

# Federated Hermes Ultrashort Bond Fund



## Engagement report as of 6/30/23

In pursuit of attractive, risk-adjusted yield potential, the investment team emphasizes rigorous, fundamental research when evaluating securitized assets—such as asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities—for inclusion in the portfolio. This analysis includes consideration of material Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors. The team's proprietary ESG research lends an essential vantage point given the lack of securitized asset coverage by ESG data providers.

The investment team also consults regularly with our global team of ESG engagement specialists, EOS at Federated Hermes. Combined with the investment team's bottom-up fundamental analysis, EOS' specific insights provide a more comprehensive view of the ESG risks and opportunities for issuers under coverage.

#### **Engagement coverage and progress**



The progress percentage achieved will change constantly and never be 100%. Typically, we expect to see between 35% and 65%.

### Percentage of AUM\* engaged by theme









Engagement objectives are specific, measurable changes defined at the company level that are designed to improve ESG performance. We may have multiple engagements with a company at any one time. Objectives are regularly reviewed until they are completed and are tracked using milestones. Objectives may be discontinued if the objective is no longer relevant, or because the engagement is no longer feasible or material.

<sup>\*</sup>Engagement as a percent of assets under management (AUM) is the percent of the fund's AUM engaged, out of the fund's engageable assets. The following securities that are not engageable are excluded from this calculation: U.S. Treasury securities, derivative contracts, sovereign bonds, third-party pooled vehicles, and U.S. government-operated repurchase facilities.

The fund may invest in affiliated funds and, where applicable, the engagement numbers reflect exposure to the underlying securities held by the affiliated funds, with the engagements for those funds are included within the overall percentages. However, the engagement objectives and engagement interactions totals do not include numbers related to investments in affiliated money market funds.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Engagement milestones achieved is the percentage of EOS engagements whose objectives moved forward by at least one milestone over the trailing

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Trailing 12 months. Engagement interactions are tailored to specific companies and seek to assess the most material ESG risks and opportunities, through long-term, continuous dialogue at the board and senior executive level.

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## Top holdings

(Total % of portfolio: 12.8%)

	EOS				
Company	engagement	Environmental	Social	Governance	Strategy
Santander Retail Auto Lease Trust 2021-B, Class D, 1.410% due 11/20/25	Yes	-	-	Executive remuneration	Purpose, strategy & policies
Santander Retail Auto Lease Trust 2021-C, Class D, 1.390% due 8/20/26	Yes	-	-	Executive remuneration	Purpose, strategy & policies
Nelnet Student Loan Trust 2021-DA, Class AFL, Floating Rate Note due 4/20/62	No	-	-	-	-
Navient Student Loan Trust 2021-BA, Class A, 0.940% due 7/15/69	Yes	-	Human capital	Board effectiveness	-
Trillium Credit Card Trust II 2021-2A, Class A, Floating Rate Note due 10/26/26	Yes	Climate change	Human & labor rights	Executive remuneration	Purpose, strategy & policies
Santander Retail Auto Lease Trust 2021-A, Class D, 1.380% due 3/22/27	Yes	-	-	Executive remuneration	Purpose, strategy & policies
FHLMC KF95, Class AL, Floating Rate Note due 11/25/30	Yes	-	Human capital	Board effectiveness	-
Fontainebleau Miami Beach Trust 2019-FBL, Class B, 3.447% due 12/10/36	No	-	-	-	-
Comcast Corp., Floating Rate Note due 4/15/24	Yes	-	Human capital	Investor protection & rights	Purpose, strategy & policies
PFS Financing Corp. 2021-B, Class A, 0.775% due 8/15/26	No	-	-	-	-

### **Engagement milestones**









## Engagement themes and objectives include but are not limited to:







Human and labor rights, human capital management, conduct and culture



Board effectiveness, executive remuneration, shareholder protection and rights



Corporate reporting, risk management and business strategy

Investors should carefully consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. To obtain a summary prospectus or prospectus containing this and other information, contact us or visit FederatedHermes.com/us. Please carefully read the summary prospectus or prospectus before investing.

Terminology such as "ESG integrated", "sustainable" or "impact", among other terms, is not uniformly defined across the industry. Investment managers may understand and apply ESG factors in different ways, and that the role those factors play in investment decisions also varies. Therefore, we recommend investors understand the role of ESG factors in a strategy to ensure that approach is consistent with their investment objectives. Like any aspect of investment analysis, there is no guarantee that an investment strategy that considers ESG factors will result in performance better than or equal to products that do not consider such factors. Investing and making buy and sell decisions that emphasize ESG factors carries the risk that, under certain market conditions, the fund or strategy may underperform those that do not incorporate such factors explicitly into the decision-making process. The application of ESG criteria may affect exposure to certain sectors or securities and may impact relative investment performance depending on whether such sectors or securities are generally in or out of favor in the market.

The holdings percentages are based on net assets at the close of business on 6/30/23 and may not necessarily reflect adjustments that are routinely made when presenting net assets for formal financial statement purposes. Because this is a managed portfolio, the investment mix will change.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Mutual funds are subject to risks and fluctuate in value.

Bond prices are sensitive to changes in interest rates, and a rise in interest rates can cause a decline in their prices.

The fund is not a "money market" mutual fund. Some money market mutual funds attempt to maintain a stable net asset value through compliance with relevant Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules. The fund is not governed by those rules, and its shares will fluctuate in value.

The value of some mortgage-backed securities may be particularly sensitive to changes in prevailing interest rates, and although the securities are generally supported by some form of government or private insurance, there is no assurance that private guarantors or issuers will meet their obligations.