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WICHITA, KANSAS, Feb. 13 -- "Americans must face up to a new reality -- the reality that we have taken nature for granted and now we must pay for it," U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here today.

Dole spoke before the joint convention of the Kansas Ready Mixed Concrete and Kansas Aggregate Producer's associations.

"We have learned that nature does not have an unlimited capacity to absorb wastes and production by-products," he continued.

"Now someone has to pay the costs of our exceedingly productive and often wasteful society.

"It is the questions of who will pay, how much they'll pay and when, which form the heart of the problem now facing Congress.

"The President's legislative proposals, made just this week, provide guidelines for the Congress to develop necessary environmental laws.

"However, Congress alone cannot make our air and water clean and solve our solid waste disposal problems. If the President's proposals to halt pollution and restore the environment are to succeed, every citizen, private group and industry must do its part."