

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

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CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE URGES LITWIN ENGINEERING TO RECONSIDER MOVE FROM WICHITA

Washington, DC -- Kansas Sen. Bob Dole said he is urging Litwin Engineering and Construction Co., Inc., to reconsider its announced move from Wichita.

Dole said he wants the firm to reevaluate its planned consolidation of operations to company facilities in Houston, TX, because of a federal loan guarantee for a Nebraska ethanol plant where Litwin would serve as the prime contractor.

"When I heard that Litwin was planning to move from Wichita," said Sen. Dole, "I suspected they were not yet aware of decisions affecting the Nebraska ethanol plant which could, in turn, positively affect the company's ability to stay in Kansas."

Dole said he was notified of plans by the U.S. Dept. of Energy to grant a loan guarantee for a Blair, NE, ethanol plant during recent discussions with Energy Sec. John Herrington. "We were waiting for everyone involved in the Blair project to be notified before making an announcement. But when it became apparent that Litwin should know sooner, we decided to act fast and clear it up now."

"In light of these developments, I've asked Litwin to reconsider their planned move. While I don't want to create any false hopes, it is our objective to work out a solution where the company stays in Wichita. Litwin officials have told me they will take the current situation under advisement, and it is my hope they will clarify their intentions soon," said Sen. Dole.

Dole had been urging the Energy Dept. to approve the loan guarantee for the Blair ethanol plant, which is a project of Circle Energy, Inc., in Wichita.