



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE ANTICIPATES SENATE MOVE TO GIVE HIGHER PRIORITY TO SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today expressed optimism for Senate approval of a measure providing legislative authority to the Senate Select Committee on Small Business, scheduled for debate this week.

Dole, who formerly served on the Select Committee, commented that such action is "long overdue". Approximately 97% of all U.S. businesses are small; and adverse economic conditions have hit small businesses particularly hard--with business bankruptcies jumping an alarming 45% in fiscal year 1975. "Yet," Dole noted, "the committee charged with responsibility for investigating small business problems has no power to develop legislation to correct the problem areas it uncovers."

Dole went on to say that enactment of this legislation would have the effect of directing more attention to the special needs and concerns of small businesses. "Endless regulations and burdensome paperwork requirements--designed to deal with big business abuses--have had the net effect of harming small enterprise most. Consideration is rarely given to the fact that small businesses are limited in their abilities to conform with complex lists of detailed regulations--even if it were desirable to have them do so. The very basis of our nation's traditional economic strength is being eroded by the fact that governmental intervention is driving many small entrepreneurs out of business and causing others to just plain give up in frustration."

Providing the Select Committee with legislative authority could have a big impact in assisting Kansas, where 133,000 businesses are classified as small. The Kansas Senator expressed hope that such authority would add an element of responsibility to the design of bills dealing with business abuses. "Thus," he added, "the special hardships which might be placed on small concerns could be identified before legislation is enacted, not after."

Dole emphasized, "It is time that the Senate became aware that the federal government cannot continue to create needless obstacles to any individual's right to carry on his own business. Enactment of this measure would be a positive first step in providing better accessibility for the small businessman to the lawmakers and bureaucrats who are in the position to make decisions having a dramatic impact on the way he operates."