

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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B-2 BOMBER

ADDING ONE B-2 A HALF-HEARTED CLINTON ELECTION-YEAR CONVERSION

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding the Clinton Administration's decision to activate one B-2 bomber:

"After recently halting further production of the B-2, President Clinton's decision today to activate one bomber looks like nothing more than a half-hearted election year conversion to those of us with longstanding records of support for the B-2. With this token gesture, perhaps President Clinton is acknowledging how the crucial California aerospace industry has suffered under the weight of his defense cuts. Let's face it, modifying one more bomber is little consolation to the Californians who have paid for the President's defense cuts with their jobs."

In a March 11th letter to the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Dole pressed his support for the B-2 program and asked that the Committee preserve the option to build more of the high-tech stealth aircraft.

The text of Senator Dole's March 11th letter to Senator Thurmond follows:

Dear Strom:

As you know, President Clinton recently announced his decision to halt further production of the B-2 "Stealth" bomber. In my view, this is a serious mistake which will negatively impact our future capability to project power globally.

The President's decision was based in part on last year's bomber study, the objectivity and methodology of which have been seriously questioned by a number of defense experts. In addition, seven former Secretaries of Defense have advocated continued production of the B-2. The President's decision has long term implications for the Air Force's bomber structure. Clearly, flawed analysis should not be the basis for a decision which will impact our nation's military capabilities well into the next century. Therefore, when your committee marks up the Fiscal Year 1997 defense authorization bill, I ask that you authorize sufficient funding to preserve the option of building additional B-2 bombers.

Further, given the controversy over last year's bomber study, I request that the Armed Services Committee strictly scrutinize the selection of the Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) chosen to conduct the new study. It is absolutely essential that this study be conducted by an organization without bias or predetermined conclusions regarding the B-2.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you to bring the bill to the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate