

**EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**DON ADAMS AT CA HEARINGS**

**September 6, 2006 At Gering:**

*"Irrigated agriculture is what we do better than anyone else in the world. Irrigated agriculture generates 4.5 billion dollars to our state's economy and one of every three jobs in the state is derived from agriculture."*

*"Irrigated agriculture must be defended, encouraged and enhanced rather than being targeted and assailed as a problem."*

*"What is driving the CA is fear of what the Fish and Wildlife Service might do if we do not agree to the CA. This is coercion, not cooperation."*

**September 22, 2006 at Grand Island:**

*"Every community all up and down this valley was built and is now sustained by the massive dollars irrigated agriculture pumps into the local economies."*

*"This Platte valley belongs to you ... not the Fish and Wildlife Service, nor the Bureau of Reclamation, nor the Department of Interior. It is your heritage and legacy built by your forefathers over a century of courage, commitment and hard work."*

**October 10, 2006 at Lincoln:**

*"Imagine if the Fish and Wildlife Service went into Wyoming and decided that oil, gas and coal mining operations were harming the habitat of the endangered preble's meadow jumping mouse or the black footed ferret and, therefore, such operations which generate billions of dollars must be restricted or suspended."*

*"Or, in Colorado, the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the operation of big time ski resorts like Aspen, Vail and Breckenridge were disturbing the Mexican Spotted Owl's nesting habitat and, therefore, the resorts which generate billions of dollars had to be shut down."*

*"Do you really think the governors of Wyoming and Colorado would allow such programs to go forward? HECK NO! In Nebraska we have irrigated agriculture,*

*an industry that is every bit as important to our economy as the oil, coal and gas industry is to Wyoming's economy, and skiing and vacationing is to Colorado's economy."*

*"Handing over control of the Platte River to the Fish and Wildlife Service is not how any Nebraska governor would want for all time to be remembered."*

In opposing the CA, Nebraskans First was joined by most all natural resources districts in the Platte, Blue and Elkhorn river basins. Central Platte NRD general manager Ron Bishop presented strong testimony against the CA. His NRD is situated at "ground zero" of the targeted habitat. Mr. Bishop testified that, "most of the water for the second and third increments of the CA will come out of agriculture use (drying up irrigated fields). Consequently, that will likely take 500,000 acres out of production. The CA program's cost with all three increments will likely be one billion dollars, with Nebraska's share conservatively to be 130 million dollars."

After signing off on the CA, Governor Heineman did say the he would closely monitor the progress to determine if the benefits outweigh the sacrifices. Nebraska, he said, reserves the right to pull out of this program if the value of proceeding is outweighed by the negatives to our economy. We believe that the harm to irrigated agriculture and our economy as subsequent phases of the CA are undertaken. At that time the Nebraska governor will have to reassess and then hopefully pull us out of the CA and free us from the clutches of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

