time Served</u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Highland Fund Complex Overseen by the Trustees<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Other Directorships/Trusteeships Held During the Past Five Years</u>	<u>Experience, Qualifications, Attributes, Skills for Board Membership</u>
<b>Independent Trustees</b>						
John Honis <sup>3</sup> (6/16/1958)	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Trustee since July 2013.	President of Rand Advisors, LLC since August 2013; Partner of Highland Capital Management, L.P. ("HCM") from February 2007 until his resignation in November 2014.	22	Manager of Turtle Bay Resort, LLC	Significant experience in the financial industry; significant managerial and executive experience, including experience as president, chief executive officer or chief restructuring officer of five telecommunication firms; experience on other boards of directors.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

Name and Date of Birth	Position(s) with the Trust	Term of Office <sup>1</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Highland Fund Complex Overseen by the Trustees <sup>2</sup>	Other Directorships/ Trusteeships Held During the Past Five Years	Experience, Qualifications, Attributes, Skills for Board Membership
<b>Interested Trustee</b>						
Ethan Powell <sup>4</sup> (6/20/1975)	Trustee; Chairman of the Board	Indefinite Term; Trustee since December 2013; Chairman of the Board since December 2013; Executive Vice President and Principal Executive Officer from June 2012 until December 2015.	President and Founder of Impact Shares LLC (a registered investment advisor dedicated to building a platform to create better socially responsible investment solutions) since December 2015; Trustee/Director of the Highland Fund Complex from June 2012 until July 2013 and since December 2013; Chief Product Strategist of Highland Capital Management Fund Advisors, L.P. ("HCMFA") from 2012 until December 2015; Senior Retail Fund Analyst of HCM from 2007 until December 2015 and HCMFA from its inception until December 2015; Secretary of NexPoint Credit Strategies Fund ("NHF") from November 2010 until June 2012; President and Principal Executive Officer of NHF from June 2012 until May 2015; Secretary of NHF from May 2015 until December 2015; Executive Vice President and Principal Executive Officer of Highland Funds I ("HFI") and Highland Funds II ("HFII") from June 2012 until December 2015; and Secretary of HFI and HFII from November 2010 to May 2015.	22	Trustee of Impact Shares Funds I Trust	Significant experience in the financial industry; significant executive experience including past service as an officer of funds in the Highland Fund Complex; significant administrative and managerial experience.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (continued)

September 30, 2016

Highland Energy MLP Fund

Name and Date of Birth	Position(s) with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years
<b>Officers</b>			
J. Bradley Ross (5/13/59)	President and Principal Executive Officer	Indefinite Term; President and Principal Executive Officer since December 2015	Principal Executive Officer of Highland Funds I and Highland Funds II since December 2015; President of Highland Capital Funds Distributor, Inc. ("HCFD") since February 2014; President of HCMFA since June 2012; Member of the Sales Force Marketing Committee of the Investment Company Institute since 2003; Executive Vice President and National Sales Director of Ivy Funds from 2003 until June 2012.
Brian Mitts (8/26/1970)	Secretary; Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer	Indefinite Term; Secretary; Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer since May 2015.	Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President and Treasurer of NexPoint Residential Trust, Inc. since 2014; Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of NHF since November 2010; Executive Vice President, Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of NHF since May 2015; Treasurer of NHF from November 2010 until May 2015; Chief Financial Officer of NexPoint Capital, Inc. from August 2014 until May 2015; Chief Financial Officer, Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of NexPoint Capital, Inc. since May 2015; Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of NexPoint Real Estate Strategies Fund since March 2016; Chief Financial Officer and Financial and Operations Principal of HCFD since November 2013; Chief Operations Officer of HCMFA since 2012; Secretary of NexPoint Advisors, L.P. from August 2012 until May 2015; Executive Vice President of NexPoint Advisors, L.P. since May 2015; Senior Retail Fund Analyst of HCM since 2007 and HCMFA since its inception; Secretary, Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of HFI and HFII since May 2015; Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of HFI since November 2010 and of HFII since February 2011; Treasurer of HFI from November 2010 until May 2015 and of HFII from February 2011 until May 2015 and Financial and Operations Principal of NexBank Securities, Inc. since 2014.
Frank Waterhouse (4/14/1971)	Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Treasurer since May 2015.	Assistant Treasurer of Acis Capital Management, L.P. from December 2011 until February 2012; Treasurer of Acis Capital Management, L.P. since February 2012; Assistant Treasurer of HCM from November 2011 until April 2012; Treasurer of HCM since April 2012; Assistant Treasurer of HCMFA from December 2011 until October 2012; Treasurer of HCMFA since October 2012; Treasurer of NexPoint Advisors, L.P. since March 2012 and Treasurer of NexPoint Capital, Inc., NHF, HFI, HFII, and NexPoint Real Estate Advisors, L.P. since May 2015 and Treasurer of NexPoint Real Estate Strategies Fund since March 2016.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (unaudited) (concluded)

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Highland Energy MLP Fund

Name and Date of Birth	Position(s) with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years
<b>Officers</b>			
Dustin Norris (1/6/1984)	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Assistant Treasurer since November 2012.	Chief Product Strategist at HCMFA since September 2015, Director of Product Strategy at HCMFA from May 2014 to September 2015; Secretary of NHF since December 2015; Assistant Treasurer of Highland Funds I and Highland Funds II since November 2012; Assistant Treasurer of NHF from November 2012 to December 2015; Secretary of NexPoint Capital, Inc. since 2014; Secretary of NexPoint Real Estate Strategies Fund since March 2016; Senior Accounting Manager at HCMFA from August 2012 to May 2014; and Fund Accountant at HCM from June 2010 to August 2012.

