

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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ACTION BEGINS ON REFORMULATION OF CEDAR BLUFF RESERVOIR PROJECT

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (Ks) submitted a statement to the House Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Off-shore Energy Resources today regarding legislation recently introduced in both Houses that would authorize the reformulation of the Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The Senate is expected to act on the legislation shortly.

The following is Senator Dole's statement:

I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT NEEDED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE REFORMULATION OF THE CEDAR BLUFF UNIT OF THE PICK-SLOAN MISSOURI RIVER BASIN PROGRAM, KANSAS, AND PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF WATER SERVICE AND REPAYMENT CONTRACTS.

AS YOU KNOW, PAT ROBERTS HAS INTRODUCED THE LEGISLATION CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. I HAVE INTRODUCED IDENTICAL LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE WHERE I EXPECT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN SHORTLY.

SIMILAR LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED LATE LAST YEAR, BUT WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE FAVORABLE ACTION DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE 100TH CONGRESS.

STUDIES SHOW A SIGNIFICANT FLOW DEPLETION IN THE SMOKY HILL RIVER ABOVE CEDAR BLUFF RESERVOIR. THERE HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT DECLINE IN WATER SUPPLY AVAILABLE FOR IRRIGATION FROM CEDAR BLUFF DURING THE PAST 23 YEARS AND AND NO DELIVERIES OF IRRIGATION WATER HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE 1978.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE CEDAR BLUFF IRRIGATION DISTRICT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PAY CONSTRUCTION REPAYMENT INSTALLMENTS, OR OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PRESENT CONTRACT WITH THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION.

IN ADDITION, THE FISH CULTURAL STATION LOCATED BELOW THE DAM, WHICH WAS OPERATED BY THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, HAS BEEN CLOSED AND IS NOW OPERATED BY THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS AS A CANADIAN GOOSE REARING FACILITY.

CURRENTLY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS HOLDING A REPAYMENT CONTRACT WITH THE IRRIGATION DISTRICT WHICH THEY ARE UNABLE TO COLLECT WITHOUT ADVERSE ACTION TO THE DISTRICT.

THE DISTRICT IS ALSO UNABLE TO PAY THEIR SHARE OF THE ANNUAL OM&R COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DAM AND RESERVOIR. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ALLOWING, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, THE STATE TO UTILIZE THE FISH CULTURAL STATION AND WATER RIGHT FOR REARING CANADIAN GEESE.

ON DECEMBER 17, 1987 THE STATE OF KANSAS AND THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT CLEARS THE WAY FOR THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION. A CONTRACT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED, CONTINGENT UPON THIS FEDERAL LEGISLATION, AND SIGNED BY THE STATE AND THE BUREAU AFTER THE REQUIRED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

I STRONGLY URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THIS NECESSARY LEGISLATION. THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE HAS MADE AN FY 1989 APPROPRIATION OF \$364,000 THAT WILL BE USED FOR THE USE OF THE CONSERVATION STORAGE CAPACITY IN THE RESERVOIR IN LIEU OF ITS REPAYMENT OBLIGATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

THIS IS NEEDED LEGISLATION. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, STATE OF KANSAS AND THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER ALL COME OUT AHEAD WITH THESE CHANGES. I ENCOURAGE THE MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT BILL.