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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., OCT. 19, 1971 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole this afternoon announced that the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1971 were reported to the U.S. Senate by the Committee on Public Works, of which he is a member.

The Kansas Senator said the objective of the bill is to restore and maintain the "natural, chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Nation's waters by uniting the efforts of the federal and state governments."

To achieve the objective, the bill establishes the elimination of the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters as a national goal.

TWO AREAS OF THE BILL ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO KANSAS

1) To assist states and localities, the bill proposed a four-program of Federal grants for construction of sewage treatment plants. The Federal share of grants for construction of sewage treatment plants. The Federal share of matching funds totals \$1.4 billion through FY 1975.

The bill also provides reimbursement for sewage treatment plants built without Federal assistance during earlier stages of the Federal program. Plants begun between FY 1956 and FY 1966 are eligible for grants equal to 30 per cent of project cost. Plants begun after June 30, 1966 are eligible for grants equal to 50 per cent of project cost. A total of \$1.5 billion is authorized for this purpose. Wichita will be eligible to receive approximately \$3 million under this provision, and other Kansas communities may also receive reimbursements.

2) This bill would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to place responsibility on the states for instituting and expanding the control of water pollution related to agriculture. To assist the states in this effort, the Environmental Protection Agency, working closely with the Department of Agriculture, is directed by the bill to provide technical expertise and in some cases financial assistance for combatting this serious, yet extremely complex, form of pollution.

The bill recognizes that the Department of Agriculture and the agricultural community have made strides to improve the quality of the environment; therefore, the bill attempts to incorporate their efforts into the Act and provides \$10 million for research on agricultural pollution.