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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 14 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today urged Congress to "act quickly to pass legislation containing the Appalachian Regional Development Act and the Economic Development Act," but expressed firm disapproval of the provision of S 575 which would provide a \$2 billion Accelerated Public Works Program.

Speaking on the Senate floor prior to the vote on the President's Monday veto of the Senate bill, Dole explained that he would vote to sustain the veto because the bill's House-added Accelerated Public Works Program provision was given inadequate consideration in terms of its value "in expeditiously providing jobs for the unemployed."

Dole, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Public Works, said:

To understand the reasons for this veto it must be realized that when S 575 originated in the Senate Public Works Committee and when it was passed by the full Senate, it was designed only to extend the Appalachian Regional Development Act and the Public Works and Economic Development Act. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives added the Accelerated Public Works Program and the Senate was forced to accept the provision in the Senate-House conference on the bill.

The Kansas Senator noted that the "selective nature" of unemployment, "much of it related directly or indirectly to industries adversely affected by defense cutbacks," has added to the difficulties in devising "a comprehensive approach to the problem," but stated that the Accelerated Public Works approach "would do nothing to help the unemployed aerospace technician in Wichita, Seattle, or Southern California, or other highly skilled workers who are the unique feature of this employment crisis."

Dole pointed out in addition that construction projects such as those that would occur from S 575 "have long lead times, and past experience demonstrates such programs would not be fully effective for at least 18 months." "The construction industry," he said, "which would be the major beneficiary of an Accelerated Public Works Program is showing considerable strength in today's economy; and we could thereby be increasing the inflationary pressures on that industry by devoting additional funds to it."

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Dole explained that earlier this year the Economic Development Subcommittee of the Senate Public Works Committee held a series of hearings around the country as a part of its review of federal economic development programs. Dole presided over one hearing in Wichita, Kansas, where testimony was taken from unemployed aerospace technicians. "I specifically asked," he said, "whether an Accelerated Public Works Program would be an answer to their problems. The witnesses replied that it would not be an answer because they were not trained as construction workers."

Dole stressed that he did not object to Title II, the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, or to Title III, the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, adding that "the Economic Development Administration has been helpful to Kansas, and Title II as amended would be of even greater assistance to the rural areas of Kansas that have been suffering from outmigration during the past ten years. But the benefits of these programs could not offset the cost and ineffectiveness of the Accelerated Public Works Program. I am hopeful the Congress will act quickly to pass legislation containing the Appalachian Regional Development Act and the Economic Development Act."