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listening to all sides. Fairness means seeking out all of the different subtleties of legislation and being sure that everybody understands those subtleties. When everything is said and done, being fair means being sure that every bill gets a timely up or down vote in committee. Nobody's priority bill should be held so long in committee as to prevent it having a fair opportunity to be heard on the floor. I am very proud of the fact that it has never happened in our committee, not a single time in six years. We have...we have pushed hard to work out compromises on controversial aspects, but we have never performed that work with the intent or with the result of preventing debate on the floor. On only one occasion in six years we had to choose between two competing priority bills. Third and finally, I think good leadership means finishing the job by helping the introducer on the floor. It means explaining the work of the committee and the work of the introducer on the floor whether or not the Chair personally agrees with the entire piece. No member of this Legislature has ever been abandoned on the floor on any piece of legislation that ever came through the Natural Resources Committee. If we pass it out to the floor it is because our judgments coincide with the introducer's judgments and for good reason. And it is the Committee Chair's job to assist the introducer in acquainting the body as a whole with the rationale in good faith and with vigor. In the past six years, no introducer of priority legislation has ever lost a bill on the floor of this Legislature that came through Natural Resources. Not only has one never been lost, but, thinking back on the voting patterns of the last six years, with no exceptions, the solutions of the committee have been approved by overwhelming majorities signifying, I believe, the most desirable result--resolution to the point of consensus. Consider the toughest issues of the last six years: the Platte River in-stream flow controversy, the conjunctive water...conjunctive use water controversy, the animal waste controversy, the reform of the underground storage tank program, the environmental audit bill controversy. All of these issues came to the committee frying pan hot, but were resolved with broad consensus in the end. Of all of these bills, the closest vote in here was 36 to 7. The Natural Resources Committee has taken on all of the toughest issues and has not blinked or flinched. It has deliberatively and in measured steps moved this state ahead on all fronts. I am very proud of the