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# Proposed Money Fund Reforms

**MEETINGS WITH  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**January, 2010**

**Federated<sup>®</sup>**



# Federated's Representatives

**John McGonigle**

Vice Chairman and Chief Legal Officer, Federated Investors, Inc.

**Deborah A. Cunningham, CFA**

Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer  
For Taxable Money Market Funds  
Federated Investors, Inc.

**Steve Keen**

Partner, Reed Smith

# Federated Investors, Inc. Historically

- Over 50 years in the mutual fund business
- A pioneer in amortized cost money funds
  - Among the first to use amortized cost method in the 1970s
  - Defended the amortized cost method in SEC hearings regarding the original exemptive order
  - Developed one of the first tax-exempt funds
- Introduced money funds to bank trustees and other fiduciaries
  - Changed OCC interpretations to permit use of mutual funds
  - Promoted enabling legislation
  - Laws and indentures generally require stable value

# Federated Investors, Inc. Today

## ■ As of 9/30/2009

- Over \$390 billion in AUM
- \$288 billion in money market funds
- Third largest money fund manager in the U.S.\*

## ■ Offered in multiple distribution channels

- Bank Trust
- Bank and Broker Sweep
- Corporate Treasury
- Municipalities
- Insurance
- Portals

## ■ Offer the full gamut of stable value funds

### 40 Act Money Market Funds

- Treasury & Government (w/ and w/out repo)
- Prime
- Municipal (National & 16 State Specific)

