

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 31, 1971 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.)

offered an amendment to the Senate Public Works Appropriations bill today that provided for the inclusion of an additional \$350,000 to fund planning of the Blue River Basin Water Project in Johnson County, Kans.

The Senate passed version of the Public Works for Water and Power Development and Atomic Energy Commission Appropriations bill (HR 10090), as amended by the Dole amendment, provides a total of \$936,843,000. The Senate appropriations bill, which was passed today by a vote of 72 to 2 has now been sent to conference committee.

The Dole amendment, which was cosponsored by U.S. Sen. James B. Pearson (R-Kans.), designates \$100,000 to Indian Lake Reservoir, \$150,000 to Tomahawk Lake Reservoir and \$100,000 to Wolfe-Coffee Lake Reservoir, in order to allow them to initiate the planning of the three reservoirs.

Speaking on the Senate floor this morning, in support of his amendment, the Kansas Senator said "that while there is great support for the Blue River Basin project, there has been opposition to Tomahawk Reservoir from citizens of Leawood, Kansas." Dole explained that in order to determine if the reservoir is necessary to the feasibility of the Blue River Basin Project, "the Senate Public Works Committee included a requirement that prior to the initiation of the project, the Secretary of the Army is to be assured by the Chief of Engineers that the most feasible combination of improvements having the most favorable impact upon the environment and future development of the Tomahawk Creek Watershed has been assured. This appropriation will enable the Corps of Engineers to conduct the necessary study."

Dole continued:

The need for flood protection is important to both Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri. In addition, the recreational benefits for the metropolitan area will be invaluable. The Senate Public Works Committee recognized the need to move quickly on this project and authorized the four reservoirs last year.

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Because of the fact that the three reservoirs in Johnson County are in an area that is undergoing rapid urban growth, land prices are escalating rapidly. If we do not act this year, the entire cost of the project will be greatly increased. It is for this reason --- because the three reservoirs are in an area experiencing rapid urbanization --- that I feel the Blue River Basin Project deserves the special attention of the Congress.

Dole, as a member of the Flood Control Subcommittee of the Senate Public Works Committee, attended the authorization hearings on the project. Pearson, who cosponsored the Dole amendment, added:

I support early funding of the entire Blue River project, which is located in my home county, because I know that delay in funding can only be costly in terms of land acquisition and ultimate construction costs.

The public benefits of these three reservoirs --- Indian Creek and Tomahawk Creek --- to Johnson County are considerable and extend not only to flood control but to water supply, recreation and environmental quality. Now that the Congress, after full deliberation with regard to the local environmental impact of the project, has seen fit to authorize construction, there is every reason to begin at an early date before costs rise.