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NEWS

SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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## **U.S. SENATE PASSES DEFENSE FUNDING BILL;** INCLUDES DOLE PRIORITIES FOR PARSONS AMMUNITION PLANT

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the U.S. Senate okayed his funding requests for several programs important to the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant in Parsons. During passage of the FY1993 Department of Defense Appropriations bill, the Senate agreed to fund the production of CBU-87 cluster bombs, production of the Sensor Fuzed Weapon, and an initiative for the conversion of Army ammunition plants to commercial/civilian use. The measure now goes to a joint House/Senate conference committee before final passage by both Houses.

Dole's requests included in the funding measure are:

SENSOR FUZED WEAPON - \$18 MILLION CLUSTER BOMBS - \$60 MILLION The Senate okayed Dole's request to include \$60 million to fund continued production of Combined Effects Munitions (CEM) and \$18 million for the production of the Sensor Fuzed Weapon at the Army Ammunition Plant in Parsons.

"I'm pleased that the Senate considers the Parsons Army Ammunition Plant an important part of our military readiness. The Senate approval for the production of cluster bombs and the Sensor Fuzed Weapon at the Parsons plant says alot about the great quality and dependability coming from the good workers in Parsons. Maintaining production of these proven winners, and the jobs that go with them is a high priority of mine, " said Dole.

## CONVERSION INITIATIVE - \$200 MILLION

The Senate also okayed \$200 million to fund an initiative for the conversion of the ammunition plant towards increased commercial/civilian use.

"As the defense budget begins to shrink, it is important that we make use of the excellent defense industry production that has come out of Parsons for many years. The Parsons plant is a significant player in the area's economy and it is a top priority of mine to help maintain its role in the area's economy, be it in a military or commerical/civilian capacity," said Dole.

The Senate also agreed to include language requested by Senator Dole that would direct the Army to compete, thus providing the KAAP with an opportunity to maintain production of the M864 artillery round.

"I included this language in the defense bill to put the Parsons plant on a level playing field with other contractors competing for the M864. Competition is tough in the defense industry these days, but it should also be equal, giving everyone a fair shot in the process," said Dole.