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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, August 28, 1986 CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER (202) 224-6521

U.S. JUSTICE DEPT. OK'S SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC DEBT PLAN

Washington, DC -- The U.S. Justice Department has approved a plan proposed by Sunflower Electric Cooperative and its creditors to restructure \$650 million in debt, Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) announced today.

"The Sunflower plan, once fully implemented, will reduce the cooperative's debt service obligations to a level which can be met by current revenues," said Sen. Dole. "Perhaps the best feature of the plan is that it does not require a rate increase to service the debt - and that's good news for the 44,000 Sunflower customers throughout western Kansas."

According to Dole, the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) will give its final consideration to the plan within several weeks. "Once the final documents are drafted and executed, the KCC can act on it. I don't anticipate any problems there," said Sen. Dole.

Dole had opposed an earlier Sunflower plan when it was before the KCC in late 1985, due to a rate increase provision. Customers served by the cooperative already pay among the highest electric rates in the country, according to Dole.