

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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DOLE: KANSAS BOSTWICK TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL WATER

WASHINGTON -- AFTER A FOUR WEEK DISPUTE, KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) HAS OPENED THE TAPS FOR WATER STARVED CROPS AND THEIR PRODUCERS IN NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS. THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS HAS AGREED WITH DOLE TO RELEASE ADDITIONAL WATER FROM THE HARLAN COUNTY RESERVOIR IN NEBRASKA, FOR USE BY IRRIGATORS IN THE KANSAS BOSTWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT. THE CORPS HAS AGREED TO LOWER THE WATER LEVEL IN THE RESERVOIR AN ADDITIONAL TWO FEET, WHICH SHOULD MEAN AN ADDITIONAL TWO TO THREE INCHES OF WATER WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO DISTRICT IRRIGATORS AND PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR PARCHED CROPS.

DOLE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE ACTION WOULD ALLOW HUNDREDS OF FARMERS TO SALVAGE THEIR CROPS WHICH HAVE SUFFERED FROM LACK OF RAINFALL THROUGHOUT THE GROWING SEASON. WORKING CLOSELY WITH SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM AND CONGRESSMAN PAT ROBERTS, THE GROUP OF KANSAS LAWMAKERS ASKED SECRETARY OF THE ARMY MICHAEL P.W. STONE TO INTERVENE PERSONALLY ON BEHALF OF FARMERS IN NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS.

"THIS ADDITIONAL WATER IS A CROP SAVER FOR EVERY FARMER IN THE AREA. OUR KANSAS FARMERS HAD COUNTED ON AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY WHEN THEY PLANNED THIS YEAR'S PRODUCTION," SAID DOLE. "IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO SIMPLY DENY THEM THE USE OF THAT WATER AND PUT THE VERY LIVELIHOOD OF THOSE FARMERS ON THE LINE, AS WELL AS THE ECONOMY OF A LARGE AREA IN KANSAS."

"WHILE I AM VERY PLEASED BY THE CORPS' ACTION, I REMAIN CONCERNED THAT THIS ADDITIONAL WATER MAY NOT BE ENOUGH OVER THE LONG-HAUL. SENATOR KASSEBAUM, CONGRESSMAN ROBERTS AND I WILL BE MONITORING THIS SITUATION CLOSELY TO SEE IF ADDITIONAL WATER WILL BE NECESSARY," DOLE CONTINUED. "THESE FARMERS HAVE HELPED FINANCE THE BUILDING OF THIS PROJECT, HAVE CONTRACTED FOR THE DELIVERY OF WATER, AND ARE IN DIRE NEED OF SEEING THEIR CROPS THROUGH TO MATURITY. THE DECISION BY SECRETARY STONE AND THE CORPS' TO COOPERATE MEANS A LOT TO A LARGE NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES IN THE AREA."

IN ADDITION, THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION HAS COMMITTED \$3.5 MILLION TO REPAIR THE DAM AS THE WATER LEVEL IS LOWERED. DAM REPAIRS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOMETIME AFTER THE WATER LEVEL IS LOWERED. DAM REPAIRS ARE NECESSARY TO ADD RIP-RAP, OR ROCK COVER, TO THE EXPOSED DAM AREA TO PROTECT THE STRUCTURE FROM EROSION.

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