

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 23, 1987

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DOLE URGES ICC TO KEEP BUS SERVICE ALIVE IN KANSAS

Washington, DC -- Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) has urged the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to deny an appeal by Trailways Bus System which would otherwise result in a loss of bus service to nearly three dozen Kansas communities.

In a letter to ICC Chairman Heather Gradison, Dole wrote, "Since federal deregulation of the bus industry first began in 1982, Kansas has lost all seven bus abandonment decisions appealed to your authority. These abandonments have been severe blows for the communities that were served, but the recent application by Trailways to abandon services to 35 Kansas communities will have even broader ramifications.

"In many cases, (your decision) will determine whether elderly Kansans receive medical care, whether businesses will be able to receive necessary supplies to remain in business, and whether many rural hospitals will be able to receive life-saving medical supplies in time.

"A recent decision made by your authority ruled that even though Trailways had operated its routes in Missouri at a loss, the service could not be abandoned because no other public transportation was available for small towns along the line.

"I urge you to apply the same reasoning to the application filed by Trailways to terminate a significant portion of its routes in Kansas. I am encouraged by your recent (Missouri case) ruling, and hope you will uphold the Kansas Corporation Commission ruling to disallow Trailways from abandoning any of its routes in my home state," said Sen. Dole.