

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PONY EXPRESS STATION

SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) GAVE THE FOLLOWING SPEECH AT THE PONY EXPRESS FESTIVAL HELD AT THE HOLLENBERG RANCH IN HANOVER, KANSAS:

THREE YEARS AGO, I ASKED THE PARK SERVICE TO LOOK AT WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST SITE FOR A PONY EXPRESS VISITOR CENTER IN KANSAS. THE STUDY CONCLUDED, THAT WHILE BOTH THE HOLLENBERG RANCH AND THE MARYSVILLE BARN HAVE IMPORTANT ROLES TO PLAY, THE HOLLENBERG RANCH WAS THE BEST SITE FOR A PONY EXPRESS VISITOR CENTER IN KANSAS.

ONE OF THE REASONS THE RANCH WAS CHOSEN IS THE ACTIVE ROLE THE KANSAS STATE HISTORIC SOCIETY HAS PLAYED IN PRESERVING AND MANAGING THIS SITE. NATIONAL TRAILS WERE INTENDED TO BE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN STATE GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS -- LIKE THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLLENBERG RANCH, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS HELP STRETCH FEDERAL DOLLARS AND ENSURE THAT FUNDING WILL BE WISELY SPENT.

THE QUESTION ON ALL YOUR MINDS IS HOW CAN WE GET THIS VISITOR CENTER MOVING? WELL, THE FIRST STEP WAS COMPLETED LAST MONTH WHEN THE BILL TO ESTABLISH THE PONY EXPRESS TRAIL AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL WAS SIGNED INTO LAW. IT SEEMS THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE A NATIONAL TRAIL CENTER WITHOUT A NATIONAL TRAIL.

THE NEXT STEP WILL BE GETTING MONEY FROM THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO BUILD THE CENTER. BECAUSE OF AN EXTREMELY TIGHT BUDGET, WE WEREN'T ABLE TO FUND THE VISITOR CENTER THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER ONE REPUBLICAN ON THE COMMITTEE ASSURED ME ON THE SENATE FLOOR THAT THE HOLLENBERG RANCH VISITOR CENTER WOULD BE GIVEN EVERY CONSIDERATION NEXT YEAR.

I HOPE THIS HAS GIVEN YOU SOME IDEA OF WHERE THINGS ARE GOING. IF YOU HAVE ANY HARD QUESTIONS, JUST ASK DUANE DURST, THE CURATOR OF THE HOLLENBERG RANCH STATION.

THANKS AGAIN FOR INVITING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVAL. IT'S HARD TO FIND GOOD BUFFALO BURGERS IN WASHINGTON.

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