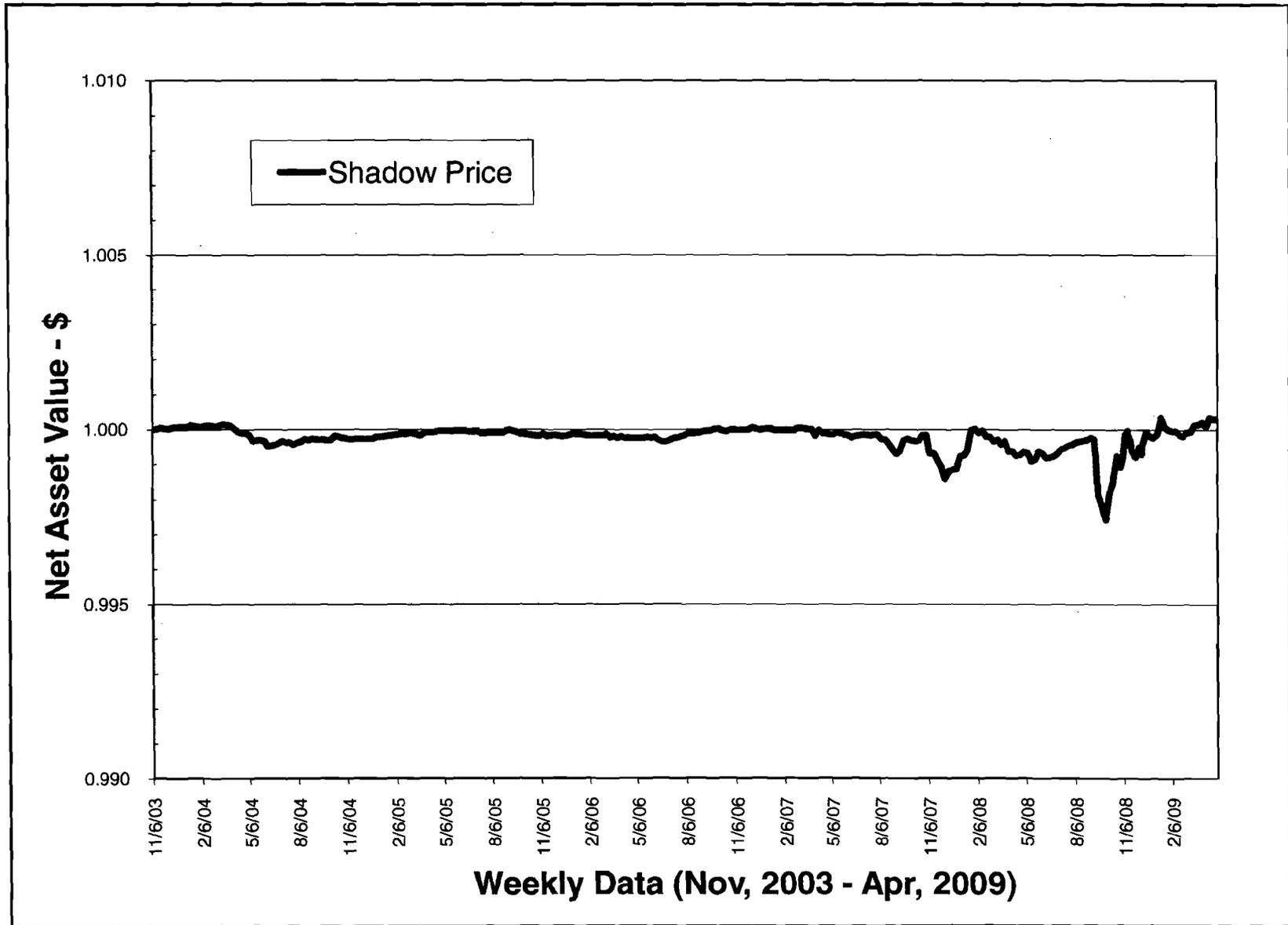
### Non-40 Act Funds

- State Investment Pools (\$28 billion)
- Offshore Funds (\$13 billion)
- Collective Trusts
- Separate Accounts

### Rated and Unrated

\* Source: Strategic Insight, October 2009

# Example of a Prime Money Fund Shadow Price



# Statements Made by SEC Regarding Importance of Money Market Funds

- Money market funds have been one of the most important innovations within the mutual fund industry
