

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE, KASSEBAUM ANNOUNCE SENATE PASSAGE OF CEDAR BLUFF RESERVOIR BILL

Washington, D.C. -- Kansas Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum announced today Senate passage of legislation that would authorize the reformulation of the Cedar Bluff Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program. The Senate completed action on the bill last night. The House must still act on legislation that the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee marked up earlier this month.

"Kansas has a longstanding tradition of being a conservation state," said Dole. "We are going to do everything possible to get this bill passed and signed by the President. Mike Hayden and the state legislature also know the importance of this priority project and have already committed funding for conservation use."

"I'm pleased that an issue of great importance to the people of western Kansas is one step closer to a satisfactory conclusion," Kassebaum said. "At a time when government is often criticized for wastefulness, this legislation will make certain an important resource is once again being used efficiently. By using the lake for wildlife preservation, recreation, and groundwater recharge the Cedar Bluff Reservoir will be put to use in a worthwhile and appropriate fashion."

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 no deliveries of irrigation water have been made since 1978.

The legislation would give the state of Kansas the authority to utilize the Cedar Bluff Reservoir for recreation and wildlife preservation purposes rather than for irrigation purposes.

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