

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE SUPPORTS \$3.5 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR WICHITA STATE INSTITUTE FOR AVIATION R & D

(Washington, DC) -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole has secured the tentative approval of a \$3.5 million appropriation for a new Institute for Aviation Research & Development at Wichita State University.

Dole's proposal for the funding, which would come from an already existing Federal Aviation Administration research account and would not mean an increase in the budget, has been approved by the Senate Appropriation Committee's panel on transportation. The full committee - and still later the Senate itself, a House-Senate Conference and the Administration - must agree to the proposal before funding would be available.

The institute would concentrate on research, evaluation and development of technologies by establishing five "centers" relating to the needs of the aviation industry.

In announcing his funding proposal, Sen. Dole said, "The research and development of commercial and military aircraft is a major national industry. For years, the U.S. led the world in this field, but today we face substantial challenges in the international market from foreign efforts heavily subsidized by their governments.

"For the U.S. to maintain its world leadership it is crucial that we develop a sustained relationship between research facilities, manufacturing companies and the government.

"Wichita has played a significant role in America's aviation history. And Wichita State University has been at the center of that history. Since 1976, it has spent more than \$44 million in private and public funds for aviation research. That makes it an ideal choice for a new research and development institute that takes our country to even greater heights in our quest for safer, stronger and more efficient commercial and military planes," said Sen. Dole.

Dole said the \$3.5 million would be used to establish basic research, safety, productivity, management and training centers. Funding will permit the acquisition of new facilities for dynamic crash testing, crash simulations, structural design, avionics, artificial intelligence, human factors and computer-aided design.