- Money market funds served as the vehicle that essentially introduced many investors to the mutual fund industry
- Money market funds are of fundamental importance to the financial system
- Money market funds have provided a great benefit to the fund investors

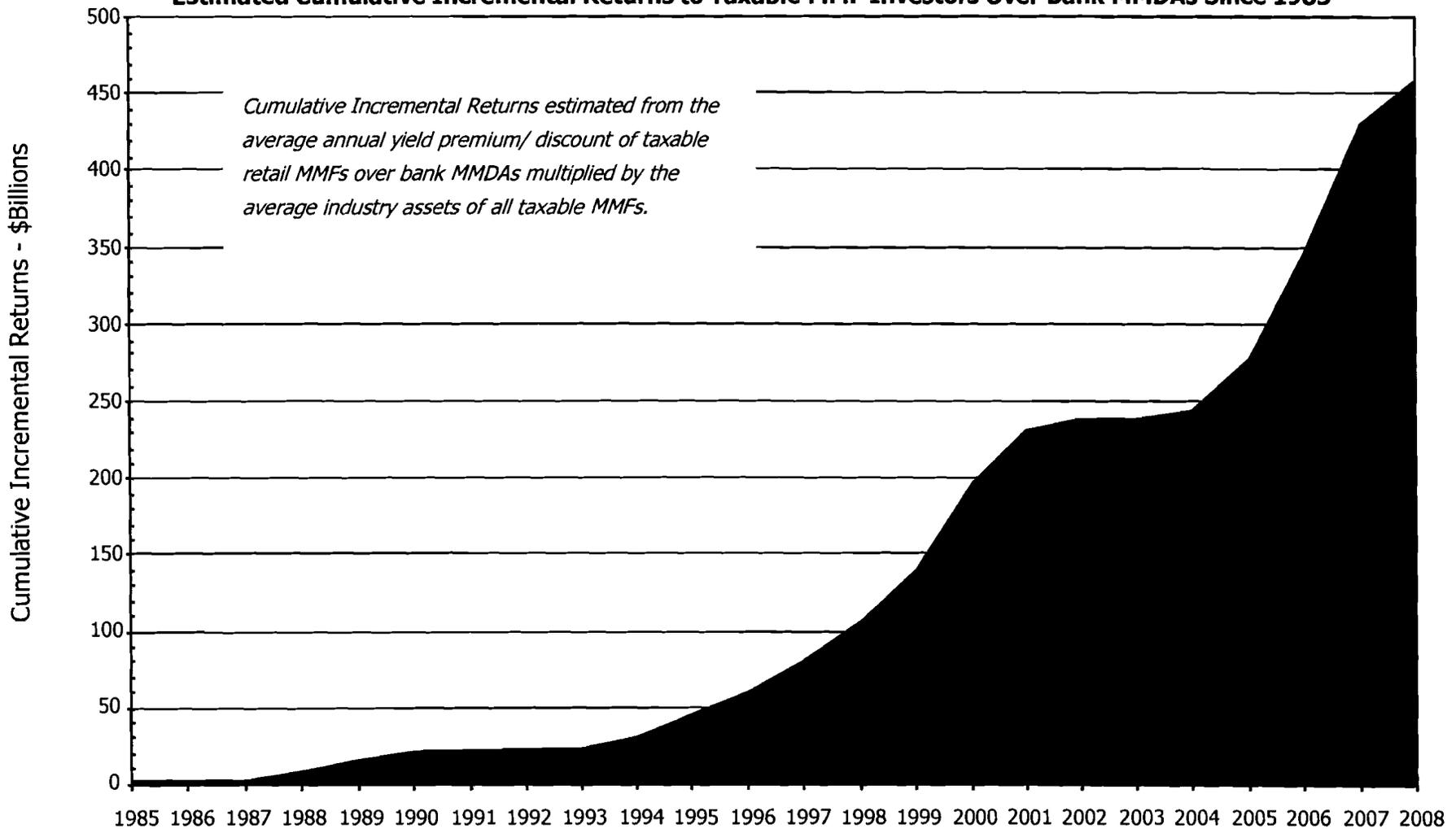
## Market Funds Have Provided Great Benefits

