

be willing to answer any questions. To my knowledge, they are very supportive of the measure. With that, I would hope that there'd be 30 votes to suspend the rules so we can proceed in this manner.

SENATOR WARNER: Before going to the next speaker, Senator Horgan has 57 guests, 57 eighth graders from Mary Our Queen Elementary School in Omaha and teachers in the south balcony. If you would please stand, the Legislature may recognize you. Thank you. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's been about 55 years since Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District was chartered and irrigation water was diverted from the South Platte River to irrigate about 140,000 acres in south central Nebraska. I rise to support Senator Bernard-Stevens' motion to suspend the rules. What we are trying to accomplish here is to be able to expand board representation. This would allow Central to expand board representation. It would not mandate that they do. It would be a decision made by them. Right now, they could not allow representation from Keith, Lincoln or Dawson County if they wanted to. It's just not in the statutes, so I think what Senator Bernard-Stevens is doing here is very proper. When the district was created, no one thought about recreation, no one thought about downstream problems. It was simply a matter of bringing irrigation water to that part of the state. And Lincoln, Dawson and Keith County have a tremendous amount of interest in what happens in that irrigation district. It is my feeling that the district should still be controlled by or not...maybe not controlled but at least operated by irrigation interest, but I think we have to recognize that there is recreational interest here. There's an interest in how the river is operated and, although I think in FERC relicensing there'll be a lot of controls put on what Central can and cannot do as far as instream flows and et cetera, but I rise to support the motion to suspend the rules. I think what Senator Bernard-Stevens is doing here is maybe long overdue and so I would ask that you support this motion to suspend the rules.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I also rise to address this issue. This has come to our attention in the Natural Resources Committee several times over the years that I