

look at the land that we ended up selling, I think a lot of us would wish that we had it back and would be earning income off of that land. But we put a stop to that some time back, and we instead have held that land and gained income from it as we've rented it out. And now we want to start up the process again of selling off what remains of the educational lands that we have. I for one have opposed that in the past. I think a plan to look at that, obviously anytime you have an issue, looking at it and studying your options is wise. But I would be very, very reluctant and at this time opposed to a change in selling off that land. It is, as I said, something that has been with the state since it was formed. It has been able to provide for us over the years income, and certainly it is not the sort of income that you would get from other types of investment, that's understandable. But when these other investments rise and fall, and right now the stock market is up and things look great and making an investment like this sounds sensible. The other times the stock market doesn't stay up, it might fall, it might retreat. And in that case you may not have what you think you would like to have. The land is always there. The stock market can go up and the stock market can fall. Your investment portfolio can succeed and it can fail. You can have bankruptcies, you can have difficulties, but the land will always be there. And that's one thing that we've always clung to. Sound like I'm talking about Tara or something. But I'm telling you when you talk about educational lands, when you're talking about that heritage you're talking about something that affects all of us because it's the history of our state. And so I don't think lightly going forward and providing for a plan and then letting a bureaucracy implement that plan is the strategy we ought to take. This is significant and this is important. And I think, as Senator Withem indicated, whatever should be developed should come back to us for review before a final decision is made. It's fine to sit here and talk generally about the concept of a diversified portfolio and wouldn't that be better. Well, it might be, it might not be. But until we see it, until we see the specifics, until we know the options that we have before us, I think we ought best to simply start the process and then allow the Legislature to conclude whether or not to move forward. And I, for one, unless it's a very, very strong plan, would again indicate I'm very reluctant to sell off educational lands. I do not think in the past that served us well and I do not think in the future it would as well. So I would ask your very strong skepticism of any