- Since the adoption of Rule 2a-7, an estimated \$325 trillion has flowed through money market funds
- Over the past 24 years, investors have increased their returns by over \$450 billion by investing in money funds rather than interest-bearing bank deposit accounts
- An investment of \$1,000 in the average money fund at the beginning of 1999 would have out yielded the average bank account by over \$200 by the end of 2008\*
  - Even if the fund broke a dollar and paid only 98¢ a share, the investor would still be ahead by over \$180

\* *iMoneyNet, Bank Rate Monitor*

# Cumulative Incremental Returns to Investors

**Estimated Cumulative Incremental Returns to Taxable MMF Investors Over Bank MMDAs Since 1985**

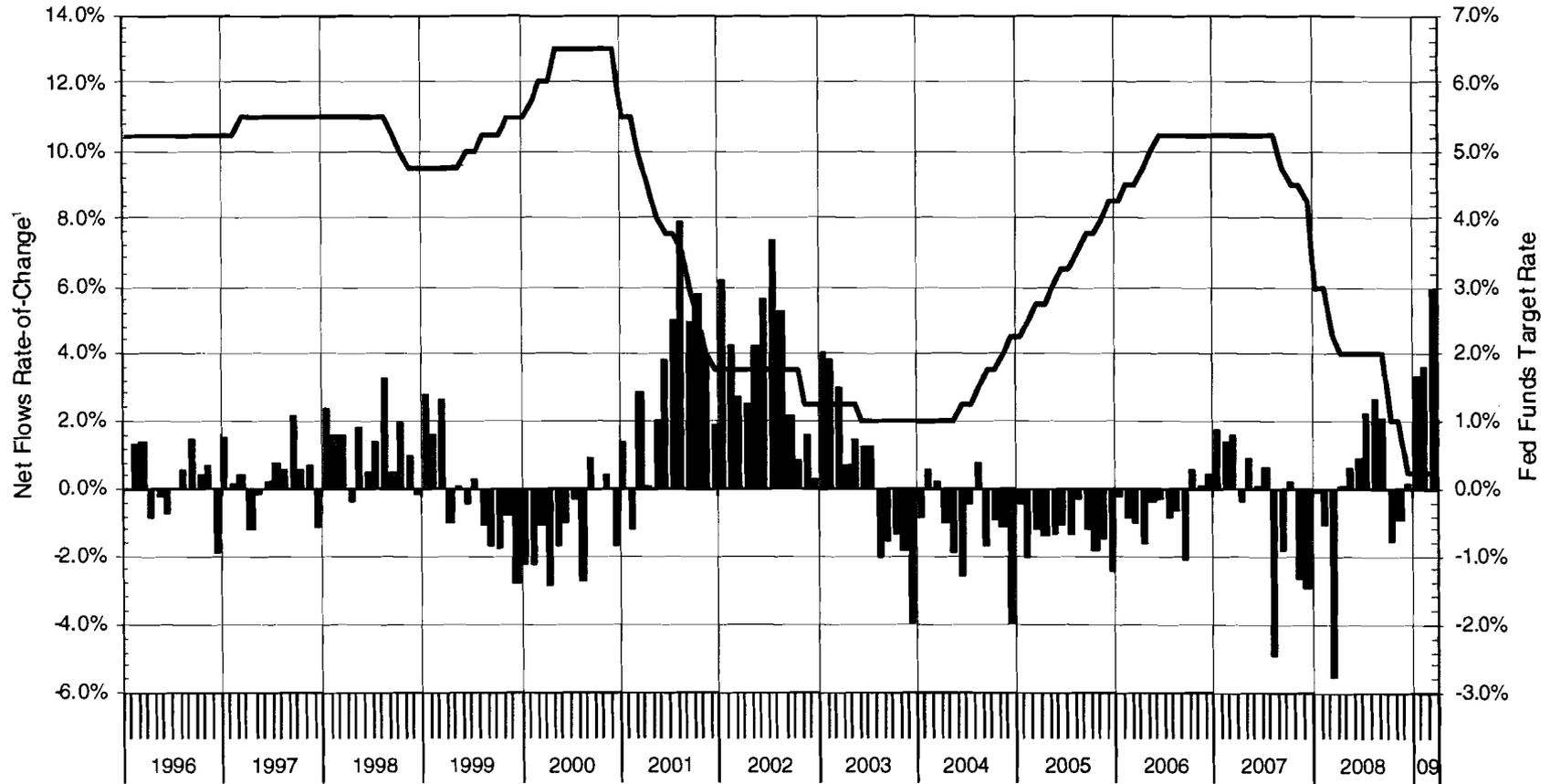


Source: ICI, iMoneyNet, Bank Rate Monitor

# Fluctuating Funds Cannot Match the Popularity of Stable Funds

- Over the past thirty years, many advisers (including Federated) have tried to develop a fluctuating alternative to money market funds
- From the investor's perspective, a "fluctuating" money market fund is an oxymoron
  - Investors do not consider fluctuating funds a substitute for a stable fund
  - Investors view investments in even low volatility funds as a allocation out of cash
- Ultrashort Funds are a good example
  - No matter what the yield environment, never reached even \$100 billion in total assets
  - Cash flows are more closely linked to interest rate cycle than money funds

# Ultrashort Funds Net Flows Rate-of-Change<sup>1</sup> vs. Fed Funds Target Rate



Source: Lipper, Bloomberg

■ Ultrashort Funds — Fed Funds Target Rate

<sup>1</sup>Net flows as a percent of previous month-end assets, for Lipper's Ultrashort Obligations Funds, Short US Gov't Funds and Short Municipal Debt Funds.

