

It has come to my attention there will soon be a vote on the proposed merger of Central Irrigation and Dawson Public Power.

I do not farm anymore but I grew up farming. My Uncle Lanny and I farmed outside of Axtell and Minden in the heart of irrigation country. Many involved with this merger knew Lanny Kingsley.

My great-grandfather, George P. Kingsley gave his time, talent and treasure and for that matter his life to bringing irrigation to our part of the world. Irrigation put farming on the map in Central Nebraska and farming allowed Central Nebraska to live and thrive. All economies of every city surrounded by agriculture thrive because of irrigated acres.

So I have to ask myself what would George P. Kingsley Sr., Donaldson W. Kingsley, Sr., and Langevin G. Kingsley think of this merger? First they would rollover in their graves and shout don't do it! Why would farmers give up the one thing they hold dear and the one thing that has allowed them to increase their yield, their acres and their security? This merger reeks of politics and farmers are not political people. They are simply hard-working and no nonsense people and the backbone of Central Nebraska. Politicians are slick and skilled in the art of persuasion. Why would anyone agree to a merger that so blatantly benefits one side (DPP)? Central has so little to gain and so much to lose and who loses the most? Farmers. What was the whole system designed for? Farmers. Why did my relatives give their time, expertise and money to see it through? Farmers. I encourage all local people, farmers and anyone and everyone who has benefitted from this historic project to take a look at the Central and DPP websites. They will definitely not encourage you to be for this merger. I would also encourage anyone who has a cabin at Johnson Lake or has recreated at any of the lakes created by this exceptional project to do the same thing including anyone who has spent time on Lake McConaughy. Politics and power have poisoned so many things. Don't let this merger poison our beautiful Nebraska land.

Sincerely,

David N. Kingsley, M.D.