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News from Senator





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DOLE TAX RETURN COMPARISON PROJECT SHOWS TAX REFORM WOULD BENEFIT MOST KANSANS

Washington, DC -- A recent project sponsored by Kansas Sen. Bob Dole which enabled Kansas taxpayers to refigure their 1984 tax returns using proposed tax reform changes shows most Kansans would benefit from either, or both, reform packages advocated by the President and the House of Representatives, according to results released by Dole.

"As the Senate begins its debate on tax reform," said Sen. Dole in announcing the project results, "I wanted to determine how the proposed changes would affect Kansans. While we didn't have a specific Senate proposal to use, it is helpful to see what impact the other two packages would have. These results show that tax reform benefits most Kansas taxpayers."

Sen. Dole said that if the President's tax reform plan had been in effect for the 1984 tax year, 71-percent of the taxpayers participating in his project would have paid less tax and 29-percent would have paid more tax. If the House version had been in effect in 1984, Dole said 86-percent would have paid less tax while 14-percent would have paid more.

In a head-to-head comparison of each tax reform package, Sen. Dole said 55-percent of Kansas taxpayers would benefit more from the House version, 42-percent receive better treatment under the President's plan and three-percent would be affected equally by both packages.

Sen. Dole noted that a separate study prepared for the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations shows the average Kansas taxpayer would receive an 8.5-percent tax cut under the President's reform proposal and an 8.4-percent cut under the legislation passed by the House.

"From the perspective of the taxpayer, either the President's proposal or the legislation passed by the House fulfills at least one objective that must be met if we are to have tax reform individuals should see a reduction in the total federal tax they pay," said Sen. Dole. "For me to support tax reform requires that we also meet two other important objectives. First, we must ensure that more Americans pay their fair share of taxes and, second, tax reform doesn't contradict our efforts to reduce the federal deficit."

Dole sponsored the comparison project last month in shopping centers in Topeka, Overland Park and Wichita. Dole said that while he could not say the findings were truly representative of all Kansas taxpayers, he was confident enough persons with varying tax situations volunteered for the project to make the results reasonably acceptable. Taxpayer calculations were made by officials from the national accounting firm of McGladrey, Hendrickson & Pullen.