

handout. Those...and as you can see by the handout, the problem with what we have currently left as land assets are primarily devoted to pastureland; 1.2 million acres of pastureland is in our portfolio. And I will use that word for the first time here in this discussion, but you need to remember that it is a portfolio, it's an investment portfolio, because we have an asset that we use to produce income, income for the common schools. That is really the objective, to produce income but to do it in a safe and prudent fashion, to do it as a trustee, to do it with fiduciary responsibilities, and that is what the amendment is about. The amendment is about that fiduciary responsibility to maintain or obtain the greatest possible income with the least amount of risk. That is our fiduciary responsibility. I don't believe we're discharging that responsibility with our current mix of real estate holdings in the trust. We're not doing it because we are heavily concentrated in one kind of real estate, pastureland. That kind of real estate also happens to have the lowest rate of return and the lowest value as a type of real estate in the State of Nebraska. And when I say it has the lowest rate of return, that shouldn't surprise you, because it has the lowest value. Rates and return in value go hand in hand. If you have high values, you have high rates of return. The amendment would simply allow the Board of Educational Lands and Funds to sell some land, hold the proceeds and then reinvest them in other land. Why is that a major change? Because right now the policy is that if the Board of Educational Lands and Funds sells real estate, the proceeds go to the investment council and are invested in stocks and bonds. They're not reinvested in real estate. So very little real estate gets sold by the Board of Educational Lands and Funds and we're stuck with this lopsided investment portfolio. The amendment, again, allows them to sell and to reinvest but to reinvest in a broad range of real estate investments and to do so balancing out rates of return and risk so that the maximum return is obtained. Now Senator Beutler had suggested an amendment. It changes the composition of the board. It makes sure that we have one representative on the board from each of the current three congressional districts. Right now, they're apportioned on the basis of four congressional districts. And, in addition, Senator Beutler's amendment would require that we have one person with expertise in commercial real estate and one person with expertise in agricultural real estate. Now, Senator Beutler, if you would like a few minutes here, I have just a brief amount of time left. If you have any remarks, I will yield my time to you.