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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. Dec. 20 -- Members of the Kansas milling industry met with Kansas Congressmen in Senator Bob Dole's office this morning to discuss the unfavorable rail freight rates to the West Coast.

Members of the industry and Kansas wheat growers have expressed growing concern over the present rate structure which makes it impossible for Kansas-milled products to be priced competitively with flour milled outside the state.

This year, the Interstate Commerce Commission approved a request by the Santa Fe Railroad for reduced freight rates on wheat and flour to West Coast points.

However, as a result of a court suit challenging the ICC decision, the reduced rate was later rescinded. Santa Fe has now filed a petition with the ICC for reconsideration of the rates.

Over the past 10 years, many Kansas flour mills have been forced to discontinue operation because of the unfavorable competitive position they have been placed in by freight rates.