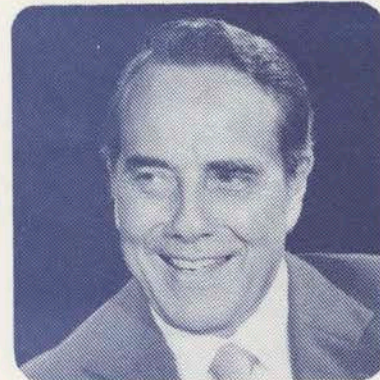


News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 27, 1987

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DOLE, KASSEBAUM ANNOUNCE \$500,000 INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR
WSU AVIATION RESEARCH

Washington, D.C. -- Senators Bob Dole (R-KS) and Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) today announced that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will increase by \$500,000 an existing research and development contract at Wichita State University. The research, to be coordinated by the Wichita State University Institute for Aviation Research, will focus on developing an international civil aviation aircraft operator data base.

"This additional funding should allow Wichita State University to play a major role in air safety," said Senator Dole. "The research is designed to provide the type of detailed information that will enable the FAA to accurately assess changes in aircraft affecting airworthiness nationwide."

The research will involve evaluation of current sources of data, system/data integrity and maintainability and development of an operational cost model.

Members of the public can modify aircraft and return them to service without the FAA knowing of the aircrafts' new configuration. Some modifications can adversely affect an aircrafts' weight and performance. While such modifications must be filed with the FAA, these documents are not stored in an electronic data base. The result is that the FAA is unable to send airworthiness information to owners and operators in many cases.

In association with airworthiness safety requirements, the project will study maintaining a data base of current aircraft operators, as opposed to recording only legal owners as is maintained by the U.S. Civil Aircraft Registry. Given the various relationships between owners and operators, timely location of the operators for these purposes is often extremely difficult.

"This data will not only be helpful in alleviating deficiencies in tracking and identifying aircraft for safety notices, but it will also be useful in meeting other safety goals. These include air defense identification, the fight against terrorism, drug interdiction, system planning and abuse monitoring," said Dole.
