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News from Senator

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(R - Kansas)

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DOLE URGES PRESIDENT TO DECLARE FIVE NORTHEAST KANSAS COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE— CALLS FOR APPROPRIATE AID TO THREE OTHER COUNTIES

WASHINGTON — Kansas Senator Bob Dole today urged President Reagan to declare five northeast Kansas counties eligible for Federal Disaster Assistance. The counties — Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, and Nemaha — have experienced serious flood damage following torrential storms during the past two weeks.

Dole said that the estimated cost of the damage exceeds \$81 million so far, with losses to private dwellings, businesses, sewer systems, bridges, and extensive agriculture damage. The figure is likely to increase substantially, due to subsequent storming.

In his letter to the President, Dole said, "I urge you to declare these Kansas counties as Federal Disaster Areas thereby entitling them to such government assistance as low interest loans for business and home repair, grants to those whose homes were destroyed, matching grants for road repair and bridge rebuilding, and low interest loans to farmers who have suffered crop loss.

Further, since the Governor has not requested a Federal Disaster Area declaration for the residents of Johnson, Leavenworth, and Pottawatomie counties, I would ask that you direct the Small Business Administration and the Farmers Home Administration to provide aid, where appropriate, to the residents of these counties."

"Kansans living in all of the above counties have suffered extreme hardships over the past two weeks. I ask that our government act promptly to mitigate their suffering," Senator Dole concluded.