

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 1989

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DOLE ANNOUNCES RELIEF FROM EPA REGULATIONS FOR WICHITA

WASHINGTON -- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agreed with Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) today that the City of Wichita, and 3000 square miles in and around the city, should not be designated as a nonattainment area for Carbon Monoxide. Dole asked that Wichita be removed from the proposed list of nonattainment cities last August.

"This announcement recognizes the work that has been done over the past three years by the City of Wichita to reduce levels of harmful carbon monoxide," Dole said. "The redesignation also recognizes that the area involved should not be enlarged from the five square-mile downtown area to the entire, 3000 square-mile Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)."

Wichita City Manager, Chris Cherches, requested Senator Dole's assistance with the redesignation. The City of Wichita and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment had asked EPA for the redesignation following two years of clean data.

The Mitchell-Conte Amendment of the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 designates as "nonattainment" under the Clean Air Act those areas which have not met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). EPA requires states with nonattainment areas to develop costly State Implementation Plans (SIP) to attain and maintain NAAQS.

Failure to comply with strict SIP guidelines can result in sanctions for nonattainment areas including the barring of Department of Transportation funds for highway projects, ineligibility for EPA air quality improvement grants and withholding of Federal grants for sewage treatment.