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DOLE ARRANGES KANSAS MEETING ON PROPOSED FLIGHT REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) announced today that he has arranged for a meeting between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Kansas aviators to discuss proposed FAA "controlled visual flight" rules.

Dwaine Hiland, airspace specialist in the Kansas City regional office of the FAA, will meet with general aviators from throughout Kansas at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at the lower-level auditorium of the Wichita Fourth Financial Center. Representatives of the Wichita Control Tower Service and the Flight Service Station will also be present.

On Jan. 4, the Department of Transportation announced proposed rules that would increase the area in which airplanes were subject to positive control. This would require that flight plans be filed more often and that planes carry more electronic equipment.

"While we all realize the need for increased flight safety, it is not clear that these expensive and time-consuming restrictions are necessary in rural areas such as Kansas," Dole said.

"A number of general aviators from throughout Kansas have contacted me to express their concerns regarding the restrictive impact of the new FAA proposals. I think that a give-and-take such as this can provide useful input for the FAA and educate the aviators about the proposals. As a result, this meeting will aid general aviation in making more informed comments to the FAA."

Comments on the proposed regulations are due April 4.