

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

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**KEY SENATE COMMITTEE GIVES BOOST TO WICHITA AVIATION -**  
**BOEING, BEECH, PIAGGIO PROGRAMS APPROVED**

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the Senate Appropriations Committee has supported his funding requests for several programs critical to the Wichita manufacturing and defense base. Dole-backed projects accepted by the Senate Committee are funding for the KC-135R Tanker Program produced by Boeing, the Air Force Tanker Transport Training System's T-1A Jayhawk for the Air Force and the purchase of 12 C-12J aircraft for the Army Reserve both made by Beech, and funding for the purchase of 4 P-180D aircraft produced by Piaggio for the National Guard.

"Once again, the Senate Appropriations Committee has given Wichita a strong vote of confidence," said Dole. "These aren't add-ons or automatic upgrades. These are projects that had to pass muster in one of the toughest committees on Capitol Hill. At a time of shrinking defense budgets, Wichita aviation is one tough competitor on the defense front. When it comes to shopping around for the best value for the price, the Wichita defense industries come out on top, and that means jobs for Kansans," said Dole.

**KC-135R - \$393 MILLION** -- The committee included \$393 million for continued upgrading of the KC-135R.

"The KC-135R played a critical role in supporting our air power in the Gulf War. As an airborne gas station, the KC135R was the aerial backbone of Operation Desert Storm - a successful and vital component of our flying forces. Boeing workers in Wichita can be proud to know that they are an important part of success," said Dole.

**TTTS "JAYHAWK" - \$178 MILLION** - At Senator Dole's request, the committee agreed to include \$178 million to help fund the Tanker, Transport, Training System (TTTS), which includes the Kansas-made T-1A "Jayhawk" built by Beech Aircraft Corporation of Wichita for the Air Force. The funding will be for 36 additional T-1A's.