



**NEWS** from  
**U.S. Senator**  
**Bob Dole**

(R.—Kans.)

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Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - JULY 25, 1972

WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 25, 1972 -- Senator Bob Dole today called upon the Department of the Interior to hold public hearings on its proposal to terminate the Helium Conservation Program.

The program was initiated in 1960 and is designed to preserve the United States' helium reserves. These reserves are found in commercially recoverable quantities only within natural gas deposits, the great majority of which are located in the Hugoton-Panhandle field of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Under the conservation program helium is purchased by the federal government, separated from the natural gas and stored for future commercial and public use.

In Kansas helium-bearing gas deposits underlie more than 2,500,000 acres. Helium separation plants are located near Bushton, Ulysses and Liberal.

Before the conservation program was established huge quantities of helium -- estimated to be as much as four billion cubic feet annually -- were wasted through escape into the atmosphere when the natural gas was burned.

In his letter Senator Dole called Secretary Morton's attention to the lack of "objective, outside studies of the helium industrial-technological system" which he said made it "extremely difficult to foresee the future uses and requirements for this element and thereby to assess the advisability of terminating the helium conservation program."

Dole said he believes "helium might be one of the most important substances of the coming century" and that public hearings and the information they could bring forth would provide "the greatest possible assurance that a wise helium policy would be adopted."