

because of that fact, amendments that are being brought all the time are going to contain multiple issues, and may...each of those separate issues may not be being addressed at the time in whatever it is that's attempting to be amended...being amended into. And I think if we...if we get into the habit of dividing the question and then questioning germaneness on each of those single topics, and interpreting the germaneness rule very strictly, as has been suggested by some, that will simply become a tactic that's used on top of what has become a tactic already, and that is the division of the question initially. I can think of a number of issues, for example, where we deal with bills that are primarily regulatory in nature, but also may include a tax...tax adjustment, or the creation of a new type of tax. Any amendment to a bill like that, depending on what the...what the specific subject matter of the item to be amended into at that point, any amendment to a bill that contained all of the complex components of that bill could be divided, and subsequently the components that are not included in the original proposition could be ruled nongermane at that point, and you would not be able to take them up. I think we would be doing an injustice to the legislative process not to allow amendments containing the full subject matter of the proposition under question to be...to be considered, without the threat of being divided and subsequently having certain portions amended out simply because they did not fit the strict interpretation of germaneness. Germaneness, in general, has been considered a number of times over the years, with some people preferring a very strict ruling of germaneness on the issue of germaneness, and other people basically preferring virtually no germane ruling...germaneness rule at all. And, frankly, I think while we've arrived at a happy medium, over the last few years, and that is a germaneness rule that recognizes the...the importance of germaneness, especially in a one-body Legislature, to make sure that every single bill that comes down the pike does not become a Christmas tree, while at the same time allowing some latitude for an amendment that is reasonably within the scope of the subject matter to be taken into consideration. I think that we would be...we would be doing ourselves a disservice not to overrule the Chair at this point, because I think it's important that we make the point that an amendment that properly does contain all the complex components of a specific item under consideration ought to be...be able to be considered in its entirety as germane, even if it's divided and considered one piece at a time. Thank you.