

189

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(202) 225-8947

\*FOR RELEASE: MAY 30, 1971\*

WASHINGTON, D.C.---The Senate has been reviewing appropriations for water projects during the last two weeks; and U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) along with a number of Kansas constituents, has expressed his support for water development in Kansas.

In a statement by the Senator late last week, Dole urged funding of Kansas water projects that are presently being considered by members of the Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Public Works.

Dole is a member of the Senate Committee on Public Works.

The text of his statement to the Subcommittee follows:

Our state has received great benefits from the public funds devoted to the water projects that have been constructed throughout Kansas. The detrimental effects of uncontrolled flood waters have been prevented, soil which has been inundated periodically is now producing abundant crops. Communities that could not expand due to limited water supplies now have that precious commodity, and recreational opportunities through fishing and other water sports have improved the quality of our citizens' lives. But the benefits from these public investments go beyond Kansas. The more attractive it is to live and work in Kansas, the fewer people will leave our state and other predominantly rural states to work in urban areas and aggravate the problems faced by urban dwellers.

While there are many legitimate demands on the federal tax dollar, we must continue to support the development of our water resources. Many of these witnesses appearing before you today and those appearing last week concerned with the Arkansas River Basin, have dedicated a good portion of their lives to these and other water projects considered by your Subcommittee in the past. They know better than I that we have much work left to do.

I urge your serious consideration of their statements. Although I will not comment on each project, there are several particular projects to which I wish to address myself.

Wichita, Kansas has been seriously affected by defense cutbacks. Every effort is being made by the local community to stimulate economic development and the availability of an inexpensive transportation would greatly assist these efforts. Furthermore, transportation is now recognized as a key to the development of rural areas in the United States. The entire Plains Region, therefore, would benefit enormously by the extension of the McClellan-Kerr Waterway from Catoosa to Wichita.

(MORE)

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

In order to expedite completion of the feasibility study, I recommend funding to the extent of the corps of Engineers capability for that study --- \$240,000.

Secondly, I want to specifically note the strong support for authorization of a flood control project below John Martin Dam in Kansas. The President's budget contains a request for \$140,000, the full capability of the Corps which is needed to expedite completion of the study.

Thirdly, a problem in the Kansas-Bostwick Irrigation District is worthy of your immediate attention. Although this project is designed to bring irrigation benefits, the Kansas-Bostwick Irrigation District is presently suffering from the production losses because of drainage deficiencies. I would stress that it is not merely a question of waiting until the appropriate time for funding. We must act now, for with each passing year without attention to this problem, additional acreage will suffer long-range damage. I urge you to provide an additional \$450,000 to the extent of the Bureau of Reclamation capability.

The text of his statement to the Subcommittee follows:  
Our state has received great benefits from the public funds devoted to the water projects that have been constructed throughout Kansas. The detrimental effects of uncontrolled flood waters have been prevented. Soil which has been inundated periodically is now producing abundant crops. Communities that could not expand due to limited water supplies now have that precious commodity, and recreational opportunities through fishing and other water sports have improved the quality of our citizens' lives. But the benefits from these public investments go beyond Kansas. The more attractive it is to live and work in Kansas, the fewer people will leave our state and other predominantly rural states to work in urban areas and aggravate the problems faced by urban dwellers.

While there are many legitimate demands on the federal tax dollar, we must continue to support the development of our water resources. Many of these witnesses appearing before you today and those appearing last week concerned with the Arkansas River Basin, have dedicated a good portion of their lives to these and other water projects considered by your Subcommittee in the past. They know better than I that we have much work left to do.

I urge your serious consideration of their statements. Although I will not comment on each project, there are several particular projects to which I wish to address myself.

Wichita, Kansas has been seriously affected by defense cutbacks. Every effort is being made by the local community to stimulate economic development and the availability of an inexpensive transportation would greatly assist these efforts. Furthermore, transportation is now recognized as a key to the development of rural areas in the United States. The entire Plains region, therefore, would benefit enormously by the extension of the McClellan-Kerr Waterway from Gattorno to Wichita.

(MORE)