

904



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.) New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 6, 1974

DOLE TO SEEK SPEED LIMIT INCREASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole announced that he will seek Senate approval for his proposal to raise the national highway speed limit to 60 miles per hour. It will be offered as an amendment to the upcoming Standby Emergency Energy Authority Act.

"There is little doubt that slower driving has helped save fuel and has also saved lives. But I am convinced that the present 55 m.p.h. limit is unnecessarily harsh. And it is inflicting unwarranted hardship and inconvenience--particularly in States such as Kansas where automobiles are virtually the only means of transportation for most people," Senator Dole said. These comments came in a letter from the Kansas Senator requesting President Nixon to extend Administration support for the proposal.

The Standby Emergency Energy Authority bill is scheduled for possible consideration in the Senate on Wednesday, May 8.

The full text of Senator Dole's letter follows:
Dear Mr. President:

With the end of the Arab oil embargo, the fuel supply situation has eased considerably; and, in the light of these changed circumstances, I believe it would be appropriate to reconsider some of the steps taken in response to last winter's crisis. Foremost among these measures is the national 55 miles per hour speed limit.

There is little doubt that slower driving has helped save fuel and has also saved lives. But I am concerned that the present limit is unnecessarily harsh. And it is inflicting unwarranted hardship and inconvenience, particularly in States such as Kansas where automobiles are virtually the only means of transportation for most people.

In response to this situation, I have introduced a bill to raise the speed limit to 60 miles per hour. When S. 3267, the Standby Emergency Energy Authority Act, is considered in the Senate, I intend to offer my speed limit increase bill as an amendment and would appreciate the Administration's support for it.

This small increase in the highway speed limit appears to be justified by the eased fuel imports situation as well as consistent with the continuing need for a sensible energy conservation policy. I would hope that you will agree with this assessment and find it possible to support my amendment.

Sincerely yours,