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public hearings, I will maintain an open door policy in my office to facilitate discussions of issues and concerns. This committee chair election is about leadership in a productive committee process, building consensus, and making sure every committee member has a chance to fully participate. It's about the leadership to bring relevant topics to the table for discussion, and about collaboration and problem solving. Leadership of a committee involves knowing how to balance a personal agenda with an overall agenda of the committee. I intend to dedicate my time as Chairman to making sure all these things happen. We are lucky to have more than one person interested in serving in the capacity of Chairperson of this committee. A healthy competition will not be a divisive one. I promise to you that if elected I will do my very best to provide the leadership style I've outlined today for this committee. No matter the outcome of the vote, however, I vow to work with my colleagues for the betterment of the state and the citizens we share it with. I ask for your support to become Chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I rise for the purpose of placing my name in nomination for the Chairmanship of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. It has been my honor and my privilege to serve in that capacity for six nonconsecutive years, and for two years as Vice Chair of the committee. I have actually been a member for ten years. I thank you for the opportunities that you have given me. Over the course of my Chairmanship, the committee has processed large numbers of bills, and has successfully accomplished some, at least, of the following...well, all of the following. (Laugh) First of all, the election law statutes were totally reorganized and recodified so that everything is in one chapter of our statutes now, and it is more easy for the average person to navigate those statutes. The recommendations of the Initiative and Referendum Task Force were, which I chaired, incidentally, were enacted into law, and I believe they improved our process. We