

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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DOLE SECURES \$200,000 FOR KANSAS ABANDONED MINE SAFETY PROGRAM
Southeast Kansas Sites Targeted for Fix-Up

Washington -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) announced today that he has secured \$200,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help pay the cost of filling in abandoned mines in the state so that they are no longer a safety threat.

Dole stepped up pressure for the funds after a series of town meetings in Southeast Kansas this past year underscored the ongoing safety problem throughout the coal-producing sections of the state.

"Abandoned mines represent a 24-hour-a-day threat to Kansans, especially children. We simply have to do all we can to seal up these safety hazards, which is why I have been pushing the Agriculture Department to help us fund this critical project," Dole said.

The federal financing is administered by the Soil Conservation Service and will help fund the Rural Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project ("RAMP").

Senator Dole paid special tribute to Reverend Thomas D. Thorne of Altamont, Kansas who spearheaded a group of 37 concerned Southern Baptist churches whose children are threatened by abandoned mines surrounding the Tri-County Baptist Campgrounds in Weir, Kansas.

"Reverend Thorne has been a real leader on this issue and I have valued his input as we made our case to the Department of Agriculture," Dole concluded. "I am pleased \$75,000 of this new funding will go to planning the fix-up around the Tri-County camp. The remaining funds will be used to begin work at a site near Scammon."

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