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DOLE APPLAUDS PRESIDENT BUSH'S TRAINING INITIATIVE

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE TODAY APPLAUDED PRESIDENT BUSH'S NEW INITIATIVE FOR HELPING MAKE AMERICA'S WORKERS MORE COMPETITIVE. THE PRESIDENT UNVEILED HIS PLAN IN UNION TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY.

"IT WILL BE UP TO CONGRESS TO FOLLOW THE PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENT INITIATIVE" DOLE SAID.

"COMPETITION IN WORLD MARKETS ISN'T GETTING ANY EASIER, THAT'S WHY OUR WORKFORCE NEEDS THIS KIND OF BOLD INITIATIVE SO AMERICA WILL BE LEADING THE PACK, NOT RESTING ON OUR LAURELS."

THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE HAS TWO PARTS: THE FIRST HELPS PREPARE NON-COLLEGE BOUND YOUTH FOR AN INCREASINGLY DEMANDING AND SKILLS-ORIENTED JOB MARKET; THE SECOND PART LOOKS AT DISLOCATED WORKERS WHO NEED NEW SKILLS AND GETS THEM BACK TO WORK IN GOOD JOBS.

"GETTING YOUTHS -- PRIMARILY THOSE WHO ARE ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED -- WHO FACE A FUTURE OF LOW PAYING OR NO JOBS -- INTO TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT EMPHASIZE PRACTICAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND DISCIPLINE IS ONE WAY THIS PROPOSAL WILL DELIVER.

"FOR THOSE WORKERS WHOSE JOBS ARE EITHER LOST OR THREATENED AS A RESULT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, THIS PROPOSAL WILL PROVIDE UNIVERSAL TRAINING COVERAGE TO GET THESE INDIVIDUALS BACK IN THE WORKFORCE", DOLE ADDED.

OVER FIVE YEARS, THIS PROPOSAL REPRESENTS A MORE THAN \$13 BILLION INITIATIVE CAPABLE OF SERVING MILLIONS OF DISLOCATED WORKERS AND STUDENTS.

"IF THERE IS ONE WORD THAT SUMS UP THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL, IT IS 'COMMITMENT' LET'S HOPE CONGRESS CAN MATCH IT."