

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE SUPPORTS RAISING SPEED LIMIT IN RURAL AREAS

Washington, DC -- An amendment to national highway legislation to allow states to raise the speed limit to 65 miles-per-hour on rural interstate highways has the support of Senator Bob Dole (R-KS).

"I believe it's time for the federal government to allow the states the option to raise the speed limit on rural interstate highways," said Senator Dole, who voted for the measure in the Senate.

"Anyone traveling a rural stretch of interstate highway knows how frustrating it can be to travel at 55 miles-per-hour on an open stretch of road," Sen. Dole said.

Dole noted that opponents of the amendment claimed the 55 miles-per-hour speed limit reduced highway accident. "However, statistics show that 85-percent of the motorists are currently driving in the 66 miles-per-hour range," he said.

"It is doubtful that giving the states the authority to raise the speed limit will lead to a substantial increase in the number of accidents," Sen. Dole said.

Dole also said that states which now require large numbers of state police troopers to enforce the lower speed limit could be used to prevent other crimes.

For instance, "it's estimated that 85-percent of California's highway patrol officers are used for speed compliance," said Sen. Dole. "No one can argue that these officers could be far better used to fight other types of crime."

The amendment was tacked onto a \$52 billion, four-year funding reauthorization for highway and mass transportation. The measure now goes to a House-Senate conference, where differences with the House version of the bill must be resolved.