

1ST DISTRICT  
243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
AREA CODE 202  
225-2715  
COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
DISTRICT OFFICE:  
101 FEDERAL BUILDING  
GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530  
AREA CODE 316  
SW 3-5423

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

BARTON	HOODEMAN	RAWLIF
CHEYENNE	JEWELL	REPUSE
CLARK	KEARNY	ROOKS
CLOUD	KIOWA	RUSH
DECATUR	LANE	RUSSEI
EDWARDS	LINCOLN	SALINE
ELLIS	LOGAN	SCOTT
ELLSWORTH	MEADE	SEWAR
FINNEY	MITCHELL	SHERII
FORD	MORTON	SHERN
GOVE	NESS	SMITH
GRAHAM	NORTON	STAFF
GRANT	OSBORNE	STANT
GRAY	OTTAWA	STEVE
GREELEY	PAWNEE	THOM
HAMILTON	PHILLIPS	TREGK
HASKELL	PRATT	WALL
		WICHI

STATEMENT OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE (1st Dist-Kansas) BEFORE THE  
AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRI-  
ATIONS, May 8, 1967

MR. DOLE: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the American farmer is now placed in a much more difficult position than he has been in for a number of years. Agricultural surpluses have essentially passed out of the picture. Without question, the American farmer will be asked to increase production to meet the needs of a growing population at home and assist undeveloped countries abroad to the extent food and fiber for export can be made available to them.

Of vital importance to our ability to produce food and fiber is the conservation and development of our soil and water resources. We must develop and maintain these valuable resources so that increased production demands can be met realistically and on a sustained basis. For these reasons, I wish to direct my remarks to your Committee, relative to my views on certain budget items for the Soil Conservation Service for fiscal year 1968.

The SCS has done an outstanding job of establishing soil and water conservation measures through the 105 districts that cover 100 percent of the State of Kansas. These soil conservation districts are organized by local people and governed by boards of supervisors selected from people within these districts. Through the efforts of the local soil conservation district officials, constant progress is being made in accomplishing the broad plans for the conservation and development of soil and water resources in their respective districts.

GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Of vital concern to the farmers in Kansas, and especially to those in my District in western Kansas, is the Great Plains Conservation Program. There are now 55 counties in my State participating in this technical and financial assistance program. In fiscal year 1966, there were 433 new Great Plains contracts, bringing the total to date to 2680. It is important that adequate funding be provided to continue the servicing of these contracts and the new contracts developed currently from pending applications. The 578 unserviced applications, as of March 31, represent a considerable backlog of technical and financial assistance needed by the farmers and ranchers in my State.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly recommend that funding of the Great Plains Program for fiscal year 1968 be continued at the same level as for fiscal year 1967.

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The total in this case is \$18.5 million for technical and financial assistance. It is estimated that nationally there will be 5,400 unserviced applications ready for servicing during fiscal year 1968.

#### WATERSHED PROGRAM

Watershed activities in Kansas, and indeed nationally, have been increasing for a number of years. There has been a growing concern for flood prevention; the need for water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses; and for the application of needed land treatment measures.

A brief summary of watershed activities under P.L. 566 is as follows:

	<u>U.S. Total</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>First District</u>
Applications Received	2625	74	13
Authorized for Planning	1307	47	6
Approved for Operations	816	29	3
Projects Completed	127	5	1
Unserviced Applications	----	19	5
Being Planned	----	12	2
Estimated Total Project Costs		\$71,108,000	\$3,690,000
Federal Cost		(52,461,000)	(2,517,000)
Local Cost		(18,647,000)	(1,173,000)

The State and Local governments in Kansas are also doing their part. In fiscal year 1968, it is estimated that their contributions will total \$190,000 for watershed work, and for total conservation work an estimated half million dollars.

Mr. Chairman, I suggest that your Committee give consideration to an increase of \$10,000,000 over the budget estimate for the Watershed Protection item for fiscal year 1968. Also, I suggest that the numerical limitations on both planning and new construction starts be eliminated. The appropriated funds should be the controlling factor for new planning authorizations and construction starts.

#### AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

For a number of years now, the budget estimate for the Agriculture Conservation Program has shown a proposed decrease of \$120,000,000. This cost-sharing program is badly needed to supplement dwindling farm incomes and to aid in the application of needed conservation practices. This proposed reduction would mean a loss of almost 400 SCS technicians nationally and some 18 in my State of Kansas. Personnel moves would be triple these figures to accommodate needed adjustments in staffing. Mr. Chairman, I support the restoration of the \$120,000,000 for the Agriculture Conservation Program.

I appreciate this opportunity to appear before your Committee and urge your favorable consideration of the items I have mentioned.

Thank you.