# Market Impact of Fluctuating NAV

- Even if “fluctuating” money market funds were ten times more successful than ultrashort funds, they would hold less than a third of current money fund assets
- Where would the other \$2 trillion go?
- What would be the impact on
  - The CP market, where money funds consistently represent 30% to 40% of the market
  - The repo market, where Federated alone provides over \$100 billion of financing every day
  - The municipal market, where money funds represent 65% of the short-term note market
  - The banks with suddenly expanded deposit bases

## Reforms Should Focus on Mitigating Impact of Breaking a Dollar

- While the industry will strive to avoid the event, other funds will break a dollar in the future
- Objectives when fund breaks a dollar
  - Minimize ultimate loss to shareholders
  - Provide immediate access to a portion of their account balance
  - Complete liquidation of fund (other than defaulted securities) within a matter of months
  - Treat shareholders equitably and keep them informed
- If large scale redemptions occur in other funds, create a source of back-up liquidity
- Meeting these objectives should reduce risk of future panics

# Liquidity Requirements Are the Most Important Proposed Rule 2a-7 Reform

- Federated fully supports general requirement to maintain sufficient liquidity for anticipated redemptions
- Federated also supports minimum one and seven-day liquidity requirements
  - Supports ICI's 5%/20% proposal. Would create a potential liquidity pool of \$380 billion dollars to fund redemptions
- Federated opposes trying to classify funds as institutional or retail
  - Experts have assumed that funds are already correctly labeled, which is not the case
  - Many funds labeled as institutional did not lose significant assets in September 2008
  - The behavior of "institutional" investors varies widely
  - Do not assume that the behavior of "retail" investors will never change

# Ability to Suspend Redemptions Is the Most Important Proposed New Rule

- Boards of troubled money market funds currently have three choices
  - Continue to price redemptions at \$1 while the adviser looks for a solution
  - Break a dollar
  - Suspend redemptions without an order from the SEC, in violation of ICA 22(e)
- Current proposals will help if a fund breaks a dollar
  - Fund must be able to price at three digits
  - Board may suspend redemption without order if fund is going to liquidate
- Boards need time to look for better solutions
  - Allow temporary suspension of redemptions when only alternative is breaking a dollar
  - Threat of suspension may counterbalance impulse to run

# Putnam/Federated Transaction Illustrates Virtue of Temporary Suspension

- Following Reserve Primary Fund's breaking a dollar, Putnam Prime Money Market Fund suffered net redemptions of \$9.7 billion
  - Fund did not hold any defaulted or distressed securities
  - Paid out \$5.2 billion (30% of the fund) before suspending redemptions
- Putnam Board chose third option and suspended redemptions without an order to allow adviser to find a better solution than breaking a dollar
- Federated agreed to allow Putnam fund to merge with a large Federated *institutional* fund, which had more than enough liquidity to meet all outstanding redemption orders for both funds
- The merger was completed within a week of suspending redemptions, and full liquidity was restored to shareholders without any losses
- Similar transactions might have been possible for many of the Reserve Funds, if the Board had not continued to honor redemptions after Lehman filed for bankruptcy

# Redemption-In-Kind Is Not a Complete Solution

- Federated has done as much as any firm in the industry to study feasibility of redemption-in-kind
  - Has executed redemption-in-kind in isolated circumstances (large redemption by a shareholder who wants to receive redemption-in-kind and provides sufficient notice)
  - Has a task force that studied and performed mock redemption-in-kind
  - Comment letter specified legal issues that staff could address
  - Even with issues resolved, probably a limited solution, due to need to treat both redeeming and remaining shareholders fairly
- The more alternatives available to a money market fund board the better, but redemption-in-kind will only work in limited circumstances

# Federated Remains Willing to Support the Industry in Developing Other Solutions

- Federated has worked with the ICI in researching other means of assuring continued liquidity and avoiding systemic risks
- Federated is currently exploring what additional liquidity alternatives might be available under existing regulations

## Combined Reforms Should Prevent Another Run When a Fund Breaks a Dollar

- World has already changed—no one can downplay risk that a fund will break a dollar
- Continuing public discussion of how funds will deal with breaking a dollar should also prepare the investors
- If public can identify which funds are in trouble and which are not, and have confidence that liquidity will be restored quickly, then they should be less likely to panic
- If sound money market funds have access to another liquidity source, large redemptions will not necessarily disrupt the credit markets