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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 26 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) testified today in support of a bill he cosponsored which would increase from 50 to 80 per cent the federal payment for any cooperative meat inspection program carried out by the Senate.

Speaking before the subcommittee on Agricultural Research and General Legislation, of which he is a member, Dole expressed his general approval of the Wholesome Meat Act of 1968, but said that the bill he was supporting, S.1316, would "refine the act by providing for an increase in the federal funding of state meat inspection programs that are certified "equal to" federal regulations as required in the Wholesome Meat Act."

Dole submitted for the hearing record a resolution passed by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture that endorses the legislation.

The resolution, signed by the Kansas board members, requested that Congress "support federal legislation which authorizes the United States Department of Agriculture to provide at least eighty per cent of the financing of state-federal meat and poultry inspection programs."

Dole explained that the pending bill's requested "increase in funding would assist the states in continuing their own programs when they might consider dropping their own system and letting the federal government pay 100 per cent of the inspection system."