- Derivatives: These are financial instruments that derive their value from an underlying asset. They can be complex and carry a higher risk due to their sensitivity to market conditions and the potential for leverage.
- Private equity and private debt: These are investments in private companies or projects, which can be less liquid and more difficult to value than publicly traded securities.
- Real estate: While real estate can provide stable returns over the long term, it can also be subject to market fluctuations, property-specific risks, and the need for significant capital for maintenance and renovation.
- 2. Insurance companies are required to manage their investments in a way that balances risk and return, ensuring that they can meet their obligations to policyholders. High-risk investments can provide higher returns, but they also carry a higher risk of loss. Therefore, insurance companies must have a well-defined investment strategy that aligns with their risk tolerance and liquidity needs. This strategy should include a clear understanding of the risks associated with each investment and how those risks can be managed.
- 3. The regulatory framework for insurance companies, as outlined in the text, emphasizes the need for a prudent investment approach. This means that insurance companies must prioritize the safety and liquidity of their investments over the pursuit of higher returns. High-risk investments are generally discouraged unless they are part of a diversified portfolio and are aligned with the company's risk management strategy.
- 4. The text also highlights the importance of stress testing investments to assess their performance under adverse market conditions. This is particularly important for high-risk investments, as they are more likely to be affected by market volatility and economic downturns. Stress testing can help insurance companies understand the potential impact of these investments on their financial stal \$\igcup\$ y and their ability to meet their obligations to policyholders.