- 1 On an annual basis, as a matter of Board policy, the Governance Committee reviews each Trustee's performance and determines whether to extend each such Trustee's service for another year. Effective June 2013, the Board adopted a retirement policy wherein the Governance Committee shall not recommend the continued service as a Trustee of a Board member who is older than 80 years of age at the time the Governance Committee reports its findings to the Board.
- 2 The "Highland Fund Complex" consists of NHF, each series of HFI, each series of HFII, NexPoint Merger Arbitrage Fund, NexPoint Latin American Opportunities Fund, NexPoint Real Estate Strategies Fund, NexPoint Opportunistic Credit Fund, NexPoint Energy and Materials Opportunities Fund, NexPoint Discount Yield Fund, NexPoint Healthcare Opportunities Fund, and NexPoint Capital, Inc., a closed-end management investment company that has elected to be treated as a business development company under the 1940 Act.
- 3 Since May 1, 2015, Mr. Honis has been treated as an Independent Trustee of the Trust. Prior to that date, Mr. Honis was treated as an Interested Trustee because he was a partner of an investment adviser affiliated with the Adviser until his resignation in November 2014. As of August 31, 2016, Mr. Honis was entitled to receive aggregate severance and/or deferred compensation payments of approximately \$1.5 million from another affiliate of the Adviser. Mr. Honis also serves as a director of a portfolio company affiliated with the Adviser. During the Trust's last two fiscal years, Mr. Honis' aggregate compensation from this portfolio company for his services as a director was approximately \$50,000.  
In addition, Mr. Honis serves as a trustee of a trust that owns substantially all of the economic interest in an investment adviser affiliated with the Adviser. Mr. Honis indirectly receives an asset-based fee in respect of such interest, which is projected to range from \$100,000-\$150,000 annually. In light of these relationships between Mr. Honis and affiliates of the Adviser, it is possible that the SEC might in the future determine Mr. Honis to be an interested person of the Trust.
- 4 Effective December 4, 2015, Mr. Powell resigned from his position with the Adviser. Mr. Powell currently receives hourly fees from the Adviser to perform consulting services for the Adviser relating to matters on which he worked during his tenure at the Adviser. Although the Trust believes that Mr. Powell is technically no longer an interested person of the Trust, in light of his previous employment and his ongoing provision of consulting services to the Adviser and affiliates of the Adviser, it is possible that the SEC might in the future determine Mr. Powell to be an interested person of the Trust. Therefore, the Trust treats Mr. Powell as an Interested Trustee of the Trust for all purposes other than compensation (Mr. Powell will be compensated at the same rate as the Independent Trustees) from December 16, 2015 until at least December 4, 2017 (the second anniversary of his resignation).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS REPORT

### **Investment Adviser**

Highland Capital Management Fund Advisors, L.P.  
200 Crescent Court, Suite 700  
Dallas, TX 75201

### **Transfer Agent**

Boston Financial Data Services, Inc.  
30 Dan Road  
Canton, Massachusetts 02021

### **Underwriter**

Highland Capital Funds Distributor, Inc.  
200 Crescent Court, Suite 700  
Dallas, TX 75201

### **Custodian**

State Street Bank and Trust Company  
One Lincoln Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

KPMG LLP  
Two Financial Center  
60 South Street  
Boston, MA 02111

### **Fund Counsel**

Ropes & Gray LLP  
Prudential Tower  
800 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02199-3600

This report has been prepared for shareholders of Highland Energy MLP Fund. The Fund mails one shareholder report to each shareholder address. If you would like more than one report, please call shareholder services at 1-877-665-1287 to request that additional reports be sent to you.

A description of the policies and procedures that the Fund uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to its portfolio securities, and the Fund's proxy voting records for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30, are available (i) without charge, upon request, by calling 1-877-665-1287 and (ii) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Fund's Forms N-Q are available on the Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov> and also may be reviewed and copied at the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. Shareholders may also obtain the Form N-Q by visiting the Fund's website at [www.highlandfunds.com](http://www.highlandfunds.com).

The Statement of Additional Information includes additional information about the Fund's Trustees and is available upon request without charge by calling 1-877-665-1287.



Highland Funds  
c/o BFDS  
30 Dan Road  
Canton, MA 02021-2809

## Highland Energy MLP Fund

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