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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., NOV. 2, 1971 -- The U.S. Senate discussed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1971. In a statement on the Senate floor Kansas Senator Bob Dole said:

"The time is past being ripe for a consistent, comprehensive long-range approach to the problems of water pollution in America. The value of our water resources in incalculable and the damage which their continued deterioration and degradation would inflict on present and future generations is too great to permit us the luxury of inaction or piecemeal attempts at solutions.

The pending bill provides the framework for a comprehensive approach to better water quality. It recognizes that the problem--or more appropriately the problems--of water pollution exist. Second, it places substantial emphasis on the necessity for thorough, ongoing, and detailed study of these problems. And, third, it undertakes to establish the means whereby understanding technology and national commitment can be harnessed to achieve the greatest possible progress consistent with the practical limitations of a free society."

Dole said most of agricultural pollution problems deal with what are known as "non-point" sources. Very simply, a non-point source of pollution is one that does not confine its polluting discharge to one fairly specific location, such as a sewer pipe, a drainage ditch or a conduit. In the area of agricultural pollution a feedlot would generally be considered to be a non-point source as would pesticide and fertilizer runoff and accumulation.

Dole cited examples of the progress being made by states and agricultural industries in combatting pollution:

"In Kansas there are some 1350 feedlots presently in operation. Of these, 1150 are now in compliance with the standards established by the state division of environmental health. Out of the remaining 200 operations, 150 are presently undertaking steps to achieve compliance, and the other 50 have not yet been contacted by the Health Department to assess the compliance to their operations.

These statistics point out two important facts. First, the private interests involved in these operations are concerned and active in efforts to improve and preserve environmental quality. Second, the state has played a leading role in establishing and administering an environmental quality program. Both of these factors are important as we formulate the role which should be undertaken by the Federal government in this area. The Federal government has an important, a necessary role, but the states -- in this case the state of Kansas -- have proven abilities and sound records in the environmental field. And neither they nor the private interests which have cooperated and worked with them in the past should be unnecessarily burdened with superfluous federal control or restrictions as they continue to work to clean up our Nation's waters.