

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The proposed Central merger with Dawson Public Power District is on everyone's minds these days. Mergers have two faces. On the one hand if a Political Subdivision merges with another it generally gives them more political power in the legislature. On the other hand a merger always erodes local control because you have now banded together with an entity that has different strengths and weaknesses than you did before. The power that the new combined District has may well be detrimental if the board of the new District does not reflect the views of what the original district had -- and no one can predict the concerns of a future generation.

The make up of the Board of Directors of the new combined District gives Dawson more voting members than Central. Therefore, the people who represent us no longer have a vote that can over ride conflicting views from Dawson -- and there will be many things in the future that we do not agree with. This merger gives Dawson a huge benefit that we will lose because we are giving up the ability of our vote to make a differ-

ence in the outcome.

We have not always seen eye to eye with Central's Board but we have always had the ability to change that leadership at the ballot box. After the merger we could vote all of the directors out and replace them with people of a different view but it would be pointless because the people North of the Platte River would ALWAYS have the ability to out vote them.

These are matters that people will go to their graves with. This is an issue that will not be blown over in a generation. It divides communities. What is a board member anyway? He is a representative of the people. He is a man whom we have voted into office to represent OUR views. He is not a man who has the right to represent the views of the District Manager, or even his own views over the views of the vast majority that elected him to that office in the first place.

Make your voice known to your elected officials. It may be the last time your voice has any impact on matters of this irrigation District.

James Paulsen
Funk, Neb.