

--With the challenges facing Vermont, we wanted a fresh perspective on the same ongoing problems.

--It's like the expression "if you keep doing the same thing you keep getting the same results" – and clearly the enormity of our problems call for some different results.

--We made a number of changes in the Senate committees; Senator Lyons' move is just one of them.

--Her appointment to the Finance Committee, in particular, offers a valuable opportunity for her to bring her knowledge of natural resources issues to bear on a money committee.

--We also appointed Senator Lyons to the Health & Welfare Committee, which will be considering a number of important issues related to the implementation of health care reform.

--Senator Lyons isn't someone whose intelligence and expertise can only be applied to Natural Resources issues, and it would be a discredit to her to think that's the case. We think she'll do a great job on these other committees.

--Although change can be uncomfortable, we think it will produce great results for Vermont.

--There are a lot of rumors out there, but the Committee on Committees is not governed by rumors or the pressure of lobbying, but by what we think is the best design for the Senate.