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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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ICC ASSIGNS HOPPER CARS FOR FERTILIZER SHIPMENT TO KANSAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole announced today that 1100 covered hopper cars assigned by the Interstate Commerce Commission for fertilizer shipments from Florida will provide several thousand more tons of fertilizer for Kansas farmers this season.

"The additional cars will be used to ship phosphate rock from Florida where it is mined," the Senator said. "However, amidst the fertilizer shortage, the greatest shortfall is in nitrogen fertilizers and the basic problem there is not transportation but production capacity. It will be a matter of months to several years before additional plants come on-stream to add to the production of nitrogen fertilizers," the Senator explained.

Dole requested additional transportation from the ICC during Senate hearings on fertilizer on February 19 and followed up his request with a personal letter to George Stafford, Chairman of ICC.

Four railroads serving Kansas were involved in the ICC order -- the Rock Island, Missouri Pacific, St. Louis & San Francisco and Burlington Northern. Exact destinations for the additional shipments have not been determined yet. Officials of the fertilizer industry advised the Senator that, based on normal distribution patterns, Kansas farmers could expect several thousand more tons.

Phosphate rock is used as one component of the mixed fertilizers commonly used by farmers.