

trying to say is if we disrupt too much the operations of Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, we're going to hurt the water fowl. We're going to hurt the environment of the river. Yes, the river has changed. It used to be a treeless river but now there are trees. The Audubon Society, the Whooping Crane Trust has come in. They have cleared areas on the river for habitat. I commend them for that, but let's not forget that the Sandhill crane and the migratory birds spend a lot of time in my cornfield. They're welcome to it. I love to see them. But we have some state water laws and we have farmers with water rights. All the water taken out for irrigation in Nebraska out of the Platte River is in a watershed that drains into the Platte River. It doesn't go to the Republican, it doesn't go to Kansas, it doesn't go to South Dakota, it goes back to the Platte River. I have a stream on my farm that runs year round. Before irrigation that was a dry stream. We have recharged the underground aquifer...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...and it has helped stabilize the water flow and we have a lot of streams in south central Nebraska that drain back into the river. Any irrigation water taken out and put on crops in south central Nebraska, all the runoff from that goes back into the Platte River. We need this state water plan, and if you don't want to call it comprehensive, if you don't want to call it a water plan, that's fine, but I think we need to recognize that we do have laws in Nebraska and all we're asking is that the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission take a look at that and I would be glad to answer any questions that you have on this issue.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. We'll now go to Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I'm serving for the first year on the Natural Resources Committee and heard this resolution and so forth. It's kind of interesting if you look at the resolution, as you read the resolution, it goes back, basically, to the constitutional amendment of 1919 and 1920, and I introduced the constitutional amendment to put cities, municipalities into the thing because since 1920 and 1991 we have changed in this great state of ours. We have moved from where more people are living in cities and living in towns over 2,500 than it was in 1920. In fact, in