

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE

NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20510
(202) 225-8947

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 24 -- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) cosponsored a bill today that would allow the interstate shipment of meat processed under a state meat inspection system that has been determined "at least equal to" the Federal meat inspection system.

"The Wholesome Meat Act that was passed in 1968 does not contain this provision for interstate shipment," Dole said, "and this bill would correct this inequity." "Since Kansas was one of the first states to qualify under the "equal to" provision of the Act, it would surely benefit by the measure I am cosponsoring today," he said.

Dole pointed out that although the Department of Agriculture has opposed such an amendment to the Wholesome Meat Act in the past, "USDA has indicated that it would give the bill favorable consideration this year."

Earlier in the Session, the Kansas Senator cosponsored another bill that would amend the Meat Inspection Act. This bill, S.1085, which presently in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, would amend the Act to require that imported meat or meat products, made in whole or in part of imported meat, be labeled "imported" at all stages of distribution until delivery to the ultimate consumer. Dole said that this bill is important both to the nation's beef industry, and its consumers.