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NEWS

FROM:

Contact: Clarkson Hine (202) 224-5358

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REFORM

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

NASHUA, N.H. -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding telecommunications reform and the spectrum issue:

"Like many of my colleagues, I am eager to move forward on long-overdue telecommunications reform. However, any agreement to bring telecommunications reform to the Senate floor hinges on receiving a commitment from FCC Chairman Reed Hundt that the FCC will not short-circuit Congress by issuing licenses or permits for Advanced Television Services before Congress has resolved the spectrum issue.

"Such assurances, which I hope will soon be forthcoming, will be a victory for the American taxpayers. The spectrum issue must be addressed in the light of day, including public hearings. In my view, Congress should determine the real value of the spectrum, and establish the best way to ensure that the taxpayers are protected and fairly compensated for its use."

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