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RUSSELL, Kans., April 2 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today said he is "highly pleased" President Nixon has removed Congressional restrictions on funding and assisting 96 small watershed projects in the U.S., including five in Kansas.

For Kansas, Dole said, the effect is that the five projects-- Cross Creek, Lower and Upper Elk River and Lower and Upper Salt Creek -- "have been approved and will be funded, as the money becomes available."

Dole, who urged both former President Johnson and President Nixon to remove the Congressional restrictions, said Nixon's decision resolves a two-year-old "deadlock" between the White House and Congress, which blocked funding of the small watershed projects.

What happened, he explained, is that the Johnson Administration withheld funds to implement work plans for the 96 projects, approved by the House and Senate.

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"President Nixon, /the first months of his Administration, has moved forthrightly and positively to make these projects eligible for assistance, an action the previous Administration refused to take."