

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

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WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 18 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today urged Senate acceptance of the House-Senate conference report on emergency federal relief for disaster-stricken areas.

In a Senate statement on the conference report on Senate Bill 1685, Dole said, "We are all sympathetic to the pressing needs of families and communities when disaster strikes. Unfortunately, to date, the federal response has been slow and from scattered sources."

Dole, who helped draft the legislation in the Senate Public Works Committee, added, "S. 1685 is one of the most significant bills to be considered this year. If enacted, it would more efficiently and effectively meet the emergency needs of people in the wake of storms, floods and high waters."

"It would coordinate all federal laws on emergency aid," he said, "and would make available federal assistance at the time and place and more in the form it is needed."

"Even more important is the recognition in the bill that preventative measures must be taken as much as possible," he added. "Although we cannot control the weather, we can and must do better to control its effects."