



Nancy Landon Kassebaum

United States Senator
Kansas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--June 9, 1988)--At the urging of Kansas Sens. Nancy Landon Kassebaum and Bob Dole, a Senate subcommittee today approved \$1.35 million in initial federal funding for construction of new plant science research facilities at Kansas State University.

Kassebaum and Dole praised the action by the Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee as "the first essential step" toward completion of phase two of the Throckmorton Plant Science Center.

"Kansas State has a long and proud history of serving agriculture through advanced research on wheat and other crops that are vital to the economy of our state and the surrounding Great Plains," Kassebaum said. "The subcommittee's approval of initial federal funds for this project can help assure that Kansas State continues this effort with state-of-the-art laboratories and greenhouses that can produce the crops and farm products of the future."

"With today's action," Dole said, "the Appropriations Subcommittee acknowledged what a review team appointed by the Agriculture Department had already found -- that the Throckmorton Science Center will have a significant impact on agriculture in Kansas and across the Midwest. Kansas State has long been at the forefront of plant science research and construction of this facility will build on that leadership."

The subcommittee action still must be approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate. Final agreement then must be reached with the House of Representatives but Kassebaum and Dole said today's action is a major advance for the project, which is one of the highest building priorities for the Kansas Board of Regents.

The Kansas Legislature so far has appropriated \$1.06 million for the plant science facility, primarily for construction of new greenhouses, and the federal funds will be used for planning and initial construction of the research building's offices, classrooms and state-of-the-art laboratories.

"The total cost of the project is estimated at \$26.9 million, an amount that is beyond the state's ability to provide in a reasonable time frame," Kassebaum said. "The subcommittee's action to begin providing federal funds on a 50-50 matching basis will allow the project to be completed in a timely fashion and will reinforce the very sizeable commitment that Kansas State already has made to plant science research."

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