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OTHER KANSAS COMMUNITIES DEVASTATED BY MARCH TORNADOES

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE HAS SECURED \$2.5 MILLION IN SPECIAL FUNDING FOR THOSE COMMUNITIES DEVASTATED BY THE MARCH 13TH TORNADOES THAT RIPPED THROUGH CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST KANSAS.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL BILL NOW HEADS TO THE SENATE FLOOR FOR CONSIDERATION. AFTER SENATE PASSAGE, THE MEASURE HEADS TO A CONFERENCE WITH THE HOUSE AND THEN BACK TO BOTH CHAMBERS FOR FINAL ACTION. THE PROCESS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT A WEEK.

BECAUSE OF THE EXTENT OF DAMAGES TO HESSTON AND OTHER KANSAS TOWNS, DOLE HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR MORE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE. LATE TUESDAY, DOLE SECURED THE \$2.5 MILLION IN TORNADO FUNDING DURING MARK-UP OF THE EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL BILL IN THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. THE FUNDING COMES OUT OF UNUSED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SET ASIDE LAST YEAR IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE HUGO AND THE CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE.

"THE EXPERTS SAY THE MARCH TORNADOES MAY HAVE BEEN THE MOST POWERFUL IN HISTORY," DOLE SAID. "NO WONDER THE DAMAGE WAS SO EXTENSIVE -- AND THE REPAIR BILL SO EXPENSIVE. CLEARLY, THESE KANSAS TOWNS NEED ALL THE HELP THAT WE CAN GIVE THEM. I AM PLEASED MY SPECIAL KANSAS AMENDMENT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE NEW FUNDING BILL."

DOLE STAFFERS IN KANSAS HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH CITY OFFICIALS IN HESSTON AND OTHER TORNADO-RAVAGED TOWNS IN AN EFFORT TO COORDINATE DISASTER RELIEF. MIKE GLASSNER, DOLE'S STATE DIRECTOR, WILL BE IN HESSTON THURSDAY TO MEET WITH CITY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE LATEST INFUSION OF FEDERAL AID.