

the state is doomed anyway. And I think we have an obligation to go out there and muster that public support, get people involved in the dialogue and the discussion, and the first round of this, frankly, has been very positive I think in terms of getting people to think about higher education who don't always think about it, and to think about what they want out of it, and how well it is serving their needs. I would...I would raise...I would dispute Senator Haberman's point about the cost of boards. I am not so sure right now that the way the two boards operate is particularly fair, particularly the Board of Trustees in terms of the distances people come in and what it costs them to operate, and I am not sure that in some cases...those people put in a tremendous amount of time and commitment. Everybody does that serves on a board, and I think moving this structure puts some control closer to home. It allows us to involve people in the public that perhaps previously have not been but have significant contributions to make to the public debate. The two issues that continually haunt us and every other state is how do you provide access and how do you provide quality? I heard that in Senator Landis's remarks about graduate education. He wants to see a continuation of quality, particularly at the graduate level, but at the same time, to...to strike some kind of balance that the public is going to support, you have to achieve that quality side, and at the same time, you have to achieve that access side. And one of the things that I heard coming out of those statewide debates was a sense that access is inadequate for the kind of society we live in today, that we need to open up access and, obviously, we can't let everybody do everything or pretty quick you don't have enough money to do anything right. And so it is important to take on those challenges and to stretch what limited resources we have in this state in a way that sufficiently addresses both of those concerns. Where we are today does not address those, and there is a long discussion and planning process necessary to get there, but I have concluded that this structure that is being proposed here gives us a lot better chance of getting there than what we have right now. I think the other thing we have to recognize is that change...change is desired. Generally speaking, I think people are saying they are willing to consider some change. And, in fact, in this body, I think there is a real sense of wanting to do things differently. I had an interesting experience last September. I was in Helena, Montana at a five-state conference. I was invited to speak on a higher ed panel. I was...I was fascinated and a bit distressed all at the same time, and even encouraged. All...it was an interesting mix of emotions to hear