

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE DISAPPOINTED BY AMTRAK DECISION ON LONE STAR

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today expressed disappointment that the Amtrak Board of Directors decided to cancel the Lone Star passenger route through Kansas.

"I am particularly concerned that Amtrak did not even consider the recent increase in ridership figures in making this decision," said Dole. "They placed undue emphasis on the fact that the Lone Star duplicates other Amtrak lines from Chicago to Newton. That is little consolation for riders travelling south from Newton to Houston who have been fighting for space on standing-room-only trains for weeks."

Dole and Senator Nancy Kassebaum led an unsuccessful effort on the Senate floor to forestall the cancellation of the Lone Star last month.

The Kansas senators had asked for a one-year moratorium.

Today Senator Dole expressed hope that his "rail bank" provision, which he succeeded in attaching to the Senate Amtrak bill this year, would leave open the option for reinstating service in the future. The "rail bank" provision ensures that discontinued track is maintained at present levels, if Amtrak rules that service might be reinstated in the future.

"I would hope that Amtrak will at least leave that option open and will take advantage of this provision," said Dole. "At a time when energy use is uppermost on everyone's mind, we need to be absolutely sure that we are doing the most energy-efficient thing. The Lone Star may look like a very good investment in terms of energy in six months or a year, We need to keep that in mind."