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To the Editor:

Governor Douglas should join numerous national political figures who are ardent supporters of IRV. Many prominent leaders, from former Vermont Governor Howard Dean to Senator John McCain, understand the pivotal role that IRV plays in the democratic process.

In his book What We Do Now, Governor Dean writes, "Instant runoff voting would be beneficial for our electoral process, because it would encourage candidates to hold a firm set of principles without worrying that their beliefs could make them unviable. It would allow people to vote for candidates they really want to elect, thereby increasing both enthusiasm and turnout."

Current U.S. Senator and front-running Republican Presidential Candidate John McCain (AZ), has been quoted as saying, "Instant runoff voting will lead to good government because voters will elect leaders who have the support of a majority. Elected leaders will be more likely to listen to all and cities will be able to enjoy big tax savings and keep majority rule."

Closer to home, when the Instant Runoff Voting Advisory question was posed to Vermonters during Town Meeting Week 2002, 53 of the 56 towns who included this important question on their ballots voted in favor of IRV. Governor Douglas signed the charter allowing the city of Burlington to adopt this procedure. IRV has been successful there and will prove to be a positive change if implemented for this year's election for U.S. Representative.

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