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BOB DOLE

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(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER (202) 224-5358

DOLE WELCOMES NEW OWNERS OF LEARJET; GOOD NEWS FOR WICHITA AVIATION INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON - SENATOR BOB DOLE, LEADING A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN EGYPT FOR OFFICIAL MEETINGS WITH MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS, TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING THE SALE OF LEARJET TO THE CANADIAN COMPANY BOMBARDIER:

"TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SALE OF LEARJET TO BOMBARDIER OF CANADA IS GOOD NEWS -- FOR THE COMPANIES, FOR LEARJET'S EMPLOYEES, AND FOR WICHITA.

IN SIMPLEST TERMS, THIS MEANS THAT LEAR WILL KEEP FLYING, AND THAT ONE OF THE PROUDEST NAMES IN CIVIL AVIATION WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER. JUST AS IMPORTANT, IT WILL DO SO IN WICHITA. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT LEAR'S MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS AND JOBS WILL REMAIN, AND EVENTUALLY EXPAND, RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE. COMBINED WITH THE PRESENCE OF BEECH AND CESSNA, THIS PRESERVES WICHITA'S STATUS AS THE WORLD'S LEADER IN CIVIL AVIATION.

I'M PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT LEAR WILL BE PART OF A COMPANY OF BOMBARDIER'S EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AND EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN AVIATION AND TRANSPORTATION MANUFACTURING.

SO I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE BOTH COMPANIES, AND TO WELCOME BOMBARDIER TO WICHITA, THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO MAKE AIRPLANES -- AND WHICH MAKES THE BEST AIRPLANES IN THE WORLD."