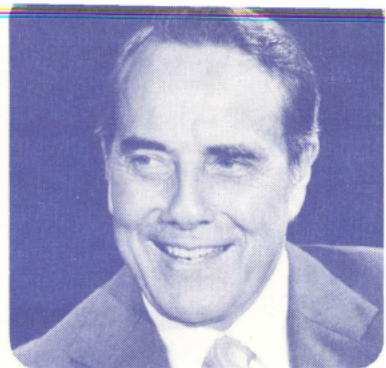


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-6521

DOLE: WICHITA OKAYED FOR UDAG FUNDS AFTER
"POCKET OF POVERTY" DESIGNATION

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that Wichita has been approved for federal funds which can be used for planned renovation projects in the downtown area.

Dole was advised Tuesday by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that a portion of downtown Wichita has been officially designated as a "Pocket of Poverty", thereby making that part of the city eligible for Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) funds.

"I am pleased that the city's project will now be eligible for federal assistance. This decision will be a boost to greater Wichita's on-going efforts to renovate the downtown area. The vitality of the state's largest city is without doubt important to the overall economic climate in Kansas," Dole said. "The persistence of city officials and businessmen and women has paid off for Wichita."

Senator Dole helped get the ball rolling for Wichita in January when he brought a top HUD official to Topeka to meet with Kansas city leaders, including several representatives from Wichita. At the capital city meeting, Don Dodge, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Management for Housing and Urban Development, outlined the requirements for UDAG funding and explained the "Pocket of Poverty" program to Kansas officials.

The UDAG program provides development dollars to eligible cities who then lend the money to developers at below market interest rates. The purpose of the UDAG program is to encourage renovation of blighted decaying urban areas. In the past, Wichita has not been eligible for UDAG funds. Therefore, the city has been working for some time on a "Pocket of Poverty" application that would allow certain sections that meet the necessary HUD criteria to be eligible for funding through the program.