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DOLE SUPPORTS CHANGES IN CARRIER SERVICE AT DALLAS LOVE FIELD

WASHINGTON -- SENATOR BOB DOLE ISSUED A STATEMENT TODAY REGARDING AIR CARRIER SERVICE AT DALLAS LOVE FIELD. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT:

MR. PRESIDENT. TODAY I JOIN MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE NANCY KASSEBAUM AS AN ORIGINAL CO-SPONSOR OF LEGISLATION THAT WILL CORRECT A PROVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION COMPETITION ACT AND RESTORE WHAT CONGRESS MEANT WHEN IT PASSED THE AIRLINE DEREGULATION ACT OF 1978.

TODAY AIR TRAVELERS FROM KANSAS ARE AT A DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE WHEN IT COMES TO COMPETITIVE AIR FARES TO AND FROM DALLAS, TEXAS. SOUTHWEST AIRLINES, A LOW COST CARRIER, IS PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM TRAVELING TO AND FROM LOVE FIELD EXCEPT THROUGH THE FOUR STATES CONTIGUOUS TO TEXAS' BORDERS. DIRECT SERVICE IS PERMITTED FROM DALLAS TO NEW ORLEANS, FOR INSTANCE, BUT NOT TO WICHITA WHICH IS CLOSER TO DALLAS THAN NEW ORLEANS.

IN ADDITION, MR. PRESIDENT, A TRAVELER FROM WICHITA CANNOT PURCHASE A CONNECTING OR THROUGH TICKET TO DALLAS LOVE FIELD ON SOUTHWEST AIRLINES. IN ORDER TO TRAVEL THERE NOW, A WICHITA TRAVELER MUST GET OFF THE PLANE, SAY IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA, PURCHASE A NEW TICKET TO DALLAS AND GET BACK ON ANOTHER PLANE -- ALL AT AN INCREDIBLE COST AND A TERRIFIC INCONVENIENCE. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT JOINT TICKETING IS PROHIBITED WITH OTHER AIR CARRIERS.

THIS ALL TRANSLATES INTO AN EXTREMELY ANTI-COMPETITIVE SITUATION. AIR FARES BETWEEN DALLAS AND WICHITA, ARE SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS ABOVE WHAT THEY ARE IN THOSE MARKETS WHERE SOUTHWEST AIRLINES COMPETES WITH OTHER AIRLINES. CONGRESS DID NOT INTEND THAT THERE BE ISLANDS OF NON-COMPETITION WHEN IT PASSED THE AIRLINE DEREGULATION ACT OF 1978. THERE IS A READY AND WILLING MARKET IN AND AROUND WICHITA FOR COMPETITIVE AIR SERVICE. IT IS TIME THAT THIS UNREASONABLE AND ARBITRARY BARRIER BE REMOVED.