

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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TORNADO RADAR UPDATE

DOLE UNDERSCORES SENATE SUPPORT FOR TORNADO-DETECTING RADAR; HOUSE FUNDING CUTS, TECHNICAL SNAGS SLOW DELIVERY TO WICHITA

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today called on the House of Representatives to restore funding for the next generation of high-tech tornado warning radar equipment. In a letter to Rep. Neal Smith (D-Iowa), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, State, & Justice Appropriations, Dole pointed out that a key Senate Committee has provided \$155.6 million for the project in 1992, while the House cut the National Weather Service's NEXRAD radar and accompanying systems by more than \$33 million below the Senate level.

"There's been a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation about the status of the National Weather Service's plan to install this new state-of-the-art tornado detection system in Wichita," Dole said in a statement. "Notwithstanding technical snags encountered by the Weather Service's contractor, the bottom line is Congress needs to adequately fund this life-saving project."

"No doubt about it, when it comes to early warning of approaching tornadoes, every second counts -- but so does every dollar of Congressional funding for this vital upgrade," Dole added. "That's why I hope our House delegation can prevail on their colleagues to at least join the Senate in providing a high level of support for NEXRAD."

The 1992 funding level for the NEXRAD radar will be determined in a House-Senate conference committee upon Senate approval of its version of the Commerce, State, Justice Appropriations Bill.

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