



ultimately enhance land protection in Vermont while offering a 12 percent to 14 percent return.

"We intentionally did not put a limit on the amount or on what asset classes we'd invest in," Spaulding said. "The benefits could be in any number of different areas."

Annie Noonan, head of the Vermont State Employees Association, said her organization supports the pension fund committee's efforts. Members of the VSEA sit on the Vermont Pension Investment Committee.

"VSEA and our elected representatives to the retirement board support socially responsible investments that help Vermonters," Noonan said. "Having a window of opportunity for the board to consider these requests ensures that good ideas and programs can be advanced. We're confident that our members on (the pension-fund committee) will make responsible fiscal decisions while supporting worthy proposals."

Copyright, 2008, Rutland Herald