

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE 65 MPH AMENDMENT TO TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL

MR. PRESIDENT. IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I RISE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF SENATOR NICKLES' AMENDMENT TO THE TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW THE 65 MILES-PER-HOUR SPEED LIMIT ON RURAL HIGHWAYS CONSTRUCTED TO INTERSTATE STANDARDS.

THIS MEASURE WOULD SHORE UP A MAJOR GAP IN THE LAW WE PASSED LAST APRIL ALLOWING THE HIGHER SPEED FOR THOSE HIGHWAYS THAT ARE ONLY A PART OF THE FEDERAL INTERSTATE SYSTEM.

IF A HIGHWAY HAS FOUR LANES LIKE AN INTERSTATE, IF ACCESS TO IT IS CONTROLLED LIKE AN INTERSTATE, AND IF IT IS IN A RURAL PART OF A STATE, THEN THE 65 MILES-PER-HOUR SPEED LIMIT SHOULD BE AN OPTION FOR STATE OFFICIALS IN ESTABLISHING REASONABLE SPEED LIMITS.

THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE INCONSISTENCY OF THIS STATUTE AS IT NOW IS WRITTEN FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. DRIVERS ARE CONFUSED BY THE APPLICATION OF THE SPEED LIMIT LAW AND ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS ARE THE RESULT. RIGHT NOW, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INTERSTATES AND HIGHWAYS OF SIMILAR CONSTRUCTION IS THE PRESENCE OF A RED, WHITE AND BLUE INTERSTATE SHIELD. IN SOME STATES, AS IS THE CASE IN KANSAS, AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY BLENDS INTO A NON-INTERSTATE HIGHWAY WITH NO NOTICEABLE CHANGE EXCEPT FOR THE SIGN.

ADDITIONALLY, MANY STATES HAVE TOLL ROADS THAT ARE NOT A PART OF THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM. THE POTENTIAL FOR DIVERTING TRAFFIC TO THE HIGHER SPEED INTERSTATES UNDERMINES STATE TOLL AUTHORITIES WHO RELY ON USERS TO RAISE REVENUE.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW. THE SENATE KNOWS THE ISSUE. NOTHING WILL BE GAINED BY ADDITIONAL HEARINGS OR FURTHER STUDY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT CONSISTENT LAWS FAIRLY APPLIED. THE SPEED LIMIT IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE WHERE CONGRESS CAN ACT TO CLEAR UP THE CONFUSION. I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THIS MEASURE AND BRING ALL THESE APPROPRIATE ROADS INTO UNIFORM COMPLIANCE.

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