

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE BACKS AIR FORCE PURCHASE OF BOEING 747

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) said today the Senate "did the right thing" in approving an amendment which calls for the Air Force to purchase commercial jetliners for use as new military cargo planes.

According to Dole, the Boeing 747 wide-body airliner is the leading commercial candidate to replace the C-5 cargo plane. If the 747 is picked, most of the necessary modification of the passenger jet for military purposes will take place at Boeing facilities in Wichita.

"The Senate did the right thing by voting for the 747 proposal. When implemented, it will save approximately \$2.7 billion in direct acquisition costs, and over a 20-year period, save another \$3 billion in operations and support costs. There are currently 77 C-5 cargo planes serving the needs of the armed forces. But when it comes to adding to that transportation fleet, it is clear that the 747 is already available, more efficient, faster, and a longer range aircraft than the C-5. There's no question the 747 can handle bulk and oversize loads better than the C-5," Dole said.

"It seems to me the bottom line here is clear: The Air Force will get an efficient aircraft, the aviation industry will get a shot in the arm, and the American taxpayers will be saving a few billion dollars." Dole concluded.

A Dole motion to table an amendment that would have weakened the 747 amendment was successful by a 53-44 vote.