

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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TORNADO RELIEF UPDATE

DOLE WINS NEW TORNADO WARNING SIRENS FOR ANDOVER;
CUTS FEDERAL RED TAPE FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF
FUNDS FOR McCONNELL AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING DAY-LONG NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION AND SENATE LEADERS, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) HAS SECURED ASSURANCES THAT WILL SPEED UP THE REQUEST FOR AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR DAMAGED PUBLIC FACILITIES IN TORNADO-RAVAGED KANSAS COMMUNITIES.

DOLE ALSO WON A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION GRANT FOR IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION OF TWO NEW TORNADO WARNING SIRENS IN ANDOVER, TO REPLACE THE ALARMS WHICH DID NOT FUNCTION WHEN DEADLY TORNADOS TOUCHED DOWN ON APRIL 26TH.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), WALLACE STICKNEY, FURTHER ASSURED DOLE THAT THE AGENCY WILL MOVE BACK-UP ALARMS TO ANDOVER UNTIL THE NEW SIRENS ARE OPERATIONAL.

"IT IS CLEAR FROM MY TOUR OF THE TORNADO DEVASTATION THAT SUBSTANTIAL NEW FUNDING WILL HAVE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO COVER THE SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO PUBLIC FACILITIES, INCLUDING HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, ROADS, BRIDGES," DOLE SAID. "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL KANSANS WHO LOST SO MUCH IN THE WAKE OF THESE DEVASTATING TORNADOS. NOW IT'S UP TO CONGRESS TO PUT THIS ON A FAST TRACK SO OUR KANSAS COMMUNITIES CAN BEGIN REBUILDING THE PUBLIC SERVICES THEIR RESIDENTS ABSOLUTELY DEPEND ON."

DOLE'S TORNADO ASSISTANCE WILL BE INCLUDED IN A FAST-TRACK SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILL FOR FEMA THAT WILL COVER THE REBUILDING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES IN SEVERAL STATES STRUCK BY NATURAL DISASTERS, INCLUDING MAINE, OKLAHOMA, KANSAS AND OTHER STATES.

WORKING WITH FEMA TODAY, SENATOR DOLE WAS ABLE TO MOVE THE ANDOVER SIREN REQUEST INTO A SPECIAL EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM. NORMALLY, SUCH REQUESTS WOULD REQUIRE A 50/50 PERCENT FEDERAL/LOCAL FUNDING MATCH. BUT AFTER DOLE'S INTERVENTION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOW PUT DOWN 75 PERCENT FOR THE COST OF THE NEW SIRENS, WHILE THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES WILL NEED ONLY CONTRIBUTE 25%.

"AS FAR AS THE TREMENDOUS COST OF REBUILDING McCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, ESTIMATED THIS WEEK AT \$62 MILLION, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS ASSURED ME TODAY THAT IT WILL TRY TO FUND THE REBUILDING OF McCONNELL FROM THIS YEAR'S BUDGET," DOLE ADDED. "IF EXISTING FUNDS CANNOT BE FOUND, THEN THE PENTAGON WILL ASK FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN FEMA'S SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING REQUEST FOR DISASTER AID, WHICH I EXPECT ON CAPITOL HILL WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, IF NOT SOONER.

"THE BOTTOM LINE IS, WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB AHEAD OF US, AND KANSANS HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO EXPECT THEIR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO THEIR EMERGENCY NEEDS IN A SPEEDY MANNER."

DOLE UNDERScoreD HIS KANSAS CASE ON THE SENATE FLOOR BY DELAYING FINAL APPROVAL OF AN EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AID BILL FOR KURDISH RELIEF. "MY DELAY CERTAINLY GOT THE ATTENTION OF MY COLLEAGUES. I'M ALL FOR KURDISH RELIEF, BUT I'M ALSO FOR KANSAS RELIEF. THANKS TO THE COOPERATION OF MY COLLEAGUES AND THE ADMINISTRATION, EVERYONE IS GETTING WHAT THEY NEED AND DESERVE."

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