

check, they have in their bylaws that their board members have to be farmers. I certainly don't know of anybody serving on the Nebraska Corn Growers Association that isn't a farmer. My neighbor serves on the state board of Farm Bureau and I certainly know of a lot of individuals that serve with the Nebraska Cattlemen. The Nebraska Water Users Association, which has Jim Lundgren and Tom Schwarz, and I know Jim has served as state president of that association, is one of the most credible people in the state of Nebraska when it comes to knowledge on water issues, and they have been very involved in this process. The South Platte United Chamber of Commerce, which is an organization that runs approximately from Hastings to the Colorado border through Holdrege and McCook, have endorsed this process, and the farmers have not chastised them for supporting this bill. I could say something about the two organizations that are opposed, but I think probably just best not to do that. Nebraska is very fortunate. We have a lot of underground water in the state of Nebraska and probably it is time that we recognized the interrelationship between ground water and surface water, and I'd just like to commend Senator Beutler and the committee for doing such a thorough job, and I think they have taken in the concerns the water users of this state. I'd leave you with one fact. There is a lot of tributaries that flow into the state of Nebraska, but keep in mind for every acre foot of water that flows into this state, nine acre feet, nine acre feet flow out and it ends up in the Gulf of Mexico. Now much time do I have left?

SPEAKER WITHEM: You have a little more than a minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I would yield the rest of that time to Senator Bohlke.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. I was off the floor for a bit but I did hear some of the debate going up...going on on the floor, and I thought that I would like to say, as one of the few people who did vote no on the bill in the committee, certainly we have had a hardworking committee, certainly Senator Beutler and the committee have, I think, done everything to make contact with farmers and it's true, the hearings across the state and the long, long hours, and those hearing rooms were filled with one farmer right after another