

the third largest corn producing state in the nation. Nebraska exports more agricultural products than any state in the nation. The counties I serve are second and third in beef production in the state. Let the farmers use the water first, we'll send it down the river, we'll keep your minimum flows there. If you don't want to call this a comprehensive water plan, let's call it a collection of state water laws, but FERC a year ago said, let's send some water down the river for the birds. They didn't save one Sandhill crane. The whooping cranes don't even use the river. Since they've developed this habitat I think they have sighted six whooping cranes on the river in the past 20 years. I had eight of them sit on a lagoon, I had four whooping cranes sit on a lagoon on my property for eight days a year ago. I think a thousand members of the Audubon Society came out from Grand Island and Kearney to see them and the Game and Parks Commission was there to protect those whooping cranes. They are quite a spectacle. If you've seen a Sandhill crane and like that, wait till you see a whooping crane. They're almost twice as tall. They're white and black. They're beautiful. I've been close to them. I'll bring the picture down and show you, but they don't use the river. They use the swamps and the wetlands around the area. If you don't want to call this a comprehensive water plan, that's fine with me. We'll amend it, but let's get it on the floor, let's discuss it, but I think it's foolish to ignore farmers' water rights. Any negotiations with FERC or with the opposing views to the relicensing of Kingsley can be handled and I guarantee you, if any settlement will guarantee more water in the river, I'll give up 10, 20, 30 percent of my water, but I won't give it all away and some people would have me do that. So please get this bill onto the floor. It's very important for central Nebraska. It's the number one issue in my district, believe me. If you don't, I'll have you come out and, Senator Beutler, you can talk to the farmers in that area. See what they say about it. I urge you to advance this resolution to the floor.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Question.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson has called the question. Do I see five hands? I do. We'll now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.