

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 2, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

TORNADO RADAR

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ADOPTS SENATE'S FUNDING FOR TORNADO-DETECTING RADAR; \$155.6 MILLION CLEARS KEY HURDLE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today announced that the next generation of high-tech tornado warning equipment has won the Senate's fiscal year 1992 funding level of \$155.6 million in a key Senate/House conference committee. The House of Representatives had originally approved funding \$33 million below the Senate level.

The funding action for the National Weather Service's modernization program -- including NEXRAD Doppler radar and the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) to provide early and accurate forecasting of approaching tornadoes -- came late Tuesday as the conference committee completed action on the FY 1992 Commerce, State & Justice Appropriations bill.

"I'm pleased the conference committee has agreed with me that we need to adequately fund this life-saving state-of-the-art technology," Dole said. "As I've said before, when it comes to early warning of approaching tornadoes, every second counts -- but so does every dollar of Congressional funding for these advanced tornado detection systems."

In a July 17th letter to Rep. Neal Smith (D-Iowa), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, State & Justice appropriations committee, Dole personally urged the House to accept the Senate's higher funding level.

Last month, Dole dedicated the nation's first ASOS system at Topeka's Philip Billard Airport. In all, the National Weather Service has slated 24 sites in Kansas to receive the high-tech ASOS system, and 4 Kansas sites to receive the advanced NEXRAD Doppler radar system. Under the Weather Service's current plans, NEXRAD is scheduled for delivery in Dodge City later this year, Wichita in 1992, Goodland in 1992, Pleasant Hill, MO in 1992 and Topeka in 1993.

The Commerce, State & Justice Appropriations conference report now goes to the Senate and House for final approval, and then to President Bush for his signature.

###