



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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CONGRESSMEN ASK FOR INCREASED FUEL ALLOCATION TO FRONTIER AIRLINES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senators Bob Dole and James Pearson, and Congressman Keith Sebelius sent a letter Wednesday to Secretary of the Interior, Rogers Morton asking that the Department approve immediately the application of Frontier Airlines for increased fuel allocation. Frontier's overall fuel consumption has increased only 0.7% since 1970 -- compared to an industry-wide average increase of more than 13%.

1972 was a 6-year low for Frontier due to their financial problems at that time, and the airline undertook emergency, temporary, cost-cutting measures during that year to save the company. This effort was successful, but if the fuel allocation is frozen at 1972 levels, under the Federal mandatory allocation program which becomes effective November 1, 1973, the communities served by Frontier will suffer disproportionately low levels of scheduled service in the coming months.

Seven Kansas communities (Tri-City, Wichita, Topeka, Manhattan, Salina, Hays, and Liberal) and scores of other communities in the 16 states served by Frontier will be faced with reduction in the number of flights to those areas effective October 28. Unless Frontier is successful in obtaining relief, it will be necessary on February 1 to further reduce planned 1974 fuel usage. This means further reduction in schedules and may mean the complete elimination of service to some cities.

"We believe that the Department of the Interior can approve the application of Frontier for increased fuel allocation," the letter stated. "Isolated communities whose only viable transportation link is Frontier depend upon restoration of that level of service provided before the allocation program forced a cutback. Therefore, we urge that Frontier's application be reviewed expeditiously and approved. This is a problem of great importance to transportation in Kansas and 15 other states."