

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE: NEOSHO COUNTY DESIGNATED PREFERRED AREA FOR CONTRACTS

Washington, DC -- The federal government will designate Neosho County in southeastern Kansas a "labor surplus area" which makes companies there eligible for preferred consideration in bidding on federal contracts, according to Senator Bob Dole (R-KS).

Sen. Dole said the U.S. Department of Labor has approved a petition by the state to place the county on its "exceptional circumstances" list of high unemployment areas. He said a review of Neosho County's recent joblessness rate and projections for the near future qualified it for the special designation.

"In light of recent lay-offs in the county and a consistent jobless rate of at least nine-percent, there was little doubt the area needed help," said Sen. Dole. "One of the ways to do that is to give companies in Neosho County a priority shot at bidding on federal contracts. It's something that could help."

According to Dole, federal agencies decide which contracts should be offered for preferred consideration by companies in labor surplus areas. Companies in those areas who bid receive special consideration in the process.

Neosho County will be placed on the labor surplus list Friday, May 1, said Dole. It will remain on the list until the end of this fiscal year, when the Dept. of Labor will review new labor statistics and revise the list.

As of April 1, there were 1,556 such areas in the U.S. - cities or counties with a population of more than 25,000 - designated as labor surplus areas.