

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, November 7, 1986

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FUNDING INCREASE FOR STATE'S ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Washington, DC -- The U.S. Department of Interior will establish a minimum annual funding level for the federal government's Abandoned Mine Land program (AML), according to Kansas Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum and Rep. Bob Whitaker.

"This allocation means Kansas will receive a minimum of \$2 million per year to help correct the environmental damage caused by coal mining practices that occurred before August 3, 1977," said Sen. Dole. It was then that the federal government established strict procedures for coal mining, according to Dole.

Sen. Dole said, "This translates into approximately a \$1 million increase in the state's reclamation program for the next fiscal year, and as much as a \$1.5 million increase in future years."

Dole, Kassebaum and Whitaker first became involved in the AML issue when it was discovered the House version of the Interior Department's proposed appropriation bill for 1987 would have restricted the use of discretionary funds.

According to Dole, the three Kansas Republicans urged the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee to drop the restrictive language when the bill came before the Senate, thus clearing the path for the Interior Department to adopt a minimum-based budget allocation formula.

Said Sen. Dole, "Under the minimum-based budget, states such as Kansas, that have less coal production but no fewer problems left over from the past, will get the necessary money from the Interior Secretary's discretionary fund. We can now be even more aggressive in working to meet our critical reclamation needs in southeastern Kansas."