

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE INTRODUCES BILL TO REFORMULATE CEDAR BLUFF RESERVOIR PROJECT

Washington, D.C. -- In response to a two-decade decline in the available water supply at Cedar Bluff Reservoir in Trego County, Kansas Senator Bob Dole introduced legislation in the Senate yesterday to reformulate the terms of the water project.

"In recent years, the Cedar Bluff Irrigation District has not been able to meet its obligations under the present contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. No irrigation water has been delivered from the reservoir since 1978 and recent studies indicate a significant flow depletion in the Smoky Hill River that feeds it," said Dole.

"At the end of last year, the state and the Bureau of Reclamation reached an understanding that would allow for resumption of the project. This legislation, with a similar bill to be introduced in the House by Congressman Pat Roberts, will pave the way for implementation of that agreement and get this project going again," Dole said.

"In recognition of the fact that not much time remains in the current legislative session, I have urged the Senate Energy and Water Committee to move expeditiously on this matter. It is my hope that we can get this bill passed by both Houses before Congress adjourns for the year," Dole added.

In addition to authorizing the reformulation for the Cedar Bluff Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program, Kansas, the bill would provide for the amendment of water service and repayment contracts.